

# WOKSAPE

"The Wise Book"

## The Heart of the Holidays

BY HARLIE HACECKY

The holidays can mean many things to different people. For some it means presents and smiles, while others may just think it's the start of the snowy season. And for other people, it's a reminder of hard times. Whatever the reason is, the holidays this year can mean more to you and to others if you do the right things.

Making someone else's holiday season more delightful is a great way to get your heart into the holidays, and it can be the smallest things that make the greatest difference. For instance, when you walk into Walmart and see people standing aside greeting you on your way in, greet them back with a smile. Or when you are shoveling or plowing your driveway or sidewalk, do your neighbor's as well.

When you are out and

about getting food in the drive-thru, ask the cashier to add the vehicle behind yours to your total. It's an anonymous but creative and friendly gesture that can make such a difference that it may even inspire those people to get their hearts into the holidays, too.

If you plan to make Christmas treats, make extra and give them to family and friends. It makes you feel amazing after you see their smiles when they open the door!

The holidays are meant to bring people together and to spread joy. Put your heart into the holidays. Make a difference.



## Being Safe Behind the Wheel

BY SAMANTHA WENZLAFF

In the United States annually there are 1,412,223 DUI arrests and 112,000,000 episodes of drinking and driving. A person who drinks and drives usually drives drunk 80 times before being caught. Of the vehicular deaths, 31% are due to drunk driving. Why is it that these numbers are so high? One of the causes could be the lack of knowledge in young drivers who are just starting out.

During the week from October 19<sup>th</sup> to October 23<sup>rd</sup>, Tiffany Kashas, prevention specialist at YHS, opened students' eyes to the dangers of impaired and distracted driving at the Yankton High School through the use of driving simulators and other activities. Students who participated in the driving simulations were asked to bring their driver's license to school to make the experience as real as possible. The simulations show students what it would be like to drive under the influence of alcohol or what it would be like to try texting and driving.

The consequences were severe

for student Gentry Talcott who tried the impaired driving simulation. When he started driving, he was with a friend who was giving him directions to a house. He made it without crashing; however, it was not long before he hit a checkpoint. At the checkpoint, he was arrested, spent 90 days in jail, and had a \$1,000 fine. The hardest part, he noted, was "probably turning. I messed up a couple times and almost went off the road."

Talcott learned from this experience "not to drink and drive; it's not worth it."

The second student, Kennedy Newsam, discovered what it would be like to try to text and drive. She was "doing well at first," until she made it to the highway and crashed. She claimed, "I didn't get very far."

While Newsam was driving, a phone popped up, and she was to send a text. While she was doing this she found it hard to pay attention to the speed limit, and before she knew it, she crashed. Her consequences

were also heavy fines. She said she learned "to pay attention, especially when you are going fast on the freeway."

Tiffany Kashas has been doing the simulations for students for years, and she believes it will help promote safe driving. As students pass her in the hall they talk about how they remember doing that, referring to the simulation. Kashas is glad that they keep the experience in their memories, and she is happy to teach students the consequences "here and not on the road." Her main goal is to help spread awareness by "buzz and discussion."

People learn a lot from this experience. The tips to safe driving are to keep two eyes on the road and two on the wheel. Another tip Kashas stressed is to not get into a car with someone who is impaired, and definitely don't be the one driving impaired.

## Getting Your Cheer On

BY SHIANN BAKER

It's crazy to think that Christmas is right around the corner. The stores are getting ready, charity opportunities are popping up, the air is getting chillier, and it's beginning to snow. Now you all may know that Christmas is in fact approaching, but it may not feel like it. So to get you in the holiday spirit here is a list of songs to give you some of the good ol' holiday cheer:

1. "All I Want for Christmas Is You" performed by Mariah Carey
2. "Mary, Did You Know?" performed by Pentatonix
3. "Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree" performed by Brenda Lee
4. "Jingle Bell Rock" performed by Bobby Helms
5. "White Christmas" performed by Bing Crosby
6. "Feliz Navidad" performed by Jose Feliciano
7. "Christmas Eve (Sarajevo 12/24)" performed by Trans-Siberian Orchestra
8. "Last Christmas" performed by Wham!
9. "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer" performed by Gene Autry
10. "A Holly Jolly Christmas" performed by Burl Ives
11. "Let It Snow!" performed by Dean Martin
12. "Frosty the Snowman" performed by Jimmy Durante



These are just a few out of an endless list of Christmas music. If you still want more then you can go to Pandora or even tune into the radio. I hope you have a wonderful, musical, and very merry Christmas this year!

## Art Class Advantages

BY HOLLY HICKS

Many people do not recognize the benefits of having art classes in all school levels. In my opinion, all schools, from elementary to high school, should offer a variety of art classes in which students can partake. Art classes allow kids to break out from the normal and use their imagination to create something beautiful and unique.

Math and science classes are important to students' development and growth in school. However, art classes are often overlooked. Their importance in student's education should not go unnoticed.

Art classes allow students to see objects in a different way, and earning this skill can make other subjects easier. It also can teach students multiple ways to solve problems when they are facing challenges in creating art. This skill comes into play in the classroom of all subjects and even in everyday life.

I personally think I have benefited from the art classes Yankton High School offers. In art, there are challenges, but there is never really a wrong answer, which can be comforting. However, it does urge students to hit the maximum level of right in their own art. Art classes teach patience and perseverance to wait until a work of art is finished and all the effort pays off.

Overall, art classes benefit students in a number of ways. Whether art is used as a relaxing getaway class or a class to push a student's artistic ability, it will always be silently teaching students life lessons. In my opinion, all schools should strive to provide an art program for their students because the benefits are numerous. I am thankful Yankton High School has kept its art programs. The art teachers at the school always put an effort forward to make a difference in students' lives.

## All Aboard The Polar Express!

BY HARLIE HACECKY

During the holidays, it's important to spend time with loved ones and make memories that will last forever! One of the best ways to make those memories is to snuggle up under some blankets, make some popcorn and hot chocolate, and watch a great holiday movie. If you want to watch a holiday movie that has imagination, friendship, a good moral lesson, and a lot of heart, *The Polar Express* is the movie to watch!

*The Polar Express* was directed by Robert Zemeckis and stars Tom Hanks as the voice of many of the characters.

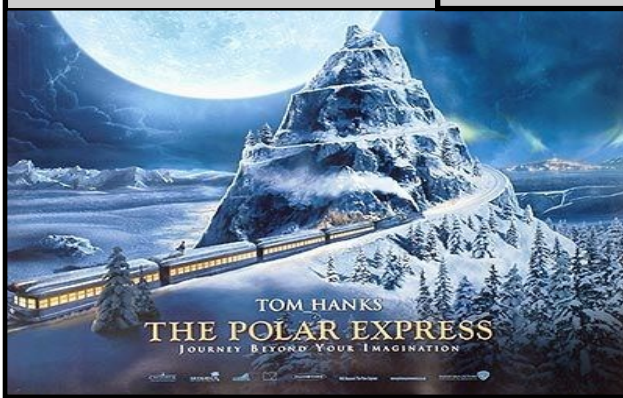
This is a heartwarming

and magical movie about a boy who was having a hard time believing in Santa. On the night of Christmas Eve, he falls asleep but is awakened by the thudding and whistling of a train. The boy runs outside to find The Polar Express waiting for him to climb aboard to go to the North Pole to meet Santa.

With many twists and turns, mistakes and lessons, plus beautiful music, this movie is a true classic that doesn't grow old.

What do you say? Will you and your loved ones climb aboard The Polar Express for a true adventure?

MEDIA IMAGE



## Finals Fashion

BY SAMMI SIMONSEN

Looking down the halls of YHS, you'll see some fashions that everyone seems to be rocking.

The ladies often wear an oversize sweatshirt with leggings in order to study comfortably, fuzzy boots to keep their toes warm, and finally the messy hair because who has time to fix hair when you could be studying?

The men this year seem to be sporting the same sweatshirts with tennis shoes, yet their pants this year are new. Joggers are the newest fashion where they look like normal pants until you get down to the ankle where they are cinched tight like sweatpants, making them perfect to study for any upcoming semester tests.

## Junior Editor's Note

The end of the first semester is fast approaching, which means it is time for semester tests and loads of coffee.

November was a busy month for students at YHS. On November 18th, AP History students had the chance to travel to USD and dig up facts for National History Day. For many, this was their first time on a college campus.

All Yankton students had the chance to have a break on the 11<sup>th</sup> in order to take time and thank veterans.

Students finally had a break from all the busy hustle and bustle of daily life to spend time with their families and eat a yummy meal on Thanksgiving. It was an amazing five-day break, and it was made even better with an early-dismissal on Monday, November 30<sup>th</sup>, and a snow day on Tuesday, December 1<sup>st</sup>.

One of the biggest achievements Yankton had in November was becoming back-to-back state football champions. Yankton pride is spreading like wildfire in our school.

Yankton is changing up semester tests this year by splitting the last two days up by periods. Tuesday the 22<sup>nd</sup>, students will have their first four periods, and on Wednesday, December 23<sup>rd</sup>, students will attend their last three periods. Good luck!

-Sammi S.

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Published by the students of Yankton High School, 1801 Summit, Yankton, SD 57078.

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