



Veterans Day Assembly 2015

By Annabelle Gaardsmoe

The school's annual Veterans Day assembly was held on November 13, 2015. Every year the history club holds an assembly around Veterans Day, so the students at Wilson Area High School can take the time to appreciate the veterans in their lives, whether they are family members or Wilson alumni. The student body began this assembly by walking into the auditorium while the band played good old patriotic music. After everyone was seated and settled, the chorus performed their patriotic numbers for the assembly.

Every year, the History Club awards a local veteran with the Veterans Day award. This year's winner was Wilson's own Butch Cutrona. Unfortunately, Mr. Cutrona was out of town and could not accept his award in per-

son, but his good friend and fellow veteran, Mr. Comp, accepted the award on his behalf and gave a speech about Mr. Cutrona and what it means to be a veteran. The History Club also played a slide show comprised of veterans who have graduated from Wilson, or were friends and family members of current Wilson students. This power point allows the students to see how many veterans are in their lives, even if they didn't realize it.

After the power point, two veterans spoke about life in the military and their personal experiences, both good and bad. One piece of advice they agreed on was that the military is not right for everyone, and you should always be cautious when considering a life in the service.

To conclude the assembly, the Veterans

Day jeopardy game was held. The game show was hosted by Mr. Presti who also hosted last year.

Two representatives from each grade participated, along with two faculty members. The contestants are asked different questions from a range of historical topics, such as literature and first ladies. Mr. Presti also attempted to make it rain in the auditorium by instructing the audience to do different claps and snaps. In the end, the juniors won the game show and the other contests were left with the bitter taste of defeat, but had a fun time playing.

While the History Club tries to make the assembly fun and upbeat, its main goal is to honor those who have served our country and remember those who have fought for us.

- Taylor Garrison: Editor-in-Chief
- Michael Jablonski: Managing Editor
- Scott Marceca: Asst. Editor

The Echo

Terrorist Attacks: October - December

By Sam Houser

Within the past two months, there have been numerous terror attacks committed by ISIS in about six different parts of the world. The attacks have existed mostly in the form of shootings and bombings and were either carried out by direct members of ISIS or those who supported and shared the same beliefs as ISIS.

On October 10th, ISIS bombed a Peace demonstration outside of a train station in Ankara, Turkey, killing 102 people. Twenty-one days later, on October 31st, a *Metrojet* was flying over Egypt towards Russia. ISIS members from a group in the Sinai Peninsula bombed the plane and killed 224 passengers and crew members.

On November 10th, a suicide bombing directed by ISIS was launched at a marketplace in Beirut, Lebanon. Forty-three people were killed in the explosions. A bus was also bombed in the capital of Tunis on November 24th. The bus was carry-

ing members of Tunis' presidential guard, and 12 people were killed.

The attacks on Paris, November 12th, being one of the largest attacks by ISIS, left 130 people killed. Islamic extremists used guns and explosives to commit what the President of France described as an "act of war." Multiple locations were hit, including the *Café Bonne Bière*, and the *Bataclan Theater*. Shortly after the attacks, ISIS claimed responsibility, saying they were in retaliation of previous French airstrikes on ISIS in Syria and Iraq. In response to these attacks, France launched massive waves of airstrikes on ISIS targets in the Middle East.

The attacks on Paris were executed by three teams

consisting of three terrorists each. All were armed, and many wore explosive vests. Three suicide bombers successfully detonated themselves near the *Stade de France*. Seven of the attackers died on the scene of the attack.

The most recent attack took place in San Bernardino, California on December 12th. A married, Islamic couple killed fourteen people and wounded twenty-one before fleeing the scene in an SUV. The couple's car was perused by police and surrounded four hours later. Both terrorists were killed in the shootout. It is largely suspected that these attackers were connected to ISIS; however, their exact relation is partially unknown.



Pictures courtesy of Google

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School Lunches

By Mckayla Mckinney

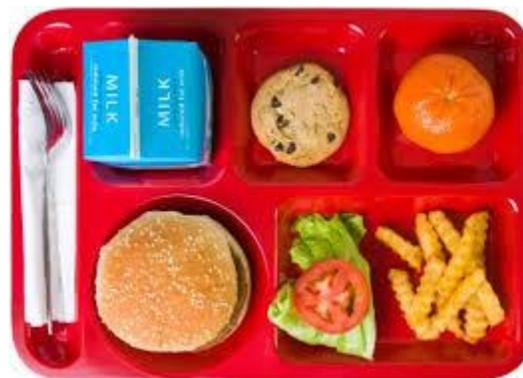
All around the world children are at school waiting for their favorite time of the day to arrive: lunch time! Recently, Michelle Obama decided schools in the United States need to start eating healthier lunches. At first many were on board with this proposal, but once it came to light many were soon outraged. Lunches served in schools are thought to be sickening, and many students refuse to eat them. This is resulting in millions of dollars lost due to them being thrown away and uneaten. In some parts of the country the unwanted lunches are being turned into food to feed pigs!

Parents everywhere are starting to get

involved due the health and happiness of their children. Many parents have complained to school boards saying that the lunch their children are fed is not enough for any growing child. School boards everywhere have to deal with parental complaints due to Michelle Obama's initiative. Social media has hosted pictures comparing lunches in the United States to those around the world. In other countries like Italy, fresh fruits and vegetables are served, along with fresh meat, and whole grain breads. Although some schools around the world might not be this way, many are. When parents see posts such as

those, they get even more upset that their children are not well properly taken care of, when that was the goal in the first place.

An issue in Chickasha, Oklahoma broke out when a man named Vince Holton was outraged at what the school was feeding his daughter. He said that the three dollar meal was not good for any student. He also mentioned that he could buy a Lunchable for the same price and it would have more food in it.



Pictures courtesy of Google

The Echo

School Report Card

By Andorra Bastien

After last school year's assessments, Wilson Area High School received the highest test scores in the entire Lehigh Valley.

Wilson Area High School and Nazareth Area High School were the only schools in the Lehigh Valley to score above 90% on the School Report Card. Wilson scored a total of 92.4% as released by the Department of Education. Joseph Roy, superintendent of Freedom and Liberty, argued, "In reality, 80 percent plus is based on the standardized tests. The only measure that these tests measure accurately is the socio-economic

status of students." Wilson proved his statements false despite being the third poorest district in the Lehigh Valley.

Mr. Stewart, Wilson's science department chairman, came to Wilson's defense saying, "We did fantastic with that group of kids," Stewart said, adding later: "These kids know their biology, they're learning their math, they're learning their English."

The Department of Education says in a letter sent to school administrators, "The governor and Pennsylvania Department of Education believe that a more holistic

strategy, using metrics beyond standardized assessments forms a better measure of school performance." Students of Wilson strived to do their best and pass their tests, which made it possible for Wilson to score exceptionally well.

In response to Wilson Area's outstanding academic performance, our principal, Mr. Martuscelli and assistant principal, Mr. Beitler, served all students ice cream sundaes in celebration of Wilson's amazing grade. We should be proud of our academic status and continue to maintain our high status.

Debate Team Recap

By Scott Marceca

This year, our school's debate team has had a smooth and successful start.

After team tryouts, Mrs. Guro, the coach of the debate team, carefully organized the members into A and B teams, each composed of an affirmative team and a negative team. A mix of new and experienced members, the debate team luckily has only lost one senior who graduated last year. So far, the team has participated in two debates. Both of these debates have been about whether community col-

lege education should be tuition-free in the United States. The negative and affirmative teams argued their sides passionately. Due to its hard work and dedication, the debate team is currently in 3rd place in the league.

The team has a short break because their next debate is not until February. The new resolve is whether Supreme Court Justices should have term limits. Currently, all of the debate team members are diligently researching their resolve, meeting with their teams at practices, and craft-

ing their speeches.

Hoping to gain some perspective from other team members, I asked senior Alexia Claudio a few questions. A newbie to debate, Alexia told me that she wishes she had joined debate earlier because she loves arguing in a healthy manner. Also, she delightfully claimed that she has been able to bond with her fellow teammates as a member of the Affirmative A team. Hopefully, the debate team will continue to succeed throughout the school year.

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Drama Club's 2015 Musical: Gigi

By Allison Reiter

This year the Wilson Area Drama Club, under the direction of Mr. Kaye and Mrs. Browne, is putting on the production of *Gigi*.

Gigi, the lead role, is being played by Leah Kun. *Gigi* was first a novel written by novelist Colette in 1945.

It is now also a Tony Award winning musical. The musical adaptation was penned by the famous team of Lerner and Loewe. The story is centered on Gigi, a free spirited teenage girl from Paris. It is set at the turn of the twentieth century. Gigi is being groomed as a courtesan. She meets a witty bache-

lor, named Gaston Lachaille, who is being played by Alec Buttner. The character of Gaston is a rich playboy. He enjoys spending time with a friend of his Uncle, whom he calls Mamita and her grand-daughter Gigi. Gigi is learning many lessons on how to be a proper French woman.

Later, Honore and Aunt Alicia hatch a scheme to transform Gigi into a mistress for Gaston. Gaston is captivated by Gigi before she is transformed, not after. The musical will be filled with beautiful period costumes and lovely sets that evoke

turn of the century Paris. The musical includes popular songs such as *Thank Heaven for Little Girls*, *The Night they Invented Champagne* and *I remember it Well*.

Drama club is a popular activity at Wilson Area High School, composed of student from all four grades. The Drama Club is like a family, and throughout the duration of the play strong friendships are formed that will last forever. It is a fun activity for anyone, and you do not need any formal singing or dance training to be involved.

NHS Blanket Drive

By Chelsea Kun

The National Honor Society (NHS) participated in a blanket drive in November in order to help needy families of the LINCS center.

The amount of needy Americans has rapidly increased over the past several years. The NHS knew that, in Wilson, there were going to be families in need this winter. In order to help those families keep warm, the NHS decided that a blanket drive would be a great idea.

“We wanted to donate blankets for the people of the

LINCS center for winter time,” Haillee Flank and Alli Hicks, President and Vice President of NHS, say. The NHS collected a total of approximately thirty blankets, as declared by Haillee and Alli. Wilson students most likely saw the members of NHS standing in the rotunda with a big box and a sign that said “Blanket Drive,” and the blanket drive would not have been possible without these dedicated volunteers. “It was successful, although we would have liked to have more donated. We were able to provide blankets for

needy families which is a great way to help out the community during the holiday season,” Flank and Hicks say.

Should the NHS make this blanket drive an annual event? “We should do it next year if they are needed, or we could always pick another item to donate,” Flank and Hicks say. The National Honor Society and Wilson students were very glad that they were able to help the families of the LINCS Center, and hopefully we will continue to help them.

The Echo

Warrior Club Breakfast

By Annabella Bastien

Warrior Club breakfast is a fundraising organization that sells food and uses the money to help the community. The main purpose of this club is to promote the idea of paying it forward and doing a good deed for hardworking people. The founder of Warrior Club is Wilson teacher Mr. Edwards and the President is student Alec Buttner.

Foods and drinks like

bagels, donuts, coffee, juice, and milk are sold at the Warrior Club breakfast. The breakfast is open from 7:00 to 7:30 in the morning before first period on Fridays. Warrior Club breakfast would be described as buying good, inexpensive breakfast while giving money towards a good cause.

With the money earned, the club sends it out to hardworking people thanking them for their work in the community. They pay it forward with generous offerings to workers who are

in need. The fundraising production shows how being a Warrior means giving to the people who aren't as appreciated and play an important role in our community.

The Warrior Club promotes being kind to others and helping people without anything in return. Warrior club breakfast is a fundraising group that thanks important members of our community by selling food and donating the money to deserving workers.

Editorial: Refugee Crisis in the Lehigh Valley

By Taylor Garrison

The Syrian refugee crisis has been making headlines for a good portion of 2015, and recently it made the local sections in Lehigh Valley newspapers. Pennsylvania is one of the 19 states that are still accepting Syrian refugees in light of the Paris terrorist attacks which occurred on November 13th.

Pennsylvania governor Tom Wolf supports accepting Syrian refugees in to Pennsylvania, despite criticism. Governor Wolf commented, "We must not lose sight of the fact that families leaving Syria are trying to escape the same violence and unimaginable terror that took place in Paris and Beirut." Pennsylvania, under Gov-

ernor Wolf's supervision, screens all incoming refugees, and the whole process takes approximately two years.

Allentown, Pennsylvania is home to one of the largest Syrian populations in the United States, and it has been since the 1800s. Many non-Syrian Lehigh Valley citizens probably were unaware of that fact. Between October 1, 2014 and September 30, 2015, Allentown and Scranton have accepted 38 Syrian refugees. Allentown plans to accept more refugees in the future.

It is easy to fear monger in times like this, but Lehigh Valley citizens must remember to distinguish fact from fiction. The refugees go through rigor-

ous screenings which can take years just to have the opportunity to live in an area we often take for granted.

Syrian refugees are fleeing persecution and oppression; 10,345 Syrian civilians have been killed in 2015. America was built on the idea that it would be a home for those fleeing persecution. What does it say about America to be denying refugees out of fear that they could be terrorists because of their nationality, religion, or skin color?

Governor Tom Wolf and Allentown stand as symbols for humanitarian effort in the United States. Hopefully, more states will begin to accept refugees in the future.

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In the Kitchen With Rachel

By Rachel Torres

'Tis the season of food, laughter, and smiles. Spice up your holiday meals by adding a Hispanic pizzazz to your traditional styles. Pastellios, or “Puerto Rican meat turnovers” are a Hispanic dish made for special occasions or holidays. Since I am in fact Puerto Rican, my family eats these a lot of the time, since they are a part of my culture.

They are usually called empanadas, but that is a huge misconception. Empanadas are made with cornmeal, and pastellios are made with flour. Follow my quick and easy prep in order to make your meals different this holiday season. Meal prep is roughly 15 minutes, but it

will take about 30 minutes for the full meal to be done.

Ingredients and Materials:

- Choice of filling (chicken/beef)
- Choice of seasonings (adobo, sazón, or garlic powder)
- Goya Discos
- Pan/Oven
- Vegetable Oil
- Pot for boiling water
- Fork for pressing edges

The goal of this dish is to first cook and season your meat (my preference is chicken), but the choice is up to you. Set a pot up with water to boil (at 212°F) the chicken breast until it is fully cooked, check the chicken to see if it is well done. Once it is finished, peel apart the meat so you have shreds. Once you do

that then apply your seasonings. After that, set your frying pan up with oil and allow it to heat to a temperature between 350 - 375°F. Then, open up your pack of discos, and lay them down flat on a countertop so you are able to fill them with the adequate or satisfactory amount of meat. Do not fill them up to the point where you are not able to close them, this will ruin the discos. Then, fold them over and press the edges with a fork. Then, fry or bake at about 350 - 375°F until they reach a golden color. You are ready to serve it up and eat! Your December will feel like July in the Caribbean! Enjoy!



Pictures courtesy of *Google*

The Echo

Frosty the Snowman, Literally

By Brenna Blanke

Do you love the winter season and the many desserts that go along with them? I've got a fun, yet tasty recipe that encompasses the winter season. I'm sure that many of you students here at Wilson have spent some of your childhood years building snowmen in your yards. Here's the chance to make a snowman that is as fun to make as a real one outside, but this is also edible.

Here are the things you'll need:

- 1 box of cake mix (your choice)-to make the cupcakes
- 1 container of white icing-for the snow

- 1 bag of large or small marshmallows-to make the snowman
- Mini pretzel sticks-for the arms
- Pull-and-Peel licorice-for the scarf
- Mini chocolate chips-for the buttons and facial features
- Mini and regular sized Oreos-for the hat

Now to assemble the snowman... Start by mixing your cake mix according to the recipe on the box and distributing it into cupcake pans.

After your cupcakes are baked and cooled, apply a generous amount of white icing. Stack two marshmallows on top

of each other with icing in between so that they stick together. Insert the mini pretzel sticks into the marshmallows for the arms. Pull and peel apart your licorice so that you can accessorize your snowman with a scarf. Attach three mini chocolate chips onto the marshmallows with icing where the buttons would look best. (use these for the eyes and mouth also)

Stack a mini oreo on top of a regular sized oreo and put that on top of your snowman.

Serve with your choice of a hot drink to keep you cozy!

Now you should have a snowman that looks somewhat similar to the one shown below, or you can customize and make it unique!

Holiday Crafts

By Alexis Vitko

Do the holidays make you happy? Bring the joy of the holiday season outside of your heart with these fun little crafts!

No matter what holiday you may celebrate, there is a way to spread your winter cheer. One of the most popular and adored crafts is a candle jar. You can take any plain jar and decorate it to make a cute, festive and simple candle holder. The supplies you will need are white sand, a mason jar(s), white candle(s), glue, green

yarn, and pinecones.

First, you will need to get a transparent glass mason jar. Take the rim of the mason jar and apply glue around it and cover the rim with white sand, preferably using hot glue or superglue so it's more durable and as much sand as possible sticks. When doing this, use the technique you would do if you were putting salt around the rim of a glass with water.

With the rest of the sand, fill the jar about quarter to halfway and place a white candle in the center. To add decora-

tion and festivity, get a green piece of yarn and tie it in a bow around the neck of the bottle. Finally get 2 pinecones. Spread some glue along the ends of the pinecones and sprinkle it with white sand with the goal of giving it a snow capped effect. Glue these next to each other near the bow onto the jar. Your finished product will be a simple yet elegant candle holder to use any day in the winter.

Congratulations on completing your first, and hopefully not last, holiday decor item!

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Ways to Stay Warm in the Winter

By Vanessa Fonseca-Garcia

The crisp white snow and frigid air has signified the beginning of winter and the end of fall. A majority of the student body walk to school in the winter, so it is important to know how to stay warm in this chilly weather. Surprisingly, one way to stay warm during the winter is, before you go out, drink something cold, this way your body temperature decreases. According to Ms. Weeks, Mrs. Guro's student teacher, "It helps your body match the outside temperature so there isn't a

shocking contrast."

Humans lose a lot of heat through their heads. Because of this it is important to wear a hat and to dry your hair before going out. It is essential that you dress warmly, put on the thickest layer of clothing closest to your skin and thinner layers on top to prevent heat loss, and avoid wearing cotton because it traps moisture against your skin. When it's snowing, wear snow boots or thick socks. That way your feet won't get wet and cold. Dressing adequately in the win-

ter is important to trap heat, but it is also important to know how to re-warm your body when you feel cold.

If you're walking to school, try increasing your pace so that your body will start to warm up, and by the time you get to school you'll be more awake. If you drive, try starting your car five minutes before you actually have to leave. That way your car will be warm by the time you need to leave. Just because it's cold outside does not mean you have to be cold.

Saving Money During the Holidays

By Kaylynn Betts

The holidays are the most wonderful time of the year; although, the holiday time frame tends to be when people stress out. Whether or not the stress is over money, family, or just trying to find the perfect gift, there are ways to get around it. So in case you forgot to *save up* money, there are plenty of ways to *save* it.

Even if you don't celebrate any December holiday you can still take advantage of the sales! However, you have to be willing to go through some

obstacles, (Black Friday and Cyber Monday). Yet in the end all the money you save will be worth it.

If you are frugal in general, the holidays may be your best friend. But if you are new to saving money, there are some handy habits to pick up while shopping. For example, it's important to stick to a budget; going into a store without a budget causes people to spend more. Another way to save money is by making a list (and checking it twice). Making a list helps you get

exactly what you need and tends to keep you away from the extra gifts. With this, there are plenty of stores that have sales during the holidays and you can save plenty. Therefore, the best way to save money is to know what you want and how much you want. Even though saving money can be a bit frustrating, it is worth it in the end. Finally, the holidays are all about time spent with family (and showing them all of the good deals you got).

The Echo

Book Review: Reboot by Amy Tintera

By Alyson Ellison

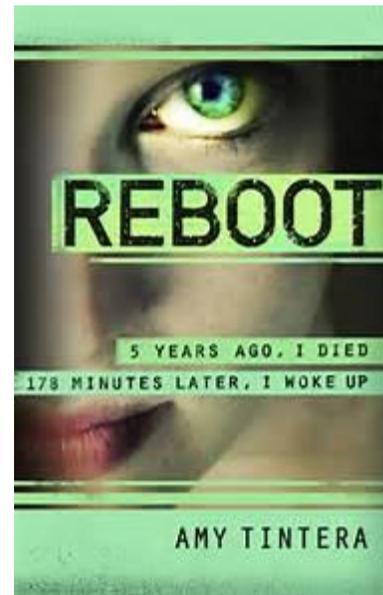
Twelve year old Wren Connolly was shot and killed. 178 minutes later, she woke up as a Reboot; this made her overall superhuman but lacking the emotions she had when she was living. Five years later, she is one of the best and dangerous Reboots working for HARC, an organization pledged to help what remains of the human population after a deadly epidemic. HARC has turned Reboots into their slaves,

but somehow, the prisoners follow orders without thought or question.

When a new trainee arrives, Wren accepts the challenge of training him but soon realizes it will be harder than she anticipated. Only dead twenty-two minutes before Rebooting, Callum is not as superhuman as the rest, partly because he has retained most of his humanity. He asks questions he shouldn't and

has opinions despite their orders, refusing to be a mindless drone. However, defiance is not tolerated, and Wren must figure out how to make him step into line or else endanger them both.

This science fiction novel is full of suspense and action, but even with the coldness of the Reboots, the passionate nature of humans and desire for individuality still bleeds through.



Pictures courtesy of Google

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The Magic 8 Ball of Weather

By Michael Jablonski

From 14 years' worth of rain in Chile to nine feet of snow in Boston, 2015 has witnessed some extreme forms of weather. Now a new report says that this may continue. The Old Farmer's Almanac has released a report which predicts bitter temperatures and high amounts of precipitation. Many consider the almanac to have the accuracy of a supercomputer, but does it? Or should the almanac be considered as a joke that has the accuracy of a Magic 8 Ball?

The Old Farmer's Almanac was founded by Robert Thomas in 1792. (Note: Do not confuse the Old Farmer's Almanac with the Farmer's Almanac, as those are two different almanacs.) Supposedly, the almanac became famous

after it apparently predicted snow and sleet in the summer of 1816. Such a usual yet correct prediction may make one wonder how the almanac determines its forecasts.

The almanac uses three main factors to figure out its forecasts: solar science (the study of solar activities), climatology (the study of patterns in the weather), and meteorology (the study of the atmosphere). That is the most detailed explanation that can be given, for the actual formula used is locked in a black box, and is known by one person on the entire planet. However the almanac comes up with its predictions, the validity of the prediction is debatable.

The almanac itself states that while it is not

100% accurate, it is generally 80% accurate. Even then, there is nothing to support the claim of 80% accuracy. As a matter of fact, the almanac's forecasts are considered to be about 50% accurate. So why does the book get so much attention over 200 years later, with millions of copies being made each year? One scientist suggests that people find the idea of a secret formula in a black box to be intriguing. Also, people may think of the almanac as accurate because they remember the right moments and forget the wrong ones. In any case, the best reason to look at this almanac is to view its data, recipes, and/or entertaining articles on various topics, not its weather forecasts.



Pictures courtesy of *Google*

The Echo

Scenes From Wilson in December



Play it again!



Good friends, good times.



Loving every
minute of it!