



## CHRISTMAS THROUGH HISTORY

*by Kyra Whitehead*

Many people assume that Christmas is strongly a Christian tradition. There are two origins of Christmas; the pagan origin and the Biblical origin. Christmas traditions were marked far back then when the holiday lined up with another celebration. Back in the Roman Empire, there was a celebration called the Roman Saturnalia, a harvest festival that marked the winter solstice. They used this to honor their gods, and by 529 A.D, it became an official state holiday. The Biblical origins are basically the birth of Jesus, which is the son of God in Christian beliefs.

There are many "Christmas" traditions that were originally Pagan that Christians had adopted as their own. Some of our favorite holiday traditions actually began Pagan, such as gift-giving, tree decorating, decking out with holly, kissing under the mistletoe, and even Santa Claus.

For this article, we will focus on "Santa."



### POLL OF THE WEEK

Scan the QR with your phone or [click the link](#) to vote! Results in the next edition!



RESULTS FROM LAST WEEK  
POLL OF THE WEEK.


WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE SODA?  
**Sprite and Dr. Pepper!**






## *Christmas Through History (Cont.)*

Santa originated from a guy that was called Father Christmas, who is also known as St. Nicholas. Nicholas was a saint, who was well-known to be associated with children, the poor, and prostitutes. He lived around the 4th century, giving gifts to all the people who struggled greatly. He is associated with Santa because he had a long beard and a big jacket. These resemblances are shown even in modern times.



Before St. Nicholas, however, there was another bearded old man called Odin. Pagans followed this god, who was usually described as an old man with a very long beard. He also had an 8-legged horse named Sleipnir. Odin was known for riding through the skies with Sleipnir. During the winter, kids would fill their shoes with food for Sleipnir to snack on by the chimneys. As Odin flew by, he left presents in their shoes, similar to the tradition of leaving stockings by the fireplace, as a way of showing his thanks.



Many of the traditions we know and love branch from deep pagan roots, and I urge you to look into the culture and traditions, as thanks for the holidays we know and love today.

Happy Yule! (And Happy Holidays!)







# Pretty Things

By: Rana McCloat

This creative corner covers all types of drawings, photography, and art! To submit your work, send them via email to [cmarien@milfordk12.org](mailto:cmarien@milfordk12.org) or [amccloat@milfordk12.org](mailto:amccloat@milfordk12.org).

Featured Artists  
Rana & Tam

by Rana McCloat



by Tam Marien



by Rana McCloat







## Book Reviews

### IN DEEPER WATERS

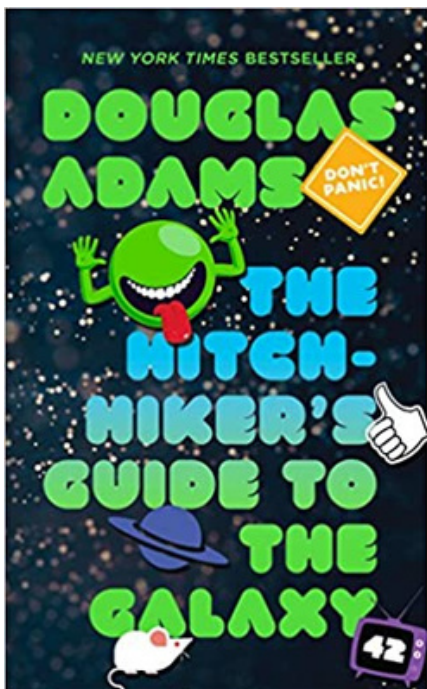
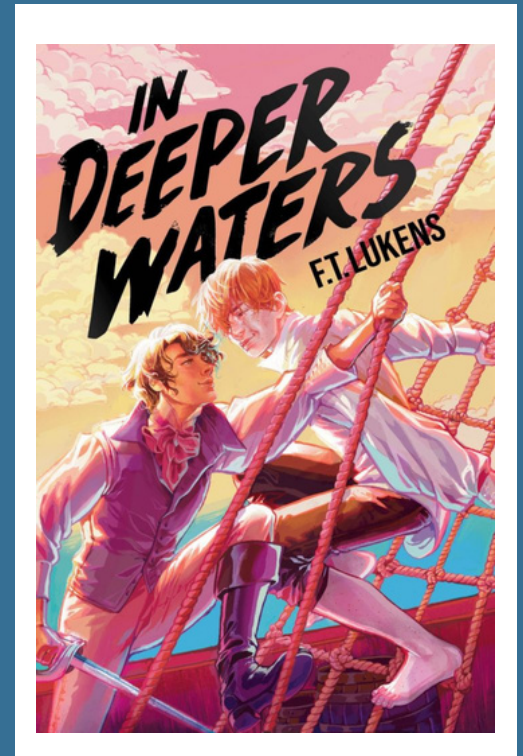
*by Kyra Whitehead*

Prince Tal has long awaited his coming-of-age tour. After spending the majority of his life cooped up in the palace walls, learning to hide his forbidden magic. The first part of his adventure starts when they find a mysterious prisoner. While watching over the prisoner, Tal is surprised to find a strange connection with Athlen - the prisoner. So when Athlen sort of escapes, Tal feels awful, knowing Athlen could not have survived the scathing ocean. That is, until Tal runs into Athlen in a village, very much alive. But before they can go any further, Tal is

kidnapped by mercenaries and held against his will as ransom to begin a war. Tal has to escape in order to save his family and kingdom.

I could not get enough of this book!! A subtle LGBTQ+ romance mixed in with fantastical sea adventures with mercenaries and forbidden magic. I could never put it down. The whole story is worded incredibly, and the twists will catch you off guard.

This book is available for purchase at Barnes and Noble and as an ebook online.



### The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy

*by Jason Lewick*

Don't panic! The Hitchhiker's Guide to The Galaxy is an amazing book for sci-fi lovers everywhere. When a down-on-his-luck man named Arthur is whisked away from Earth in the nick of time before its destruction, he and his best friend, an alien hitchhiker named Ford, must find their way through the vast galaxy, one improbability at a time. Why are we born? Why do we die? Why do we spend so much of the intervening time wearing digital watches? The answer lies within the stars...and The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy! Check it out today at our school or town library!



# Spirit Week

Spirit Week, the week of December 13th to December 17th, is the one week where everyone gets to dress up for wacky school themes. The themes this week were:

- Monday- Time Travel
- Tuesday- Superhero
- Wednesday- Celebrity Day
- Thursday- Country Vs. Country Club
- Friday- Blue & White

While the themes were a lot of fun to interpret into costumes, everyone wants to know who even won spirit week!

The pep rally was great, filled with a lot of spirit! The seniors ended up winning overall for the week!

*Way to go seniors!*



*A group of juniors wrap up Mr. Letarte like a mummy during the Spirit Week Pep Rally.*



# HAPPY HOLIDAYS

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## SPARTAN SPORTS

### UPCOMING ATHLETIC EVENTS

#### December 22 (Wednesday)

- Boys Basketball hosts Laconia (5:00 PM JV Boys, 6:30 PM Varsity Boys)
- Alvirne/Milford Ice Hockey at Kingswood - 7PM (No visiting team fans are allowed to attend.)

#### December 27 (Monday)

- Varsity Boys at the Oyster River
- Tournament vs Dover - 10AM

#### December 28 (Tuesday)

- Varsity Boys at the Oyster River
- Tournament vs Somersworth - 4PM