



Youth of Today
Hope of Tomorrow



Tis' the Season



by Kyrie Williams
Nehemiah Christian Sch.

My Mom told me that it's the holiday season. What I enjoy most about this season is spending time with my family. I go to my Granny's and PawPaw's a lot during the holiday season. When we get together - it's me, my Mom, my brother, my

aunties and uncles, and all of my cousins.

We play with each other and watch lots of movies. We even play games, put on matching pajamas, build gingerbread houses, and bake cookies for Santa on Christmas Eve. My Granny makes the best hot chocolate! I hope to go visit my family up north in Saint Michael, Minnesota to see the snow this winter. I also really hope my Uncle Vance can make it this year. I love spending Christmas with him. What do you all like to do during the holiday season?

What is my Philosophy on Service? And Why is it Important?



by Lacey Johnson
Connally High School

Serving has been a crucial part of my character ever since I was a child. My philosophy on this topic prevails on foundations I have implemented within myself from the lessons of the Bible. Furthermore, similar to my ever growing philosophy, my importance for serving also stems from scriptures I have cherished and internalized. Essentially, my philosophy of serving began within my church. As a child, I used my voice, talent, and overall knowledge to lift the voice of God within my choir. I attended Bible studies that further solidified my desire to serve my community in hopes of enhancing it in any way, shape, or form. Through serving, I have gained a distinctive comprehension that receiving stands inferior to serving. I firmly believe my purpose, my God-given duty, is to leave this world with an implementation of positivity that far excels any negativity. I suspect this to be an initial factor in every person's life.

It is common for youngsters to continuously spout on how they want to do a variety of things for loved ones, whether that be purchasing their mother a car, their family buying a house, or simply a gift for a loved one. Considering this, is it not reasonable to believe serving is a growing factor within all of us? That is my ideology on serving, embracing our blessings to aid others. As my philosophy on serving developed, the importance of serving grew more and more apparent throughout my life. I initially viewed serving as a chore of some sort, reckoning the act to be something that involved a dedication of finance or time. Nevertheless, as I endured my own set of tribulations, I realized serving could be shown in a multitude of ways. These acts could be as simple as engaging in conversation with someone beyond the common boundaries, smiling at someone as you walk by, complimenting someone, etc. This is why I see serving to be such a key act, a simple expression of kindness can be the demise of someone's possible cycle of negativity. We truly have no idea what others are experiencing or feeling through a surface level glance. Our acts of serving, both simple and complex, are important for this very reason.

Braces



by Zoey King
Idea Montopolis Academy

At the age of 8 or 9 years-old, I got my first set of braces on my front four teeth to fix their alignment. I thought I would never need them again. After a visit to the orthodontist recently, I had the choice to get braces now or in high school. I chose to get them now because I do not want braces in the future. My

Mom made me an appointment with my dentist to get my teeth cleaned prior to the orthodontist appointment. Before I knew it, the day for my braces came and I had to wake up at 6 a.m. to get ready to go. For breakfast my mom and I went to a kolache and doughnut shop. I ordered two sausage and cheese kolaches, a chocolate doughnut with rainbow sprinkles, and strawberry milk. When we got to the orthodontist office, I brushed my teeth with a complimentary toothbrush. I rinsed with mouthwash

and flossed. Getting the braces on was uncomfortable but the dental assistant who applied the braces to my teeth was very nice and patient. First, she polished my teeth. Next, she put a plastic ring to hold my mouth open while she glued the braces on my teeth. After gluing the brackets, she added wires. The glue tasted funny and my teeth were sore from the pressure. I chose a "bubblegum" band color. At the end, I was given and goodie bag with a kit of all the items I would need for braces, and a nice t-shirt.

Weekend in Denton



by Ruby George
Weiss High School

This past weekend was November 27 - 28, 2021 and I took a trip to Denton Texas. My family, which consisted of my Mom, my sister, and my Stepdad, went because we got tickets to the UNT (University of North Texas) football game. We had to drop off my sister back to that college because she was visiting us for Thanksgiving holiday. My sister is also in the band, so

she was performing at the game. It wasn't as packed at the game as I thought it would be, considering that North Texas was playing UTSA (University of San Antonio). The weather was absolutely terrible. There was a lot of rain, plus, it was around 40 degrees. We were so cold that we left the game around half time because the rain was ridiculous. As far as the actual game, North Texas was dominating. UTSA was defeated but that ended on Saturday when North Texas won 45-23. There were a lot of amazing plays but player Number Three DeAndre Torrey on North Texas scored the most touchdowns. Since they won that game, this means that North Texas gets to go to the bowl game which is out of state.

"There's Nothing You Can't Do"



by SaNaya White
Ann Richards School
for Young Women
Leaders

Over Thanksgiving break, I traveled approximately 1,743 miles to create history for my school. Alongside my fellow band peers, I flew out to New York City, New York for the 2021 Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. Our trip began on Monday, November 22, 2021 and ended on Friday, November 26, 2021. Our trip began with a tour of Yankee Trails. We visited various places, learned many things, and tried many new foods. I was grateful to have experienced this trip as it was my first time in New York. I experienced new restaurants such as "Bubba Gump." Bubba Gump is a seafood restaurant inspired by the movie "Forrest Gump." I was able to visit the One World Observatory, located on Floors 100 - 102 of the new One World Trade Center. The observatory provides a 360-degree view of New York City, as well as New Jersey. In addition to this, I had the amazing opportunity of watching *The Lion*

King Broadway show! This was truly my favorite part as I witnessed Black excellence and culture throughout the entire performance. I loved seeing how much passion the performers had and showed throughout the show. Throughout the trip, we were also allowed to see the *Blue Man Group*. The *Blue Man Group* is an American performance art company formed in 1987, providing stage productions that incorporate various forms of art and music. The performers, "Blue Men", have their skin painted blue. As a percussionist, I enjoyed watching the show as percussion is heavily presented by the performers. Lastly, our final and most important event was marching in the Macy's Parade. This year marked the 95th annual Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, the world's largest parade. Having the opportunity to march and perform within the parade was truly incredible. Although I was extremely tired, I could not have been more proud of my band for all the hard work that we had accomplished. I am proud to say that *The Ann Richards Marching Stars* made history on Thanksgiving Day. Singer Alicia Keys said it best in the song *Empire State of Mind* written by Rap Artist Jay-Z, "In New York. Concrete jungle where dreams are made of, there's nothing you can't do!"

Thanksgiving



by Joshua Moore
Manor High School

Thanksgiving is a truly special holiday. It was first discovered in 1621, when the Pilgrims and Wampanoag Indians shared a harvest. In 1863, President Abraham Lincoln declared it as a National Day of Thanksgiving to be acknowledged each November. Thanksgiving is celebrated on the fourth Thursday of November in the United States. Canada, too, has a National Day of Thanksgiving which falls on the sec-

Constellations



by Ava Roberts
Pflugerville
High School

A constellation is the name given to a group of stars that make up a certain pattern in the sky. They can be a mythological creature or person, or an object. There are 88 constellations recognized by the International Astronomical Union (IA). The best time to see them is between 9 p.m. and 10 p.m. On clear nights, you can see some of them without a telescope. Many of you are familiar with the following constellations. Draco and Leo, Hercules, Pegasus, and Ursa Major

are the largest northern constellations and are located north of the equator. Centaurus, Cetus, Eridanus, Hydra, and Virgo are the largest southern constellations and are located south of the equator. Pisces, Aries, Taurus, Gemini, Cancer and Leo are northern zodiac constellations. Virgo, Libra, Scorpius, Sagittarius, Capricorn, and Aquarius are southern zodiac constellations. Sometimes, I stare into the sky and try to find constellations. In December, there are several constellations such as Aries, Eridanus, Formax, and Perseus, can be best seen. I will encourage you to stare into the night sky and find a constellation. You may actually see one that is named or one that you'll create from your imagination.

How Fall Can Impact People, Animals, And Nature



by Zuri King
Idea Montopolis Academy

Fall is a cool season that can impact many people and plants in nature. Fall can impact people because of the cool weather. People are more likely to wear sweaters, jackets, and pants. Public stores also start to sell clothes for cold weather. Fall can impact plants because the days grow shorter so there is not

as much daylight and direct sunshine. Leaves partially get their food from the sun. Then the chlorophyll starts to break down. That is when the colors of the leaves turn from green to brown, yellow, red, and orange. Fall can impact animals because when it is Fall, squirrels will hide their acorns and save them for later. Animals will also grow thick coats to keep themselves warm. Some animals will start to hibernate. Animals that hibernate are bears, rodents, squirrels, and sometimes, even rattlesnakes. In conclusion, these are the ways that fall impacts us, nature, and animals.

Gingerbread for Dessert



by Kaitlyn Cannon
Blanton Elmn. Sch.

I enjoyed being out of school during Thanksgiving week. I was happy and had fun learning to cook a ginger bread cake. I read the box directions for preparing the cake. I was careful to follow directions, as

well as adding a few more ingredients. Another ginger bread recipe for the cake included. I let the cake cook for 45 minutes in the hot stove. I used a toothpick to see if the cake was fully done and ready to be removed from the stove. My family really liked the hot cake. I was really pleased it was fully cooked and a tasty dessert, along with a half of a pound cake that we had to complete our wonderful Thanksgiving meal.

ond Monday of October. When we think of Thanksgiving, we think of leaves that have changed color and have fallen from the trees. We also think about spending time with family and friends. Thanksgiving is more than just a day filled with happy memories, parades, football, and special dinners. It is also a day of giving thanks. On Thanksgiving Day, we are reminded of the abundance of treasures in our lives. We take a few moments before Thanksgiving dinner to give thanks for the blessings in our lives, as well as our won-

derful family and friends. For far too many people, the meaning of Thanksgiving is limited to a few moments of giving thanks at the dinner table. However, the true meaning of Thanksgiving should not end with a prayer or a few seconds of Thanksgiving meditation. The Thanksgiving holiday has a larger meaning. It is important to remember that the word "thanksgiving" is made up of two words: "thanks" and "giving." We are reminded to give thanks, share, and give during the Thanksgiving Holiday.