

Cedar Chips

Pro Libera, Pax, et Knowledgia

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The Christmas Truce

By Patrick L.

In late 1914, on the tense Western Front of World War I, hundreds of thousands of soldiers clashed in multiple battles. Among the armies, their leaders would tell them that they would be home by Christmas. But then Christmas came, and they still weren't home.

In the week leading up to Christmas, the soldiers on the Western Front laid down their arms and made a *de facto* truce. French, British and German soldiers would cross trenches to exchange greetings and talk. Men in some areas would venture into No Man's Land on Christmas to converse and exchange souvenirs and food.

Soldiers held joint burials and prisoner swaps, and many meetings ended in carol-singing. They would play soccer with each other, which would later be one of the famous images of the truce.

Some areas had continued hostilities, however, and other areas only made a truce to recover bodies. The following year, there were few truces scattered across the front, and there were no truces in 1916, as the war had become very bitter following the losses in 1915.



Pictured: "British and German Soldiers Arm-in-Arm and Exchanging Headgear: A Christmas Truce between Opposing Trenches", The Illustrated London Times, published 9 January, 1915

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The MOST UNDERRATED Batman SHOW!

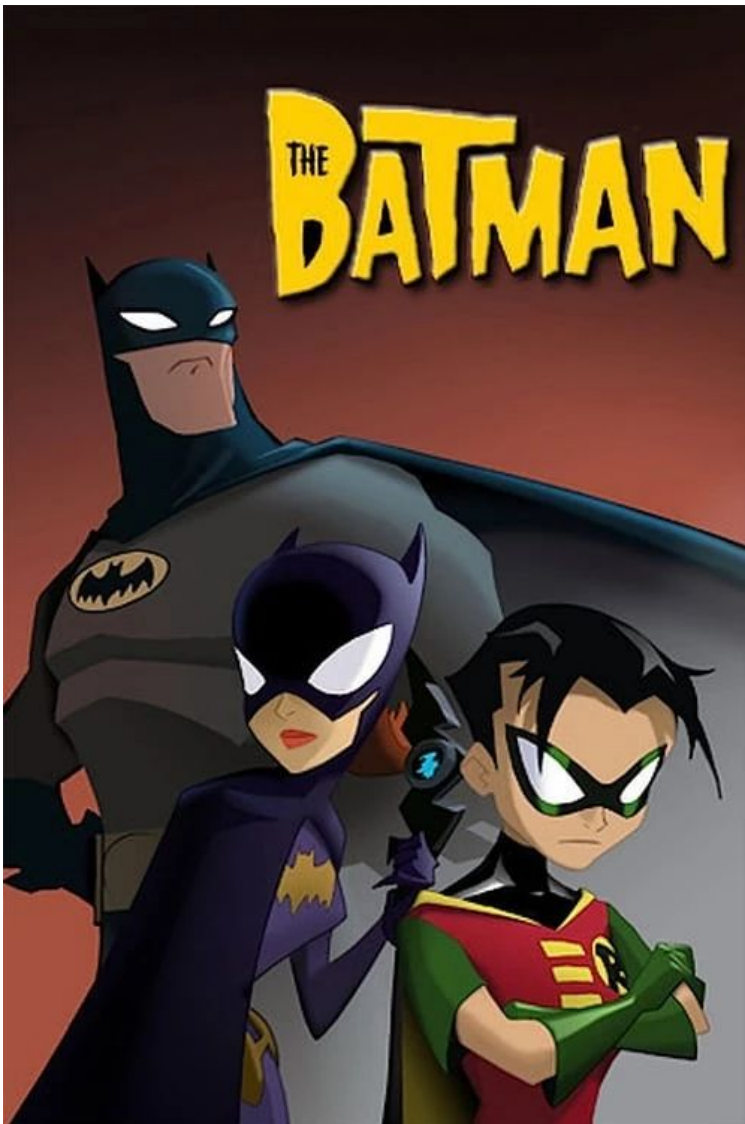
By Justin P.

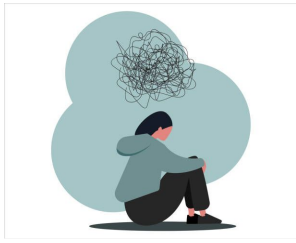
So, chances are if you're reading this article, you've heard of the new Batman movie titled *The Batman*. Well, what if I were to tell you that there exists an animated cartoon show that shares the same name as this new Batman movie? This cartoon titled *The Batman* came out back in 2004, and I'm honestly surprised at how underrated this show is. This show was an early 2000s show, so kids like me remember it. The show aired on Kids WB and was one of those "Saturday Morning Cartoons" that we all used to watch.

Despite being a "kids" show, this show can get pretty dark at times. The first two seasons conveyed this dark tone perfectly, while the last three seasons were much lighter in tone. By the beginning of the show, Bruce Wayne had only been Batman for three years and throughout the first season, we are introduced to a number of members of Batman's rogue gallery. Those villains include Joker, Penguin, Man-Bat, Mr. Freeze, Firefly, Catwoman, The Riddler, Bane, and many more.

Another interesting aspect of the first season is that since this show starts pretty early in Batman's career, the Gotham Police Department actually targets Batman, as they consider him a vigilante, which is still breaking the law. However, by the end of the second season, Police Commissioner Gordon is introduced, and he decides to work alongside Batman. Following season two, Batgirl is introduced to the series and later, so is Robin.

Overall, despite the lighter tone of the later seasons, I like all of these seasons equally. No one talks about this show anymore, and it's a shame. This show was great back when I watched it as a kid, and it's even better now watching it as a young adult. If you haven't seen this show, go give it a watch. It'll be worth it.





Let's Talk About School and Mental Health

By Grayson M.

Mental health, It's the most important thing for kids, teens and young adults to focus on. Without good mental health, all motivation is basically gone.

The way society is pressuring and hurting kids is horrendous. Kids are burdened with many things- more homework than classes, fitting in, social media, and I could go on and on. What adults do not understand or do not consider is that for majority of the teenagers in the USA, kids receive overwhelming amounts of pressure between school and society.

For so many kids, school is now a place you fear and hurt. The overwhelming stress, bullying, too-short breaks and the heavy atmosphere of teachers peering over them can pile up to make us feel incompetent. What many adults may not realize is that some students consider school as just a bunch of "juveniles" in crowded "cells" with the "warden" telling them off. It sometimes feels like the adults just watch and do nothing about the health of these kids treated like prisoners.

By the time kids start school, people already have high expectations for them. Maybe even higher expectations than these adults have achieved themselves. Many kids come to school hiding under a hood because they fear that people will look down on them. If we can't see them, they can't see us, right? Kids rebel sometimes because they want to show teachers and adults that they can make their own decisions, perhaps not even realizing the consequences of their actions.

People have to listen when kids and teens hide and shut down. We are the next generation. How can we believe we can change things if we can't even manage ourselves? How do you expect us to manage the world?

Let us live the rest of the childhood we still have left, because once it's gone, we can't get it back.

Top 10 Winter Sports

By Callahan R.

10. Skeleton
9. Curling
8. Bobsled
7. Nordic Combined
6. Slopestyle Snowboarding
5. Ski Jumping
4. Ice Hockey
3. Figure Skating
2. Alpine Skiing
1. Alpine Snowboarding



Top 10 Places to Visit During the Holidays

By Grayson M.

1. Aspen, Colorado
2. Nantucket, Massachusetts
3. Orlando, Florida
4. Santa Fe, New Mexico
5. Newport, Rhode Island
6. Telluride, Colorado
7. Cape May, New Jersey
8. New York, New York
9. Stowe, Vermont
10. London, United Kingdom

The Most Amazing Holiday Cookie!

By Waffles H.



Safety Issues of the Digital Age

By Waffles H.

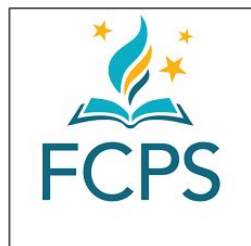
Many people do not know the countless amount of ways their information can be stolen through technology. Knowing the many scams people can use to obtain your personal information can help you be more cautious around technology.

A common tactic hackers use to obtain personal information, like someone's PIN, is through ATMs. They steal this information by setting up a skimmer on the ATM that looks real. With these fake machines, they trick people to enter personal information and capture their data when a card is inserted.

Identity theft is also something hackers can commit, and it is when people steal social security numbers, credit card information, and/or other personal information. This is a problem because in a recent study, researchers found that almost 1.1 million Americans had their credit card number, bank accounts, and personal information fraudulently used by cybercriminals.

Additionally, there was a time when even in a county as wealthy and secure as FCPS got hacked. FCPS was involved in a cybersecurity incident involving a ransomware attack, which caused them to have to take immediate action to contain the threat and secure their systems. A group of people hacked into FCPS servers and obtained personal information from FCPS computers in hopes of getting paid a ransom to not give out the obtained information.

Overall, online safety is immensely important, and technology obligates you to be more careful with what you do online. Many hackers work very hard and go to extreme lengths that are against the law just to scam someone. As a result, you should strive to be extra cautious about what you do online. With that being said, the internet is also a wonderful place, and with the correct precautions in place, you can have fun!



World Cup Recap

By Callahan R.

The FIFA World Cup is underway and is always a hit all over the world. The last time we had this event was hosted by Russia in 2018. France took the title with a 4-2 win over Croatia.

The United States started their youngest lineup ever and got through to the round of 16. Christian Pulisic had one goal and two assists as the leader of the team. The more notable part about this team is that they only allowed four goals throughout their tournament. Making it to the round of 16 is a great testament to the US soccer program, and we can expect great success from this team in the future.

Morocco pulled out the upset of the tourney by knocking out Spain in the round of 16. This is the first time Morocco has made it to the quarterfinals of a world cup. Morocco forced the game to penalties and due to poor penalty taking from Spain, they won 3-0 on penalties, eventually going on to beat Portugal and made it all the way to the semifinals.

Brazil seems like the favorite to win the World Cup. Their attack with Richarlison, Vinícius Júnior, Neymar and Rafinha is definitely the strongest front four in the World Cup. However, they were stunned as Croatia beat them 4-2 in penalties in the quarterfinals.

Argentina and Portugal both move on to the quarterfinals. Argentina, being led by Lionel Messi, beat Australia 2-1 with Messi scoring in the 35th minute. They will play Netherlands on the 9th at 2 p.m. Portugal, with team captain Cristiano Ronaldo, crushed Switzerland in the round of 16 by a margin of 6-1. Portugal will play Morocco next on Saturday the 10th at 10 a.m.

England advanced to the Quarterfinals by beating Senegal 3-0. Their striker, Harry Kane, scored in the 45th minute to add to England's lead. Raheem Sterling, one of their key stars, has decided to keep competing in the world cup after a robbery at his home.

France is possibly the only team who could rival superteam Brazil in terms of talent. Kylian Mbappe leads all scorers with five goals in only four matches. France was able to pull out a victory over Robert Lewandowski and Poland by a difference of 3-1, and then beat England to make it to a showdown to defend their title against Argentina in the final game.



**FIFA WORLD CUP
Qatar 2022**

Monthly News Recap

By Patrick L.

24/11-1/12 - Multiple Government and Military buildings in Spain are attacked with mail bombs.

3/12 - Twitter CEO Elon Musk releases documents showing how Twitter suppressed a story on the Hunter Biden laptop controversy. In response, former president Donald Trump claims that the alleged voter fraud in the 2020 election calls for the 'termination' of the Constitution.

4/12 - Prosecutor-general of Iran Mohammad Jafar Montazeri announces the dissolution of the Guidance Patrol, formerly named the Morality Police, following the multiple-month long protests. This is disputed by Iranian state media, however.

6/12 -
The Trump Organization is found guilty of tax fraud.
Raphael Warnock, incumbent senator from Georgia, defeats Herschel Walker in the Senate runoff election, bringing the Democratic majority up to 51-49.

7/12 -
German Polizei arrest 25 members of the far-right terrorist organization Patriot Union that were accused of planning a coup against the German government.
Türkiye sends an ultimatum to Rojava, demanding they withdraw troops from three Syrian towns or face military action.
Pedro Castillo, President of Peru, attempts a self-coup ahead of an impeachment vote. The impeachment is successful, and Castillo is arrested and succeeded by Dina Boluarte.

8/12-present -
Following Kosovar authorities increasing their presence in the area, Serbia claims Kosovo Serbs are under threat and tensions heighten between Serbia, Kosovo, and the West.
Protests break out across Peru in support of the recently-impeached president Pedro Castillo.



Torrejón Air Base in Spain, one of the targets of the letter bomb attacks



Guidance Patrol, allegedly dissolved Iranian religious police



Raphael Warnock, US Senator from Georgia



German Bundestag, the target of the alleged coup plot



Serbian Army base located near the Serbia-Kosovo border

Meow Meow the Crusty Toenail

By Waffles H.

My cat, Meow Meow, is such a smelly brat who will only be nice when you give him food. The only time I can hold him is when I have a treat in my other hand. And even then, he quickly eats the treats and goes back to being his usual bratty self.

Every morning when I come to his side of the house to feed him, he runs up to me and keeps meowing until I feed him. When I feed him, he gobbles all his food up within ten seconds and then comes back to me meowing so I can give him more. And if I don't give him more food, he gets really mad and bites my toes. He's such a weird kitty.

Additionally, Meow Meow steals my food and eats from it when I'm not looking. And when I do finally catch him, he just looks at me and keeps eating. He doesn't even care that it's my food. He just keeps eating until I take it away. And when I do take it away, he gets so mad that he meows and hisses at me. He's such a brat.

Overall, Meow Meow is such a smelly gold digger for food, and food makes him happy. He is so in love with food that he will go through such lengths just to steal my food. Meow Meow is such a brat and if he wasn't so cute, I would splash him with water. (He's really scared of water.)



Top 10 Batman Villains

By Justin P.

10. Firefly
9. The Penguin
8. Harvey Dent
7. The Riddler
6. Mr. Freeze
5. Killer Croc
4. Clayface
3. Bane
2. Scarecrow
1. The Joker

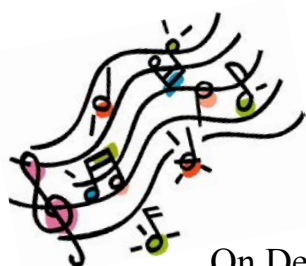


Top 10 Things to do in Town over Break

1. Go see the lights at Meadowlark Gardens
2. Sleep
3. Make Cookies
4. Give Waffles presents
5. Live
6. Annoy Ms. Blakemore
7. Go see the trees on the Ellipse
8. Go ice skating at one of the downtown rinks
9. Go to the Botanic Garden to see the trains.
10. Go see the Mormon Temple lights



Grayson brings the house down!



The Holiday Music Show is a Success!

On December 15, the music department treated us to a holiday show with songs ranging from Cage the Elephant, to Vance Joy, to traditional holiday music.

It was great to see students and staff showing off their hard work and talent. We are officially in the holiday spirit now!



Everyone was on deck for the grand finale, Jingle Bell Rock.



Holiday Word Search

Blizzard

Boots

Celebrate

Chanukah

Chill

Christmas

December

Eggnog

Frost

Gifts

Hallmark

Hockey

Icy

Kwanzaa

New Years

Ornaments

Penguin

Saturnalia

Shovel

Snow

Snowball

Snowman

Tree

TwentyFive

Yule

C	U	S	N	C	K	Z	Q	J	Y	U	L	E	H	I	C	S	B	Y	L	G	K	Q	E	O
T	Q	R	Y	L	L	A	B	W	O	N	S	L	U	E	Q	H	H	C	T	A	O	O	S	L
N	Z	A	V	B	P	A	K	F	J	V	F	G	E	G	N	O	I	B	O	B	C	K	A	R
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C	D	Y	C	V	S	B	J	O	K	J	T	L	L	B	T	E	S	R	L	D	H	P	U	J
N	R	W	E	S	J	K	Q	L	Z	L	I	Y	Q	Y	T	L	W	T	K	N	O	K	R	O
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A	O	N	X	T	P	A	R	F	Z	B	B	O	L	A	N	L	Y	L	D	V	G	P	A	S
N	Q	C	W	J	E	D	Z	A	N	M	V	C	G	A	S	G	Y	V	B	U	L	V	L	O
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