



Blue & White

A Weekly Production from the MHS Journalism Class

P.O. Box 580-Montezuma, IA 50171- www.montezuma-schools.org/BlueWhite.aspx

St. Nicholas, Sinterklaas, Nikolaus

The man that epitomized the true meaning of Christmas.

By Chase Talbert

Though it has already passed, December 6th was Saint Nicholas Day, it is held in celebration of Saint Nicholas, the saint believed to be the real Santa Claus. Instead of a jolly fat man living with Mrs. Claus, his elves, and his reindeer, Saint Nicholas was a christian church bishop born around 280 A.D. near where Turkey currently is.

He became a saint through his treatment of the poor and sick, and his willingness to give them gifts despite the risk of him becoming deathly ill himself.

As he gave and gave, word of him spread across Europe and when his life ended he forever became memorialized as the holly jolly Santa we all know and love.

Saint Nicholas' life has been speculated to have ended on December 6, 343 A.D. leaving behind only the legacy of his unimaginable generosity and his tendency to sneak into people's houses. While this may sound suspect, there is a story about him wherein a poor father cannot afford to pay for his daughters.

Saint Nicholas, hearing of this man's plight he would later that night sneak into his house and leave a bag of money for them, he would do this two more times for them, until they were eventually able to support themselves. This and many other tales of him would lead to him being known all throughout the European continent.

Then in the 1700s, with

immigrants coming to America, so did their winter traditions honoring Saint Nicholas, saint of generosity and kindness, and also their tradition meant to contrast him.

Krampusnacht is held the night before Saint Nicholas Day is meant to warn the children not to be bad and or else a fate much worse than coal in their stalking awaited them.

Christmas demons aside, the people of Europe and America who celebrate Saint Nicholas Day do so differently depending on which country you're in, some cities have parades, town festivals, and feasting throughout the town. But almost all places that celebrate Saint Nicholas Day do so

with gift giving in honor of his most important lesson, giving instead of receiving.

Whether you refer to him as Sinterklaas, as they do in the Netherlands, Nikolaus, as the people of Germany do, or Santa Claus as we refer to him, they are all based on a real-life man, whose generousness has left a lasting effect on the world as we know it for over 1000 years after his passing.

You may think about Christmas as a time for shopping and getting exactly what you wanted, but at its heart Christmas is meant to celebrate how much we are able to give without expectation of compensation for our kind deeds.



AN ARTIST'S rendition of St. Nicholas. Also known as Sinterklaas or Nikolaus around the world, St. Nicholas was legendary for his generosity to countless needy families across Europe

Photo credit: GP, Creative Commons 3.0

Missed an issue? No problem!

The Blue & White is now online.

Go to www.montezuma-schools.org/BlueWhite.aspx to see our previous issues!

This will be the last issue of the Blue and White before winter break. Merry Christmas from the Blue and White staff!

Krampusnacht

By Carrie Jennings

Our Earth, home to so many countries and cultures, is a mixing pot of celebrations and holidays. Winter happens to contain many of these religious traditions, including, but certainly not limited to, Christmas, Kwanzaa, and New Year's.

Again, there is a huge list of holidays in the winter season alone, some which you may or may not know, but have you ever heard of Krampusnacht?

Krampusnacht, celebrated on December 5th, is a traditional holiday often celebrated in Bavaria, some parts of Germany, and quite a few other places in eastern Europe.

The day is dedicated to the horned creature Krampus, a beast that no one is quite sure on the origins of. Most historians agree that he existed long before Christianity and is

most who dress up prefer the cheaper option of faux fur and face paint. Krampusnacht, having never been all that popular of a holiday in years past, has been growing in popularity around the world as of late. This can probably be blamed on all of the movies about Krampus and his holiday coming out around this time of year.

The U.S. is not immune to this sudden Krampus craze, either. Many cities in the U.S., such as Clintonville in Ohio and Seattle in Washington, throw parades on the eve of Krampusnacht to signify the beginning of the holiday season.

Who knows; maybe Krampusnacht will one day become even more widely celebrated than Christmas or Hanukkah. Only time will tell.

Today, however, the holiday is celebrated quite differently. Gone are the traditional costumes made of animal skin; instead,

most who dress up prefer the cheaper option of faux fur and face paint.

Krampusnacht, having never been all that popular of a holiday in years past, has been growing in popularity around the world as of late. This can probably be blamed on all of the movies about Krampus and his holiday coming out around this time of year.

The U.S. is not immune to this sudden Krampus craze, either. Many cities in the U.S., such as Clintonville in Ohio and Seattle in Washington, throw parades on the eve of Krampusnacht to signify the beginning of the holiday season.

Who knows; maybe Krampusnacht will one day become even more widely celebrated than Christmas or Hanukkah. Only time will tell.



KRAMPUSNACHT: Pictured left is an artist's rendering of a visit from both St. Nicholas and Krampus. Traditional folklore holds that St. Nick comes to reward good children, while Krampus comes to punish naughty children.

Public Domain Photo

What type of chocolate do MHS students prefer?

By Brayden Stockman

In the United States, chocolate is used in all of the top five selling candies, proving that Americans truly love sweet chocolate desserts. The same goes for Montezuma High School, where students enjoy consuming chocolate just as much as the average American.

Fifty total students, all members of the Spanish Club, were interviewed from the school about their chocolate preference, choosing from milk chocolate, dark chocolate or white chocolate. 27 students stated that they preferred milk chocolate, 12 said that their preference was for dark chocolate, 10 students prefer white chocolate, and one student stated that they do not consume chocolate.

Of the students who chose dark chocolate, 11 of the 12 students were above ninth grade, possibly showing a correlation between older students and their inclination towards dark chocolate. However, the other flavors of chocolate are more widely enjoyed by all of the student population, with at least two people preferring white chocolate in each grade besides eleventh grade, where only one student preferred white chocolate. Milk chocolate, being the most popular,

also had multiple students across each grade who preferred the sweeter flavor.

Four freshmen were asked why they preferred the chocolate that they chose as their preference. Dylan Holland, who prefers milk chocolate, said, "Dark chocolate is too rich and white chocolate doesn't really taste like chocolate."

Lauren Klos, who stated that she had a preference for dark chocolate, being the only student in ninth grade to have a preference for dark chocolate, said, "I love the richness, and it's better than the rest."

Ally Gunderson chose white chocolate as her preference, and stated, "I can eat a lot of white chocolate without getting sick."

Kierstyn Price was the one student who didn't have a preference for any

flavor of chocolate, saying, "I only like chocolate when it's with something else, I don't like it on its own."

The fact that milk chocolate is the most popular of the flavors of chocolate may be due to the accessibility and commonness of the chocolate. Dark chocolate was often called too rich for those who didn't like it, though those who have a preference for the flavor enjoy how bitter it is, while white chocolate seems to be enjoyed by those who eat chocolate with other foods, enjoying how it tastes combined with other foods.

The students of the Montezuma Spanish Club enjoy chocolate just as much as other citizens, and they aren't afraid to defend their favorite type of chocolate.

The Blue and White Staff



Calendar of Events

Thursday
V Wrestling @
HLV - 5:00 pm
JV/V BB Quad vs
English Valleys:
Hera - 6:00 pm

Friday
No Activities

Monday
Christmas Break
No Activities

Tuesday
Christmas Break
No Activities

Wednesday
Christmas Break
No Activities

Thursday
Christmas Break
No Activities