

Wildcat Roar

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Wildcat Roar Reporters

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High school opportunities

By: Julia Lyonga

8th graders this is our last year in middle school. Hopefully, we don't spend it all at home. There are a lot of opportunities and programs that you can take no matter the high school you decide to attend.

Global Ecology House

The global ecology house program provides students with knowledge about science, cultural, social, political, economic, and technological conditions that affect life on our planet. This program offers a unique computer-assisted approach to the study of environmental science and social studies. This is a great program if you love science and learning about the earth. You can get more information here <https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/specialprograms/high/magnet-ecology.aspx> Schools that offer this program include; Poolesville high school. Admission to this program is very competitive. If you are interested in this program you are going to be evaluated by teacher recommendations, written statements from candidates, previous grades, and test scores your interest, and your achievements. You must be enrolled in Algebra 1 or higher by grade 8. Transportation is provided if you live in the school neighborhood. Remember if you get accepted to this program this becomes your high school.

Visual Art Center (VAC)

The visual arts program offers students the opportunity to deepen their understanding of the opportunities for art-related careers through exposure to art history. Students will have the opportunity to study commercial design techniques, receive strong foundations in drawing, painting, and art history. Students will also have the opportunity to receive recognition in art and talent search. If you love art this will be a great program for you you have the opportunity to compete and win national, regional, and local awards as well as scholarships. If you are interested in this program, then you will be evaluated on the following: completion of art courses, work from portfolio, teacher recommendations and a submission of recent student transcripts.

You also need to go for personal achievement. You can get more information here:

<https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/specialprograms/high/magnet-art.aspx> Schools that offer this program include Albert Einstein High School. If you

get accepted to this program you have a choice to take a combination of your home school and the VAC program. *This program is countywide*

Humanities House

The Humanities Program offers students the opportunity to develop and/or deepen their oral and written communication skills. It also provides students the opportunity to work with other students to develop top quality print, photo, and video products. Students will be able to combine oral and written communication skills with state-of-the-art visual media. This program is very competitive. To be eligible you have to be in algebra 1 or higher by grade 8. You will be evaluated by teacher recommendations, written statements from candidates, previous grades/ test scores. Your interest and achievements. You can get more information here: <https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/specialprograms/high/magnet-humanities.aspx> Schools that offer this program include; Poolesville high school. Transportation is available for students in the neighborhood.

International Baccalaureate diploma program (IB)

The IB program offers students the opportunity to earn rewards and academic scholarships and earn an Ib diploma that will be recognized globally. It also allows students to receive a good standing or spot at high prestigious colleges and universities. This program is very competitive. To earn an IB diploma students will need to an art course of studies and pass exams in six academic subjects. In addition the students are required to take theory of knowledge course and write an extended essay of 4,000 words. You can get more information here: <https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/specialprograms/high/ib.aspx#tabs-4> Schools that offer this program includes; Albert Einstein HS, John F. Kennedy HS, Richard Montgomery HS, Rockville HS, Seneca valley HS, Springbrook HS and Watkins mill HS. transportation is available for students in the neighborhood.

Science, Mathematics and computer science magnet program

The Science, Mathematic and Science Magnet Program offers student the opportunity to Build and conduct robotic devices and challenging experiments and participate in field experiences. It also allows students to complete independent research projects. This is a program that emphasizes the development of problem solving skills and critical thinking. Student will have opportunities to partner up with mentors from many local and national business organizations. You can get more information

here:<https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/specialprograms/high/magnet-science.aspx> schools that offer this program include Montgomery Blair HS and Poolesville HS. This program is a very competitive program. Candidates will be chosen based on teacher recommendation, written statement form candidates, previous grade, classwork and scores. Transportation is offered for students in the consortia neighborhood stops (limited geographic area).

Holidays

Kwaanza (excerpt taken from Britannica online)

It is an annual holiday affirming African family and social values that is celebrated primarily in the United States from December 26 to January 1. Both the name and the celebration were devised in 1966 by Maulana Karenga, a professor of Africana studies at California State University in Long Beach and an important figure in Afrocentrism. Karenga borrowed the word *kwanza*, meaning “first,” from the Swahili phrase *matunda ya kwanza*, adding the seventh letter, an extra *a*, to make the word long enough to accommodate one letter for each of the seven children present at an early celebration. (The name Kwanzaa is not itself a Swahili word.) The concept of Kwanzaa draws on Southern African first-fruits celebrations.

Each of the days of the celebration is dedicated to one of the seven principles of Kwanzaa: unity (*umoja*), self-determination (*kujichagulia*), collective responsibility (*ujima*), cooperative economics (*ujamaa*), purpose (*nia*), creativity (*kuumba*), and faith (*imani*). There also are seven symbols of the holiday: fruits, vegetables, and nuts; a straw mat; a candleholder; ears of corn (maize); gifts; a communal cup signifying unity; and seven candles in the African colours of red, green, and black, symbolizing the seven principles. On each day the family comes together to light one of the candles in the *kinara*, or candleholder, and to discuss the principle for the day. On December 31, families join in a community feast called the *karamu*. Some participants wear traditional African clothing during the celebration.



Hanukkah

By: Julia Lyonga

Hanukkah is an eight-day Jewish celebration also known as Chanukah. It signifies a miracle that happened within Jewish history. After reclaiming the holy temple of Jerusalem, one little vial of oil was found that had been left over after every other thing had been contaminated. The light (the oil) burned for 8 days. The eight days were seen to be a miraculous sign to the Jews that they could continue their ritual lives. One of the common traditions for Hanukkah is that Jews no matter where they are is to light the candles in a menorah and place them facing the outside world. That is done to publicize the miracle. Because the story of Hanukkah revolves around food fried in oil is mostly consumed like Latkes (potato pancakes) and Jelly doughnuts. During Hanukkah a common thing to do is to play with a dreidel. A dreidel is a four-sided top and each side has a letter that makes up a sentence and an action you take in the game. The sentence the dreidel makes is “A great miracle happen there” in Hebrew. Each night of the eight-day celebration one out of the eight candles is lit on the menorah. There is a night candle that is used to light all the others. Hanukkah is a minor celebration compared to the other holidays

celebrated by the Jews but an important one none to less. Gifts were not traditionally part of the Hanukkah celebrations instead kids received small amounts of money and or chocolate coins. However, now some parents include gift-giving in their celebrations.



HANUKKAH HONEY BALLS

Active 45 min. | **Total** 55 min.

- ½ cup (1 stick) unsalted butter
- 1 cup water
- 1 Tbsp sugar
- ¼ tsp kosher salt
- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- 4 large eggs
- Oil, for frying (about 3 qts)
- ½ cup honey
- 1 Tbsp orange blossom water (in the baking aisle)
- ¼ tsp ground cardamom

1. In medium saucepan, combine butter, water, sugar and salt. Bring to a boil, stirring occasionally, to melt butter. Remove from heat and stir in flour. Return mixture to medium and cook, stirring constantly, until it pulls away from side of pan and forms ball of dough, 1 to 2 min.

2. Transfer hot mixture to bowl of electric mixer. Using paddle attachment on low speed, beat 1 min. to cool slightly. Beat in eggs 1 at a time (dough will be smooth and shiny). Transfer mixture to large pastry bag fitted with large star tip.

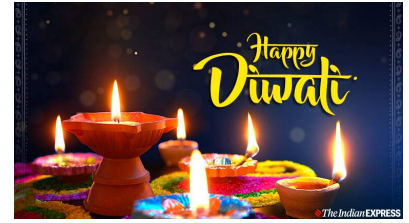
3. Set wire rack over baking sheet or layer of paper towels. Heat 2 in. oil in medium pot to 350°F. Working in 4 or 5 batches, squeeze 1-in.-long pieces of dough into oil, using knife or scissors to help cut off. Fry until puffed and golden brown, 4 to 5 min. With slotted spoon, transfer to wire rack to cool; repeat with remaining dough.

4. Meanwhile, in measuring cup, combine honey, orange blossom water and cardamom; microwave on High 30 seconds. Transfer to large bowl. Once balls have cooled, transfer to bowl with syrup and toss to coat. Makes about 100.

SERVES 10 About 280 cal, 19 g fat (7 g sat), 4 g pro, 80 mg sodium, 25 g carb, 0 g fiber



Diwali (excerpt taken from USA today)



Diwali, or Deepavali, a Sanskrit word meaning “rows of lighted lamps,” is a Hindu-originated festival celebrated in India and by the Indian diaspora. During the five-day celebration — also known as the “festival of lights” — clay lamps known as diyas are lit to signify the victory of good over evil, according to the Hindu American Foundation.

Over time, Diwali has become a national festival marked by most Indians regardless of faith, with Jains, Buddhists, and Sikhs also celebrating. Diwali also celebrates the goddess of wealth and prosperity, Lakshmi. Some believe it falls on her birthday and the day she married Lord Vishnu, another Hindu god.

Hindus interpret the Diwali story based on where they live, according to National Geographic. In northern India, they mark the story of King Rama's return to Ayodhya after he defeated Ravana by lighting rows of clay lamps. In southern India, people celebrate it as the day Lord Krishna defeated the demon Narakasura. In western India, the festival marks the day Lord Vishnu, one of the main gods of the

Ghulab Jamun

Ghulab Jamun are a famous Pakistani sweets that are eaten on special occasion all over Pakistan.

Ingredients:

- 2 1/2 Tbsp Flour
- Crushed almonds For garnishing
- 1 cup Sugar
- Water As required
- 5 Tbsp Ghee + for deep frying
- 1 cup Dry milk powder
- 1/8 tsp Baking soda
- 1/2 tsp Cardamom powder



Directions:

1. Place milk powder in a medium bowl. Add melted ghee (butter) to it and using your hands mix it well.
2. Add flour, baking soda, cardamom powder and mix some more.
3. Now add 3 Tablespoons of very cold water and knead with hands until a smooth dough is formed.
4. Make small balls of this dough (about 3/4 inches in diameter) and leave for some time.
5. Take sugar in another pan, add equal amount of water and boil for some time(prepare aik taar ka sheera).
6. Deep fry all prepared balls (gulab jaman) until they become brown.
7. Place them in a sugar solution.
8. Dish out

Hindu trinity, sent the demon King Bali to rule the nether world.

Meanwhile, in Jainism it marks the nirvana or spiritual awakening of Lord Mahavira, *National Geographic* reported. And for Sikhs, it celebrates the day a major guru was freed from imprisonment.

Diwali recipe shared by Sydney Washington

Quarantine Christmas

By: Julia Lyonga

“There’s no place like home for the holidays” Yea well this year there really is no place like home for the holidays. Many families are celebrating individually, Here are some safe activities you can do during the holiday season;

Pick out a tree

Instead of just going to the store to get a tree try going to a farm with your family and cut down your own tree.

Attend a tree lighting ceremony

A lot of cities will have ceremonies to honor the tree lighting. If you can go watch the tree get lit. Don’t forget your mask!



Watch a Christmas movie with your family

Since we can’t go out cuddle up with warm blankets, hot cocoa and watch a movie with your family

Attend a church service

If your family usually attends a Christmas service a lot of churches are doing online services so attend one with your family.



Help your mom with Christmas dinner

If you don't already this year the entire family can help prepare Christmas dinner. It will be a nice time to spend with family.

Wear your Pajamas all day!

I mean were not going anywhere so why not stay in your pajamas for the entire day

Do a zoom call with friends

Just because we can't go out does not mean we can't hang out with friends. Plan a zoom call and talk or maybe watch a movie or have a Netflix party.



Secret Santa

<https://www.drawnames.com/secret-santa-generator> you can use this link to do a virtual name drawing and deliver or mail your secret Santa presents and open together on a zoom or video call



9. Build a snowman

IF we get snow go out with your sibling/family and make snow angels or have a snowball fight.



Make cookies

Bake cookies and decorate them. You could even deliver it to your relatives don't forget your mask!



Winter Fun!

By: Olivia Lee

Have you ever been bored during winter? If you did, I'm here to make your winter a little bit more fun!

Winter Food:

Do you like to bake or cook? I'll show you some delicious recipes you can make during winter.

Snowman Cookies:

Ingredients:

1 cup butter, softened

2 package (8 ounces) cream cheese, softened

2 cups sugar

1 large egg

1 teaspoon vanilla extract

¼ teaspoon almond extract

¼ teaspoon coconut extract

3 ½ cups all-purpose flour

1 teaspoon baking powder

Miniature semisweet chocolate chips, and green and red M&M's minis

Frosting:

1 cup confectioner's sugar

⅛ teaspoon coconut extract

2 to 4 teaspoons 2% milk

Red and/or green food coloring

Miniature milk chocolate kisses, unwrapped



Directions:

Step 1: In a large bowl mix, cream butter, cream cheese and sugar until light and fluffy. Beat in egg and extract. In another bowl, whisk flour and baking powder; gradually beat into creamed mixture. Refrigerate, covered, overnight.

Step 2: Preheat the oven to 325 degrees. Shape dough into forty-eight 1-in balls, forty-eight ¾ in balls and forty eight ½ balls. On ungreased baking sheets, place one ball of each size, side by side, for each snowman.

Step 3: Bake for 18-20 minutes or until light brown. Remove from oven; cool on pans 2 minutes. Press on chocolate chips for eyes and M&M's for buttons. Carefully remove from pans to wire racks to cool completely.

Step 4: For frosting, in a small bowl, beat confectioners' sugar, extract and enough milk to reach a piping consistency. If two colors of frosting are desired, transfer half of the frosting to another bowl and tint each with a different food coloring.

Step 5: Cut a small hole in a corner of a food safe plastic bag; fill with frosting. Pipe scarves on snowmen. Use frosting to attach chocolate kisses for hats.

Then you're done! Cute little snowmen for winter!

Winter sports:

Well if you don't really enjoy baking then there is always another option. Do you like to do sports? Well there are many different types of sports you can during the winter.

To name a few:

Ice skating

Skiing

Sledding

Snowboarding

Ski jumping

Or even ice fishing!



I've always admired winter sports! If you don't enjoy doing sports, then you always have the option to watch them on tv.

Winter Fun for Everyone:

If you do not like to bake or to watch/play sports, then I have some activities that you can do.

Fun winter activities:

You can celebrate Christmas (or other holidays)

You can celebrate Thanksgiving

You can also:

help clean the house (I'm not sure if you will want to though)

help put up decorations for the upcoming holidays

build a snowman (if it snows)

make a snow angel (if it snows)

help decorate a Christmas tree

travel to other places (a lot of places are beautiful in the winter)

spend your time with your families (playing board games, or just talking with them and etc.)



Now did you realize that you can do so much more than just see the computer all day in winter. Hopefully I gave you some ideas on what you can do during winter.

Online Learning

By: Olivia Lee

Hello and good morning/good afternoon. How is online learning treating you? Is it fun? Is it boring? Or perhaps is it better than physical learning?

Were all new to online learning and have never experienced something like this before. Online learning is all about learning online and doing everything online which is very different then when we used to actually go to school and do everything physically.



Some of the pros about online learning:

- We get to learn at home
- We start school later
- We don't have to wake up early
- We have a lower chance of getting corona since were all in our house and not in school with crowds of people

Some of the cons about online learning:

- Internet connection (very stressful)
- When you can't hear other people (also very stressful)
- When people keep spamming the chat
- When the video freezes
- Looking at the screen for 4+ hours
- Audio/video problems



As you can see we have multiple cons and pros about online learning. Here are some of the feedbacks I have gotten from people that do online learning:

Sophia: "Sometimes it's annoying, because the teachers lags a lot and it can be hard to concentrate, but I like online school, because I can wake up late."

Olivia (me): "Sometimes when the teacher plays a video I can barely hear or understand what the video is saying, because either the video lags/freezes or the audio gets cut off."

How about you? How are you dealing with online learning? Do you have any trouble with zoom?

Some of the pros about physical learning:

- We get to communicate with other students/teachers
- We can help others physically and not through a screen (because it can be complicated and frustrating at times)
- We would be able to see everyone and make some friends
- No audio or video problems
- We don't have to stare at the screen all day



Some of the cons about physical learning:

- You have to wake up early
- You have to go outside every single day to get to school

- You have a higher chance of getting corona
- You have to follow way more stricter rules

As you can see we have multiple cons and pros about physical learning. Here are some interviews:

Sophia: "I feel like physical learning is better, because I can concentrate more when I am doing physical learning."

Olivia (me): "I think physical learning is more effective for learning, because online learning is much harder to concentrate and also harder to listen, since we have so many things we have around us that can catch us off guard."

How about you? Do you like physical learning better?

What's your opinion on online learning and physical learning?

A Sacrifice for Education *(student editorial)*

By: Olivia Ding

Virtually everyone you know is sick and tired of having to log-on to Zoom every morning for their classes! Students muttering, "when will this end?" Parents complaining, "I wish they were back at school already!" Online school is certainly mentally draining for most, but would you dare to go back to school during the second-wave, or would you choose to stay home?

Granted, it isn't as simple as that. There are many pros and cons to take into consideration, as hello? well as many different situations. Take for example, a single parent. Said parent is also working day and night to pay the bills and feed their children, so they cannot be home most of the time. Normally, their kids would be at school, or at daycare. Of course, having their kids back at school and daycare would be much less stressful for the parent. But, the parent also has to evaluate how safe it would be to go back to school. School districts that have reopened their schools have seen spikes in COVID-19 cases, and multiple have had to shut-down again due to an outbreak occurring in school buildings. There is much evidence proving that no matter how hard you enforce the masks and social distancing in schools, it just isn't safe. It isn't possible to cram thousands of students into one room, and expect them to properly social distance.

Cases are rising in Maryland and across the country. Thousands of businesses were just beginning to open their doors, but the second wave has hit and they are reclosing again. COVID-19 hospitalizations reach the record high, but haven't done so since the early days of the virus in March. We are nearing 16 million cases worldwide! However, the vaccine is currently being approved by the FDA. Britain

has already started to vaccinate their citizens, and New York is receiving a shipment of vaccines very soon. Many believe that there is no longer a reason to panic, but some think that people should still stay home and follow the CDC's guidelines.

Of course, who wouldn't want to go back to their normal, daily lives again? Being stuck at home is boring and depriving. What if we did go back to our schedules right now? Students would be able to interact with fellow peers again, and collaborate to stimulate their socialization skills. Kids have gone without socializing in big groups for a long period of time, which can really damage their mental health. Some kids do not learn well online, and having in-person school would help them tremendously. Teaching would be much easier on the staff, and there would be less disruptions/distractions, such as technology difficulties. Parents who are working will have reduced pressure, since their kids would be safe at school.

Although MCPS chose not to open their school doors until a decision has been approved by the board, lots of parents and educators are frustrated and disappointed in the school district. They quip, "Why does MCPS not care about my child?" MCPS claims it is far too dangerous to let kids back into buildings, especially during the rise and second wave of COVID-19. What do you think about this? Should MCPS re-open? Who should they re-open for? Will you take the risk?

iPhone 12

By: Sydney Washington

The iPhone 12 Pro was just released on Friday October 23, 2020. The iPhone 12 and iPhone 12 mini are Apple's mainstream flagship phones for 2020. The phones come in 6.1-inch and 5.4-inch sizes with identical features, including support for faster 5G cellular networks, OLED displays, improved cameras, and Apple's latest A14 chip, all in a completely refreshed design. iPhone 12 colors vary between models. The iPhone 12 and iPhone 12 mini has five options: black, white, red, mint green and blue. Meanwhile, the iPhone 12 Pro comes in silvers, graphite, gold and Pacific Blue. It's got a new, slightly larger design. The cameras got an upgrade. It's more durable. iPhone 12 Pro and iPhone 12 Pro Max will be available in models in graphite, silver, gold, and pacific blue starting at \$999 and \$1,099. The iPhone 11 pro was released September 20, 2019. The iPhone 11 Pro, which has a 5.8-inch display, Apple's newest display is 15 percent more power efficient, which contributes to some impressive battery life gains in the iPhone 11 Pro. The iPhone 11 also features an upgraded XDR display and a new, tougher glass atop which Apple calls Ceramic Shield.

