

THE VOICE

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Saints Score Big at Sleepy Thompson



Mike Janowski '16 makes a layup in the first quarter of the 67-43 win against Caesar Chavez School in the opening game of the tournament. Photo by Jameson Bloom '13

Rockin' Around the Dinner Table

By Katie Connor '16

Judging by the Christmas songs caroling away on our radio, the holiday season is upon us. It means the typical deluge of the same holiday ads, cheesy holiday films, and of course, the food. So it was that we relaxed a bit with another holiday first: Thanksgiving.

Thanksgiving has been assimilated into the holiday season to the point that one could call it "pre-Christmas." But it has a quiet charm of its own. Thanksgiving wasn't declared a national holiday until 1863, and it's changed through the years; last year, the holiday made headlines when it was revealed that Thanksgiving Day and the first night of Hanukkah were on the same day.

Yet Saints looking for their favorite holiday food fare at the original Thanksgiving dinner would be disappointed.

"When I was a young, strapping lad, my mother would make a tender roast beef for Christmas. For Thanksgiving, she'd always make the crispiest, brownest, turkey I've ever seen," recounted Chris Collins, his eyes misting as he gazed off into the distance.

Sorry, Chris. There were no turkeys at the first Thanksgiving. According to Andrew Behrs, author of *Twain's Feast, Searching for America's Lost Foods in the Footsteps of Samuel Clemens*, in an interview with NPR, turkey was part of the diet of the Pilgrims in early Massachusetts but not necessarily a part of the feast. In its place, there would have been venison, which the Wampanoag provided, and fowl such as geese or ducks from the English. Popularity in turkeys began to rise in the 19th century with the help of Sarah Joseph Hale, integral to making Thanksgiving a national holiday. Along with an extensive letter-writing campaign to President Lincoln, she also penned many a novel praising the turkey as a noble addition to the table, pushing aside the chicken pie as the main dish.

Of course, we can't talk about turkey without stuffing. Says Serena Gillian '16, "My dad makes stuffing every year. His favorite recipe: cornbread, celery, carrots, and onions."

While there isn't much evidence of stuffed turkeys at the first Thanksgiving, by the late 18th century stuffing was definitely on the menu. Making use of the resources close by, colonial Americans made oyster stuffing. An 1885 New Orleans recipe from *La Cuisine Creole: A Collection of Culinary Recipes* describes how one should "Take three or four dozen nice plump oysters, wash and beard them, add to them a tumblerful of bread crumbs; chop up a tumblerful of nice beef suet; mix together, and moisten with three eggs; season with salt, pepper, a little butter, a teaspoonful of mace, and some cayenne pepper. Roll force-meat into cakes, and fry them. They are pretty laid around a turkey or chicken."

Thanksgiving wouldn't be Thanksgiving without dessert, and if you crave pie at Thanksgiving, you (and some other Saints) would be out of luck too. Pumpkins were at the feast in 17th century New England, but not pumpkin pies. Pumpkin pies didn't appear until later, in colonial times; a 1779 Thanksgiving menu lists pumpkin and apple pie as two of five options for dessert, along with Indian pudding and plum pudding. According to "A Short Course on the History of 8 Thanksgiving Foods" from *The Washington Post*, Thanksgiving and pumpkin pie did not become officially entwined in the 19th century. "I'd probably say apple. But really, any type I'll eat," says Sam Burke '16, when discussing his favorite type of pie.

Thanksgiving is now past, but we can look forward more dishes the winter season will bring. For now, we can be content that the winter break will hold another feastday where it is acceptable "to eat more than one type of pie," as Sam Burke wishes.

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O When the Saints Go Marching in (To College)

by Katie Wood '16

Last year alone, St. Stephen's and St. Agnes School graduated 35 athletes who went on to compete at the collegiate level. St. Stephen's and St. Agnes School is known as somewhat of a mecca for talented girls lacrosse players, which leads to the ongoing slew of Instagrams and tweets congratulating another player on a verbal college commitment. But any high school athlete who dreams of making it to the next level of collegiate athletics knows that the recruiting process is only getting earlier.

This year already, six sophomore girls have verbally committed to play collegiate lacrosse. Wynne Whitley '17 said that she chose Georgetown University, "because I really liked the coaches," and Campbell Shepherdson '17 said that she chose James Madison University because she, "liked that it was close to home."

The most common consensus between all of the girls though was that they chose their school because, as Zoe Belodeau '17, a UPenn commit said, "it was the perfect balance of lacrosse and academics." For every college athlete, the education is a big part of the decision in addition to choosing a team that you work well with. Molly Dougherty '16 said that for her, "JMU literally felt like my second home, you know, yes it's a good balance between lacrosse and school but it really felt like another place that I could call home."

For every student, regardless of being an athlete or not, it is clearly important that you get this intangible feeling when you walk onto the college campus of your choice. While academics, athletics, size, and location may be things that you factor in when choosing a school, there certainly has to be an "it factor" that no one can quite describe.

The bigger question is, what happens after you verbally commit to a school? While every sport is different in their process of athlete admissions, the most common misconception is that athletes are automatically admitted to their schools based on their commitment, which isn't true.

A verbal commitment is not a

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Holiday Gift Guide 2014

by Lucy Verheggen '15

When you're a busy high school student with a small budget, purchasing Christmas gifts for everyone on your list may be daunting, or even seem impossible. This issue, *The Voice* comes to the rescue with a gift guide of 30 gifts for all your loved ones' different interests, each under \$80.

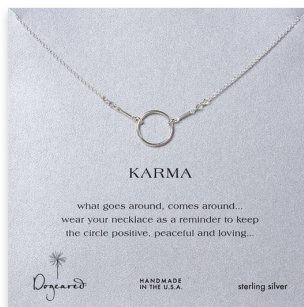
For Parents

- Mr. Food Face Plates- \$12.00 each, uncommongoods.com
- A Feast of Ice and Fire: The Official Game of Thrones Companion Cookbook- \$14.95, amazon.com
- Personalized Stationery Set- \$20.00, rockscissorpaper.com
- The Winston Shaving Set- \$25.00, harrys.com
- Maison Blanc Boxed Candle- \$30.00, ronrobinson.com
- The Original Peppermint Bark- \$28.95, williams-sonoma.com
- 2015 Monthly Calendar- \$30.00, katespade.com
- Grill Daddy Steam Operated Grill Cleaner- \$43.99, amazon.com
- Up by Jawbone- \$64.99, bestbuy.com
- Mophie Juice Pack Helium- \$79.95, mophie.com



For Siblings

- Peter Thomas Roth Mini Mask Set- \$20.00, sephora.com and Sephora stores
- Awkward Family Photos Card Game- \$24.99, familyandpartygames.com
- Solena Jigsaw Puzzle Tube- \$24.99, piqproducts.com
- Pick Punch- \$25.00, uncommongoods.com
- Bubble Wrap Calendar- \$25.00, bubblecalendar.com
- Cards Against Humanity- \$25.00, store.cardsagainsthumanity.com
- Double Stud Earrings- \$28.00, oliveandpiper.com
- Smathers and Branson Key Fob- \$28.99, southernproper.com
- External Multi-use Charger- \$30.00, amazon.com
- The Original Karma Necklace- \$52.00, dogeared.com



For Friends

- Silicone Keyboard Covers, various colors- \$3.89, bestbuy.com
- Wham-o Classic Frisbee- \$4.50, amazon.com
- 288 pack of Emoji Stickers- \$5.00, etsy.com
- Primula Tea Bag Buddy- \$5.00, amazon.com and The Container Store
- Oneupdesigns Personalized Pencils- \$6.00, etsy.com
- Smart Mass Thinking Putty- \$9.99 to \$14.99, thinkgeek.com
- Washington Capitals Tickets- from \$14.00, stubhub.com
- Electric Paper Plane- \$16.99, poweruptoys.com
- Lunar Calendar- from \$18.00, marginsimprint.com
- Golden Wonder Gift Set- \$19.95, LUSH.com



Comet This to Memory

by Katie Connor '16

On November 12, space history was made when the European Space Agency landed the spacecraft on the comet Philae. The Voice decided to sit down with Astronomy Club leader Mr. Chipkin to get all the details.

Q.What is the history of Philae and Rosetta?

A. The idea for a mission to orbit and land on a comet was conceived back in 1993 by a committee at the European Space Agency (ESA). Before this, Earth had sent several probes to various comets. However, it was obvious to everyone that more research was needed. As technology improved, more ambitious missions became possible. The Rosetta spacecraft was launched in March of 2004 and took 10 long years to arrive at its destination.

Q.What is the history of comet 67P?

A. Comet 67P Churyumov-Gerasimenko was discovered by Klim Churyumov in 1969. He was a Soviet scientist looking at photographs of stars and deep sky objects. He originally thought it was a known comet, but eventually discovered this was a heretofore undiscovered comet. The photograph was actually taken by Svetlana Gerasimenko, and the comet shares her name as well to honor her role in the discovery.

The history of the comet itself stretches back 4.5 billion years. It was formed when the solar system came into being and is, in effect, a frozen relic of these early days. For most of the history of the solar system, it orbited quietly beyond Neptune. Only fairly recently (in geological terms) has it come into the early solar system, either from a collision or a gravitational nudge.,

Q. What sort of information about the comet have we seen come from Philae?

A. Despite its problematic landing and short life, it managed to work nearly all of its

scientific instruments and send the information it gathered back to us. The little probe had to do a lot of work in a short amount of time - and it did. We know that it detected organic compounds on the surface of the comet, but we don't have many other specifics. The ESA hasn't released many results yet, probably because it takes a while to analyze the data.

Q.Are there any other effects of this breakthrough?

A. Philae isn't the only story here. This is also the first time we have put a probe in orbit of a comet. Never before have we obtained such high resolution images and data from a comet. Even though Philae has stopped working, the Rosetta orbiter is still functioning perfectly. As the comet approaches the sun, we will be able to see what changes occur.

Q. We heard recently Philae has gone to sleep due to lack of solar power.What does this mean for its future? Will it ever wake up?

A. Philae is a solar powered craft equipped with a battery. However, it needs to gather a threshold amount of light for it to even begin charging its battery. It's not clear whether or not it's getting enough light right now to do that.

Just before it lost power, flight control at ESA ordered the lander to adjust its position so as to expose more of its solar panels to the sun. However, it is inside of a bit of a hole and it's not clear how much sunlight it's going to get.

In the best case scenario, it will come back to life in the next few days. This is unlikely. However, as the comet approaches the sun, the amount of light hitting the solar panels will increase. Therefore, we may hear from Philae again much later in the mission. Even if Philae never comes back online, we gathered enough information from it to make its journey more than worth the while!



The Philae lander flying to comet 67P, photographed by the Rosetta spacecraft. Source: AP

Q. Since Philae came out of the European Space Agency, do we think or know if America has any plans of doing a similar project?

A. NASA has already sent probes exploring many comets. NASA currently has two working probes roving on Mars. NASA has sent probes to every single planet in the solar system. So NASA has hardly been playing catch up with the ESA.

Unfortunately, NASA has been a favorite target for budget cuts in the past several years. While this has little effect on operating spacecraft, it means that the pace of space exploration is going to slow. That means that in the next decade there will be significantly less exploration of space than there is now. After all, with Rosetta, we are currently reaping the benefits of hard work and money spent way back in the 1990s and early 2000s.

Q.What do you think is the next big thing in space exploration after this?

A. Personally, I am really looking forward to the New Horizons spacecraft, a NASA mission launched in 2004. It is currently en route to Pluto and will make a close pass by the planet in July of 2015. We have never sent a spacecraft to Pluto before and we know surprisingly little about this strange world. Our best telescopic images of it are total blurs.

4 Teams, 1 Goal

by Matt Weisenfluh '16 and Jacob Lipton '15

As the months grow colder, the College Football season is heating up. A playoff has been added to the College Football landscape, leading to highly competitive games and endless debate. Who should be in? Who should be out? This decision as to who is in the playoff is made by a committee of 13 members who meet every week to decide who makes it, replacing a system that was criticized for years by experts and fans alike.

The Bowl Championship Series, more commonly known as the BCS, was the old formula for determining the best team in college football. Teams would be ranked according to a variety of polls, including the AP Poll, the Coaches Poll, and the Harris Poll. These polls would average out a team's ranking and the #1 and #2 teams at the end of the season would play each other for the BCS National Championship. The system had long been criticized for the way that it undervalued and disregarded teams and conferences.

Fans are very excited for the arrival of the long-awaited playoff that they have been clamoring for years. Sam Burke '16 commented "It's very exciting. I think its great overall because there is going to be less arguing, less fighting over who is in, and its going to create a great atmosphere."

Over the past few weeks, there have been 20 top 25 matchups including 5 top 10 matchups, making for great games as the best teams are consistently playing each other. Expectations for the playoff are growing as a result of the games being played each and every week.

Audrey Shaw '18 loves the competitiveness of the games, commenting, "There have been a lot of big upsets with big



Oregon's Marcus Mariota, Indiana's Melvin Gordon, Alabama's Amari Cooper, and TCU's Trevone Boykin

teams, and also a lot of great rivalry games." Shaw is an Alabama fan, one of the teams being considered for the Playoff this year.

The rising movement prompted the NCAA to create the College Football Playoff. Four teams will be chosen at the end of the season and will be placed in a bracket by a committee that includes former Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and University of Arkansas Athletic Director Jeff Long, who has been involved in College Football for almost 40 years.

Will Sterrett '18 is a big playoff fan. "It comes down to how you play each and every week. With the old style, if you were undefeated, you were in the championship game. I like the system now because they actually pick the best teams, and its not solely based on record."

Instead of computer-chosen rankings based solely on record, the committee is using other factors, including head-to-head matchups, strength of schedule, and passing the so-called "eye test." The human factor that has been added to the decisions should make the playoff that much more electric.

Mr. Garikes, an avid college football and Alabama fan, agrees. "It's better because there's a definitive winner at the end of the system as compared to before. There is always going to be an argument for why a team didn't get in, but overall, its a good system." Garikes also added his thoughts on the excitement of the game, saying "I think its exciting. It preserves the importance of some of the big bowl games, which I think is very important to college football. The bowls have been very important to the college game, and I think that including them is good for the game."

Miller DeLancey '17 does not agree with this change. "I think the change is worse for the sport because it doesn't give as many teams recognition. Everyone will be watching the playoff bowls and not the other bowls that different teams are playing in."

The playoff will begin on New Year's Day, starting with the Rose Bowl and the Sugar Bowl, the two semifinal games. The winners of these two games will play for the national championship in Arlington, TX on January 12th.

All I Wanted For Christmas

by Charlotte Kolb '15

As the holiday season approaches, students may be in search of the perfect gift for a friend or adding last minute must haves to their Christmas lists. While technology and more sophisticated products may dominate students' lists this year, The Voice asked students to recall some of their favorite gifts from Christmases past.

"Littlest Petshop, those were my favorite!" exclaimed Larkin Massie '16. The small plastic animals with big eyes skyrocketed in popularity after their debut in the toy world back in 2005. Wrapped in a big cardboard box was a small pet store containing several animals and stickers to decorate the rooms to each pet's taste.

Equally as popular were Polly Pockets. Each small plastic doll came provided with a unique hairstyle and a whole wardrobe of fashion-forward outfits. However, anyone who had one of the dolls knows that the fun didn't stop there. Like Barbie, Polly Pocket had a slew of extra play sets including convertibles, dream houses, and swimming pools. With all these added bonuses, friends could get together with their dolls on weekends or at school to swap doll clothes and watch the Polly Pocket and friends movie included in each play set.

A slightly larger and more expensive present was the classic American girl doll. Whether it be a lookalike doll or one of the

company's history girls, these dolls had it all. Lauren Fish '15 said "American Girl Dolls were my favorite. I had Kaya the Native American doll, but I also had all her accessories as well like the teepee and the horse." Every doll was wrapped in a small shiny box that included a special hair brush and instructions on how to properly take care of your doll.

Although more traditional toys have always been a Christmas favorite, over the past few years the demand for electronic gifts has increased exponentially. In the early 2000s, Nintendo's Wii was the epitome of this technological mania. Wiis hit shelves back in 2006 causing an immediate craze among kids. The sleek white finish of the control box and the thinner shape of the controllers all contributed to the allure of the revolutionary video game system. The Wii changed video games for good when its games promoted physical activity. The starter pack for the Wii included a Wii Sports game that included tennis and bowling. The console allowed up to four players, making the Wii a perfect gift for siblings and families.

However, the most popular Wii game by far was Guitar Hero. Maddie Koch '17 said "Guitar Hero was definitely one of my favorite Christmas presents when I was younger. My brother and I used to play all the time. I would

play the drums and he would play the guitar. It was great because we were so good. There was this one song (I Love Rock n' Roll) that we knew so well and could play without even looking at the screen." Equipped with a plastic guitar, an instruction booklet, and hundreds of classic rock hits, anyone could transform from a novice guitar player to a full fledged rockstar.

Travis Light '15 said that his favorite Christmas present by far when he was younger was a remote control helicopter. James MacNair '15 and Thomas Szuprics '15 echoed Travis saying that the Millennium Falcon helicopter from Star Wars was definitely one of their most memorable gifts.

Perhaps the second biggest gifts of the early 2000s were Apple products. Frankie Cortes-Inchauspe '17 said "I got an iPod Touch when I was eight; I was so excited." In a world where almost everyone owns an iPhone or some sort of smartphone, it's easy to forget the times of music-less flip phones. First released in 2007, the iPod touch soon became the craze in middle and elementary schools. With no expensive cell phone contract required and all the perks of an iPhone, iPod Touches were once considered the biggest must have.

During a time when there's so much to look forward to, sometimes it can be fun to remember the simplicity of the past. So what were your favorite toys as a child?

Recruitment (Cont'd)

school's commitment that they will 100% get you into their school. It is the athlete's agreement through the coach that they are committing to that school's admissions process. Division 1 Schools often offer support from the admissions office but there are no guarantees. While Division 3 schools typically offer no form of admissions support at all, aside from the Division 3 NESCAC conference who are able to offer a small amount of academic support.

Elizabeth Grote, the women's lacrosse coach at Bowdoin College, explained that, "If it is your application compared to Suzy Q's and they are exactly the same, I can support your application in order to make it stronger than Suzy Q's." But traditionally, these Division 3 NESCAC schools can only offer support to about two thirds of their recruiting class.

The most common consensus was that, as Mattern Burnett '16 put it, "you really can't relax after you get recruited, it just makes you want to work harder to get more of your goals." So while being recruited by school may appear to be a huge relief, it only adds that much more pressure to obtain the best grades possible and be the best athlete possible.

The recruiting process is clearly stressful and it only makes it worse that it is culminating in many athletes sophomore year of high school. It only gives student-athletes less time to make a choice regarding one of the biggest decisions in their life, where they will spend four years



Zoe Belodeau '17 committed to UPenn earlier this year.

of college. The most important thing that students need to remember is that there is a school for everyone and the best thing you can do is give your 100% on the field and in the classroom.

Cards For a Cause

by Posie Paoletta '16

This year at the Club's Fair, our Upper School students were introduced to many new clubs, but one of the biggest hits with the students was the Card Making Club. Mattern Burnett '16 and Erin Jacob '16 started this club initially because they wanted to have an arts and crafts club, but then realized they could have a bigger and better purpose for their club. The 52 members gather on Thursdays in the Art Room during lunch to make cards for sick children in the hospital and men and women in the US military.

Mattern shared with us that she has contact with a director at the Inova Hospital and she is trying to connect with Georgetown Hospital and a program that works with soldiers. Erin Jacob is hoping to have a bake sale at school so they can raise money to buy supplies and donate money to the hospitals where the cards are going.

The girls and boys in the club use vibrant colored cards and positive messages to send to the soldiers and sick children in hopes of brightening their day. This young club is breaking ground and hopes that more and more people can join. Danae Gibbs '16 told us that "making the cards is fun, it doesn't take too long, and it's for a really good cause, especially during the Holiday season." So BYOS2 !! (Bring your own scissors and stickers)

The Voice Staff:

Lucy Verheggen '15
Charlotte Kolb '15
Katie Connor '16
Jacob Lipton '17
Matt Weisenfluh '16
Katie Wood '16
Posie Paoletta '16
Mrs. McElroy

Co-Editor
Co-Editor
Co-Editor
Staff Writer
Staff Writer
Staff Writer
Staff Writer
Faculty Advisor

Contact us! editors@thevoiceatssas.com

