



## ***Possible Changes Coming to Lower Price Hill***

By: Emily Offenbacher

Lower Price Hill is debating changing its name. Community Council members have come to the conclusion that there is nothing “low” about Lower Price Hill. They’ve decided that Lower Price Hill is a prospering community, whose name shouldn’t hint otherwise. The possible names are: Walker’s Mill, Price’s Landing, 8th and State, German Village, or Queensgate Village.

There are a mixture of opinions about the possible change. Craig Hockenberry, Principal at Oyler, was asked his opinion. He said, “I liked all of the options,” but his vote is going with 8th and State. Oyler student Devonte North was also asked about the name change. He said, “If they change it, it should be Queensgate Village.” Local resident Amy Offenbacher agrees with Hockenberry. She said, “If the name is changed to anything, it should be 8th and State. That’s what people already know it as.”

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## ***Oyler Griffin Announces Staff Positions***

By: Julian Ward

*Griffin* advisor and Oyler Social Studies Teacher Justin Leach has announced the newspaper’s staff appointments for 2012-2013.

Junior Emily Offenbacher will serve as Editor in Chief, and Robert McMurray, also a Junior, has been appointed Managing Editor. Sophomore Amanda Sanders will be News Editor. Junior Joel Ingle will serve as Sports Editor.

Senior Ashley Green has been appointed Director of  
*Continued on page 2*



*Students at the Robert and Adele Schiff Early Learning Childhood Center are currently studying the seasons. Photo by Anna Ferguson.*

## ***New York City Visitors Come to Oyler School***

By: Amanda Sanders

On Friday, October 12, New York City visitors came to Oyler. This was the last of several of their visits to other area schools. The New York Union Federation of Teachers are setting up Community Learning Centers in their school system and used Oyler as one of their models. They are learning how Community Learning Centers work.

Of course Oyler is a unique school, and that attracts a lot of attention. The visitors took a tour of the entire school, but focused mainly on innovative features such as the Vision Center, Early Learning Center, Hampton Tutoring Room, as well as many other important services. These were the three things that impressed the visitors the most.

The Vision Center was surely going to draw attention. It is the first vision center in a public school in the entire United States. They were also very impressed by the Hampton Tutoring Room. The N.Y.C. visitors were struck by how great a relationship the mentors had with their students. In regard to a mentor and a student hugging, Assistant Principal Amy Woods

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The *Oyler Griffin* is an open forum for student expression and the discussion of issues of concern to its audience. It welcomes letters to the editor, guest columns, and news releases from the faculty, administrators, community residents, and non-staff students.

The *Oyler Griffin* will print letters to the editor, and/or guest columns that contain both the author's name and address. The editorial board reserves the right to edit all material for length, grammar, and legally protected speech. Letters should be brief and may be sent to *Oyler Griffin* in care of Oyler CLC, 2121 Hatmaker Street, Cincinnati, Ohio 45204 or by email at [oyler.griffin@gmail.com](mailto:oyler.griffin@gmail.com).

### Oyler Griffin Staff

**Editor-in-Chief:** Emily Offenbacher

**Managing Editor:** Robert McMurray

**News Editor:** Amanda Sanders

**Features Editor:** Ariel Daniels

**Sports Editor:** Joel Ingle

**Arts Editor:** Crystal Kornegay

**Deputy Arts Editor:** Jeniece Ballard

**Director of Layout:** Ashley Green

**Deputy Director of Layout:** Christopher Martin

**Director of Photography:** Alesea Ronnebaum

**Deputy Director of Photography:** Anna Ferguson

**Reporters:** Ashley Darnell, Sarah Powell, & Julian Ward

**Advisors:** Justin Leach & Sandra Smythe

NYC Visitors (continued from page one) heard a visitor say last year, "This would never exist in N.Y.C Public! Look! They're hugging!" Our visitors definitely got a sense of our close and outstanding Community Learning Center.

There are many other cities who have been interested in Oyler. In September, observers came from across the country and as far away as Hawaii. They came to observe three of Cincinnati's community learning centers--Oyler, the Academy of World Languages, and Mount Washington.

Griffin Appointments (*continued from page one*) Layout, and Junior C. J. Martin will serve as Deputy Director of Layout.

Sophomore Ariel Daniels is Features Editor; Arts and Music Editor is Senior Crystal Kornegay; Deputy Arts Editor is Junior Jeniece Ballard. Senior Alesea Ronnebaum is Director of Photography; Senior Anna Ferguson will serve as Deputy Director of Photography. Seniors Ashley Darnell, Sarah Powell and Julian Ward are contributing editors/reporters.

For the first eight weeks of the course, all of the students in the journalism class have worked as general assignment reporters. They were appointed to their positions on the basis of merit and their interests.

Oyler opened the 2012 - 2013 year with two new classes. These new classes include Psychology and News Production. Psychology is the study of the human mind. News Production is a class where students work together to create a school newspaper. The Oyler Griffin was the School's newspaper in the 1950's. The paper was written and produced when Oyler was a kindergarten through eighth grade school.

It should be noted that the students and advisors want to produce this paper in a professional way. The reporters wear credentials in order to let people being interviewed know that they're talking to the press. Not only does the class do this, they also come together as a team daily to study journalistic ethics and go over articles and review them. This process helps the students get a feel for structure and teaches them how to get to the important points of the story without adding too much unneeded information. Overall, the News Production class helps students build grammar, punctuation and writing skills that can be important later in their academic careers.



*Happy Holidays From  
the Oyler Griffin!*



### LPH Changes *(continued from page one)*

There are many different views. Only time can tell if the name change will be put into action. No voting date has been established yet. So, as of now, the community remains Lower Price Hill.

Another project in the community is the river access being built by the new bridge on River Road. Over time, it will be turned into a park, according to Hockenberry. The river access is a way for people to get to the river park easier, and when it is completed, Oyler students can take field trips there.

Something new to the community is the Robert and Adele Schiff Early Childhood Learning Center. This program was funded by the Robert and Adele Schiff Family Foundation. When asked about what helps the children most in the program, Amanda Spohn, Primary Caregiver, said, "I think we help them most by giving them a safe place to learn and grow in an environment at their levels." Hockenberry told *Griffin* reporters that the goal of the program is to prepare children from birth, for kindergarten. There's no doubt that the Early Childhood Learning Center has made a big impact on students and the community.

Many young mothers, fathers, and guardians all around the community can have a safe place for their children while they're getting an education or working. Spohn says that parents are satisfied and that both the children and families are happy with the care they receive. The reactions are very positive. Tracey Rowe, Vice President of the Program said, "I think it will take time to develop relationships with families and the community." The Early Childhood Learning Center is new to the community and just one of the many great resources for families that Oyler has to offer. Over time it is surely to become as strong as the other services offered.



Waldvogel Viaduct Renovations. Photo from [urbancincy.com](http://urbancincy.com)



*Griffin* Reporters Ashley Darnell, Emily Offenbacher, C.J. Martin, and Julian Ward work on creating a city ordinance addressing vacant and abandoned lots in the city. Photo by Anna Ferguson.

## ***The Oyler Griffin Visits Youth In City Government***

By: Selina Appel

October 30th and 31st, staff from The Oyler Griffin and students from other Cincinnati area schools went to the Duke Energy Center for a City Council meeting. They learned the proper way to present themselves during an election. In a debate they must have good body language, be truthful and support their facts. They applied their new knowledge and ran for Youth City Council, for different positions such as mayor, ambassador, and council. Member Crystal Kornegay, senior, is now the ambassador of Oyler High School. When asked why she ran for ambassador, Kornegay said, "I liked the City Council program downtown and I really want to be involved in representing Oyler. I will make us stand out as a school."

The Griffin had a great lunch at the Phoenix on Race Street at the Phoenix, Cincinnati City Councilman P.G. Sittenfeld talked to everyone and gave an inspirational speech. "I thought P.G. Sittenfeld's speech was great. I liked that he highlighted how important it is for our city's youth to be active participants in our local government. If teenagers want changes in the city they have to make their voice heard," said Justin Leach, Oyler government teacher, when asked about the speech. Finally the Mayor of Youth Government gave up his chair to the newly elected Mayor, Chris Rose.



# Oyler Sports



## *The Comeback Hats*

By: Joel Ingle

On November 26, 2012, the Lady Madhatters began their season at St. Benard-Elmwood place. They opened up the season with a 52-50 win, a win for the ages.

The girls were down 11-29 at the half and came back with a great defensive stand in the second half. Senior Te'Ana West helped bring the Team back with great defense. She made a lay-up and drew the foul to tie the game at 33. Te'Ana said that it made her so happy to make the free throw to tie the game. She also said that it was a great way to start the season.

Head Coach Joe Saylor said, "It was a great team effort, and the girls did a great job to steal the win." Senior Captain Crystal Kornegay credited the second half turn around to working together as a team and great offense. "It feels good to beat a team in a higher division. I am so proud of my team and to start the season like this!"



*Senior Darrick Wilson goes up for a one hand dunk during their practice. Photo by Alesia Ronnebaum*

## *2012-2013 Madhatter Basketball Preview*

By: Joel Ingle

### **Madhatter Basketball Preview**

This year the Oyler Madhatters have a new basketball coach. The new coach is former Oyler teacher Adam Lazar. Last season he was the assistant coach at Walnut Hills. He helped take Walnut Hills to the sectional finals with a record of 19-3.

Assistant Coach Matt Phillips says that there is a lot of talent on the team this season. He expects the team to have 18 wins and go to the Sweet 16.

Returning seniors this season are Romero Tyler, Darrick Wilson, and Fernando North.

### **Lady Madhatters Basketball Preview**

Joe Saylor has returned as the Lady Madhatter's Head Coach this season. Last season, the Team had a record of 7-12. Saylor says the Team is young and that there is talent on the Team.

Returning seniors season are Alesia Ronnebaum, Crystal Kornegay, Raven Gribbins, and Te'ana West.



*Senior Center Te'ana West drives to the hoop during one of the Lady Madhatters practices. West played shutdown defense in the St. Bernard win. Photo by Alesia Ronenbaum*



# Oyler Sports



## *Jack's Glass Roundball Rumble Round One*

By: Joel Ingle

On Friday, December 14th, The Oyler Madhatters battle against arch rivals The Riverview East Hawks in the 2nd annual Jacks' Glass Roundball Rumble.

Last Season The Madhatters lost the first round 72-48 at Oyler on December 13, 2011. Later that season on January 23, 2012, The Madhatters won round two 42-38 at Riverview East, bringing the trophy home.

When asked about the Rivalry between Oyler and Riverview East, Principal Craig Hockenberry says, "It is extremely important. It gives us something to play for. This year it is exciting because it is the deciding game for which school will take the lead in the series." Hockenberry also says that he wants to try to sell out the Riverview East gym so we will have the home-court advantage.

When asked the same question, Assistant Madhatter Coach Matt Phillips said, It gives the players bragging rights. It does so because it is mostly the same athletes for all of the sports for both schools. Riverview East is one of the better teams in the division and we always want to beat them. Phillips added, "This rivalry will last forever, whether it's through the players or coaches."

The gates open at 6 and the girls start at 6:30. The boys game follows 20 minutes after. Tickets can be purchased from Athletic Director Dave Scholl. Come to Riverview East to watch your Madhatters defend the trophy.

The Roundball Rumble is one of a series of trophy games played between these two heated rivals. The Kiwanis Cup goes to the winner of the football match-up between the schools and currently resides with Riverview East. Oyler's baseball team won the Inaugural Lumber Bat Classic last Spring.

## Upcoming Games

### *Varsity Boys Basketball*

#### **Jack's Glass Roundball Rumble**

*Friday, December 14th* 7:30 p.m.  
Oyler @ Riverview East (3555 Kellogg Ave, 45226)

*Monday, December 17th* 7:30 p.m.  
Oyler @ Immaculate Conception Academy (KY)

#### **Madhatter Invitational**

*Friday, December 28th* 7:30 p.m.  
School for Creative & Performing Arts @ Oyler

#### **Madhatter Inviational**

*Saturday, December 29th* 1:30 p.m.  
Second Game of Madhatter Invitational @ Oyler

*Friday, January 4th* 7:30 p.m.  
DePaul Cristo Rey @ Oyler

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### *Varsity Girls Basketball*

*Friday, December 14th* 6:00 p.m.  
Oyler @ Riverview East (3555 Kellogg, 45226)

*Monday, December 17th* 6:30 p.m.  
Oyler @ Immaculate Conception Academy (KY)

*Friday, January 4th, 2013*  
6:00 p.m.  
DePaul Cristo Rey @ Oyler

*Tuesday, January 8th, 2013* 6:00 p.m.  
Miami Valley Christian Academy @ Oyler

## *Denise Montgomery: Twenty-five Years of Extraordinary Service*

By: Joel Ingle and Ariel Daniels



*Photo by Anna Ferguson*

Mrs. Denise Montgomery is celebrating her 25th anniversary here at Oyler. Mrs. Montgomery was the former I.S.S. teacher for 17 years and has been an assistant for kindergarten through 7th grade for 25 years. She has watched Oyler and many of the students grow throughout the years. She is in awe of how much Oyler has advanced. She said, "In my wildest dreams I couldn't have imagined that this school would be transformed into this beautiful place of learning."

Mrs. Montgomery's proudest moment at Oyler is when she was on the Laura Bush welcoming committee and she had the honor to meet and create artwork for former First Lady Laura Bush. She also received the Cincinnati Public Schools Extra Mile Award for dedication to Oyler students.

Mrs. Montgomery is a professional artist and has work on display at Harvard University. She has also created artwork for past Ohio School Superintendent Dr. Susan Zelman, Mayor Charlie Luken, C.P.S Superintendent Michael Brandt, and has an art display at her church.

During her 25 years here at Oyler, Mrs. Montgomery has made an emotional attachment with the students and their families that she has met throughout her career. She said, "Every student is an asset to me. My emotional bank overflows each day as I interact with

the students."

Mrs. Montgomery is a sweet, caring woman who has done so much for Oyler students and continues to do so. She has watch many students grow from children to adults. She has filled and touched students' hearts with her loving ways.

## *"Hats Off" to Darlene Kamine*

By: Emily Offenbacher

Oyler's Local School Decision Making Committee (LSDMC) has awarded Darlene Kamine, the Executive Director of the Community Learning Center Institute, the first ever Hats Off Award. She is also the founder of ProKids, a guardian program for abused and dependent children in the welfare system, and co-founder of the Cincinnati Children's Museum. Oyler's LSDMC wanted to recognize all of the great and positive things Kamine has done. She has been recognized by many other awards. Darlene Kamine is the reason we have a Community Learning Center (CLC) at Oyler School. CLCs developed from a concept she had worked on for many years. Community Learning Centers are partnerships between schools, businesses, and community organizations to help bring important services to students. She partnered with Principal Craig Hockenberry to press for Community Learning Centers throughout the City. Her success has been noted around the country. There are now 36 Community Learning Centers nationwide. People from New York and all around come to tour Oyler because of Kamine. When Assistant Principal Amy Woods was asked about what Kamine had done for Community Learning Centers, she made it simple by saying, "She is how it all started" here at Oyler.



*LSDMC Chairman John Sherman and Principal Craig Hockenberry award Darlene Kamine, Executive Director of the CLC Institute the "Hats Off" Award*

## *Best Christmas Memories*

By: Selina Appel & Ashley Darnell

Reporters from The *Oyler Griffin* Staff interviewed a few students and teachers about their favorite Christmas memories. Their stories were original and reflected the warmth and good feeling of the holiday season.

### **Nathan Meyer (Sophomore)**

“One memory is when I woke up and thought I saw Santa, but I didn’t, it was my daddy. He was wearing a big red coat and he was eating my cookies. He told me I had to find my presents; they weren’t underneath the tree. One was in the bathroom, one was under my bed, and one was outside. My dad locked me outside in the cold for ten minutes. When I came back in, he didn’t have the red coat on anymore. I will always remember this memory because the cookies were burnt.”

### **Aubree Haines (Freshman)**

“Around Christmas I like to meet new people and spend time with my family. I liked the time I went to adopt a class and I seen Margret and she got me so many nice presents, I appreciated it very much. It was a super great Christmas.”

### **Daquan Brown (Sophomore)**

“My favorite Christmas memory is when I went to Columbus. I got a pair of shoes that other people in Cincinnati didn’t have, and a couple outfits. Then when I got back home I got a pair of Timberlands. Then, my mom and dad gave me some money. I celebrated with my dad and then my mom’s side of the family.”

### **Daniel Barnes (Freshman)**

“Last year my whole family; grandparents, aunts, and everyone, got together. Then everyone gave presents that they got for each other and my grandma made a really big dinner. Everyone sat down and watched basketball all day. It was a really good Christmas.”

### **Mike Sage (9th and 10th Grade History Teacher)**

“I think my favorite Christmas memory happened two years ago, when I got to see my nephew open his Christmas presents. They live in California so I got to see them using Skype. It almost brought a tear to my eye. I really enjoyed that Christmas.”



## *The many faces of Santa Claus.*

By: Ariel Daniels

St. Nicholas, Old Saint Nick, Grandfather Frost, Father Christmas, and Kris Kringle are just some of the many names of the one we know as Santa Claus. As legend has it, Santa is described as a short, merry old man, with a long white beard, who wears a red and white suit, and lives near the North Pole with his wife Mrs. Claus and his elves. Santa is known to have a “naughty and nice list.” This means that kids who have been good and nice to others will be receiving presents on December 25th, Christmas Day, and the children who have been naughty, or bad, will receive no presents, but coal in their stockings that hang by the fireplace. This list is managed by one of Santa’s elves, known as Alabaster Snowball, Santa says “Remember, kids, I’m making a list and I’m checking it twice, so I’m going to find out who’s naughty or nice. It’s up to you to get on the good list.” One of the most famous things known about Santa is his transportation. Santa is known to deliver gifts on the night of December 24th, riding in his sleigh, pulled by eight flying reindeer. One of the most famous of the reindeer is Rudolph, the Rednosed Reindeer. Santa is known to deliver millions of gifts to children all over the world. He enters the homes of the children not by the door, but through the chimney. He then takes a bite of the cookies and drinks the milk that children leave out for him. Just like all legends, Santa had to have a start. Santa started out as St. Nicholas, who was the bishop of Myra of Southwest Turkey, in the 4th century. St. Nicholas was known to do a number of good deeds involving children and sailors. At the time of his death, St. Nicholas became known as the patron saint for both children and sailors. Now known as a saint, St. Nicholas was given his own “feast day” that was celebrated on December the sixth. This date soon became associated with December the 25th, which is also celebrated as the day of the birth of Jesus. Soon

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OneSight Eye Clinic staff, Cincinnati Public Schools Superintendent Mary Ronan, and Oyler Principal Craig Hockenberry receive a \$54,000 check from the Cincinnati Women's Club.

## Eye Center On Hatmaker

By: C.J. Martin

What uniquely sets us apart as a community school is how tight-knit we are. But what sets us off from every other school in the U.S. is that we have an eye care center in our school. This is a great help to students and parents who have eye care issues. Courthney Calvin, who works in the vision center says, "This year has been amazing. We are very excited to be in Oyler and be part of this unique working experience. We just got a \$54,000 check from the Cincinnati Women's Club. It is going to be used for operational expenses, including transportation for all CPS students."

An advantage of having an eye center in Oyler is that kids can come to school to get glasses instead of staying home all day for a 45 minute eye care appointment. When asked her experience in the vision center recently, Michelle Turner says, "My experience was great, it felt like I was really at an eye clinic. The lady there helped me pick my glasses, and they had a good number of options. There was nice equipment and it is an extreme upgrade."

Students' parents can come to the vision center is being used everyday and will continue to serve students and the community. After seeing all Oyler students in need of glasses, the eye clinic will begin servicing students across the entire school district.

## Wreck-it Ralph Wrecks the Competition

By: Jeniece Ballard

Wreck-it Ralph is an 3-D animated comedy adventure starring Sarah Silverman, Jane Lynch, Jack McBrayer, and John C. Reilly (as Ralph) directed by Rich Moore and written by Jennifer Lee and Phil Johnston.

When the players are away, the characters come out to play! In this computer animated 3D adventure, after the city's arcade closes for the night, characters from various video games take a break from their day jobs and roam freely. Within the game Fix-it Flex, the characters celebrate the victory of their hero and sends away the villain. Wreck-it Ralph glooms away to the video game villains support group only to confess his desire to become the good guy. With that, he sets off onto an adventure hopping from game to game in the arcade to prove that he has what it takes to become a

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## Principal Hockenberry: King of Price Hill?



Principal Craig Hockenberry, with wife Erin Hockenberry, led the way for the 2012 Price Hill Thanksgiving Day Parade as the "King of the Parade."

Photo by Joel Ingle



## *Keeping an eye on Truancy*

By Julian Ward & Crystal Kornegay

Principal Craig Hockenberry decided to have a meeting on November 27 with the juniors and seniors in the auditorium. The meeting was about the number of increasing absences among the 2013 junior and senior classes. Hockenberry had explained to the students that being present in school is very important and that students need to take advantage of it. Another thing he mentioned was graduation. He said, "You have to be here first in order to graduate."

The reasons for his concerns on this growing issue has to do with the fact that Oyler has a small high school to begin with. The way he explained it, when you look at the statistics of how many students have been attending classes daily and or regularly, just about one out of two kids are here. This had to be addressed because the District has been keeping an eye on our growing absence rate. This means that if our problem continues to grow the District could potentially shut down Oyler High School

Does this mean Oyler K-12 will be shut down? Not necessarily. This does mean that the principal, vice principal, teachers and staff have to have to collaborate and make team efforts to make school the first priority for the students. As a result, Hockenberry told the students he was holding parent teacher conferences with every student's parent/guardians. Hockenberry also made sure to take precautionary steps and had letters made in order to send home to the parents.

*After the meeting these were some feedback from students:*

**Daniel Brown, Senior:** "I feel Mr.Hockenberry has a good point, and students should be coming to school, especially the juniors and seniors because it's just stupid not to come."

**Te'ana West, Senior:** It (the issue) needs to be addressed, but it wasted my time because I needed to be in 3rd bell, getting my education like he said because you know I be late all the time!"

**Jason Minor, Junior:** "I really feel that Mr. Hockenberry is doing a great job stressing the problem. All students needs to be engaged in learning activities, and Mr.Hockenberry is a great principal and deserves principal of the year."

**Christian Kornegay, Freshman:** "I think more lower grade students miss more school than juniors and seniors. I also think when you're late by a few seconds , does it matter? No! because you are still coming to school getting your education. Why they geekin!"

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## *Colleges at Oyler*

By: Crystal Kornegay

For the month of November, Project REACH Juniors and Senior have visited some colleges, and some colleges have visited Oyler High School. There will be no upcoming trips in December, but more in the New Year. Students who would like to attend upcoming events may contact Guidance Counselor Marsha Wheeler or College Access Advisor Lauren Decker.

When asked about the recent college tours, senior Chad Scudder "I thought it was pretty cool to see how they actually lived on campus. I'm not planning on going there.. I actually want to go to Great Oaks, but I can say the Mount had the best food."

Have a nice break and happy holidays!



*Senior Raven Gribbins works on a college essay with College Access Counselor Lauren Decker. Photo by Selina Appel.*

*Wreck-it Ralph* (Continued from Page Eight)

hero. On his epic journey he meets Sergeant Calhoun, from the first person shooter action game *Hero's Duty*, and the feisty Vanellope von Schweetz, from the candy-coated race cart game *Sugar Rush*. All goes well until Ralph accidentally lets loose a deadly enemy that threatens the entire arcade. Will he be able to save the entire arcade and become a hero?

I feel that this is a great movie for the whole family as well as video gamers to gather and enjoy. The animation was well done in good detail. It brought laughter around where it was appropriately needed and punned for all ages. The classic arcade characters such as Donkey Kong, Pac Man, Bowser, Sonic, and many more were great additions to the characters in the movie for classical arcade gamers, such as myself.

*Many Faces of Santa Claus* (Continued from Page 7)

enough a tradition began. Nicholas also referred to as Sinterklaas, would visit homes, on the night of Christmas Eve, where children would place nuts, apples, sweets, and many other items around the house to welcome him. When the Dutch settled in New Amsterdam, now known as New York, they brought the lively and fun tradition of Sinterklaas; now known as Santa Claus, to America and it has stuck with us for many centuries. Although the Dutch brought the tradition of Santa to America it was Clement C. Moore, who shaped the modern day idea of Santa with his poem *The Night Before Christmas, A Visit From St. Nicholas*, written in 1822. It was soon enough, that a very well known newspaper artist, Thomas Nast, painted the very first portrait of the present day Santa Claus in 1870.

## December 2012- January

### 2013 Calendar

Date	Time
Dec. 14- H.S. English Exams	10:53 a.m.
Dec. 17 H.S. Math Exams	10:53 a.m.
Dec. 18 H.S. Science Exam	10:53 a.m.
Dec. 18 High School Student Council	1:38 p.m.
Dec. 19 H.S. Social Studies Exam	10:53 a.m.
Dec. 20 Last day of Second Quarter	
Dec. 21 Holiday Break begins	
Jan. 7 Quarter Three Begins	

## Fun Facts

By: Amanda Sanders

The U.S. Postal Service delivers 20 billion cards and packages between Thanksgiving and Christmas Eve.

The largest gingerbread man in the world is 466 pounds and 6 ounces.

An average of 5,800 people end up in the emergency room after suffering injuries from holiday decorating.

Source: [realsimple.com](http://realsimple.com)

The original ball lowered in Times Square on New Year's Eve back in 1907 was made of iron and wood and decorated with 100 light bulbs.



Source: [fun.familyeducation.com](http://fun.familyeducation.com) , [vintageculture.net](http://vintageculture.net)

The winter holidays represents the biggest boxed chocolate selling season.

More than 1.8 billion candy canes will be made for the winter holiday season.

Source: [candyusa.com](http://candyusa.com)

The single busiest shopping hour for the holidays is December 24<sup>th</sup> between 3 and 4 in the afternoon.

On average, 70% to 75% of American households display fake Christmas trees.

Source: [bestfunfacts.com](http://bestfunfacts.com)

Real Christmas trees are edible.[The Griffin does not recommend.]

Alabama was the first state in the U.S. to declare Christmas a legal holiday. Oklahoma was the last.

Source: [polarismr.com](http://polarismr.com)