

In The Halls...

What is your favorite part about the holidays?



"My children's faces on Christmas morning."
Joell Braasch
Teacher



"Being with family and friends."
Haley Sovo
Senior



"I like going over to relatives' houses."
Justin Kurgan
Junior



"Spreading happiness to others."
Hunter Roberts
Sophomore



"Giving to others."
Emily Hoard
Freshman

Point/Counterpoint: Keep Christ in Christmas

Point

Drew Drake
Editor-in-Chief

Religion is an important part of everyone's daily life, whether they know it or not. It has set up the basis of how we live today. Many of the rules of society that we have built our lives around come from religion. As times have been moving forward religion has been slowly slipping away from our society. But there is one area where it needs to stay, and that is Christmas.

The word Christmas is a combination of the two words, "Christ's" and "Mass". This day symbolized the birth of God's one and only son Jesus Christ. Without that important event, Christmas would not even exist.

Without Jesus's birth there would be no bridge from humanity to god. Keeping "Christ" in Christmas is important, and people should stop trying to turn Christmas into a non-religious holiday.

Whether people want to believe it or not, Christmas is the celebration of Jesus's birth. Going to church and remembering the importance of

Jesus's birth should be the reason to celebrate Christmas. Jesus was a messiah who created a bridge between God and humanity. He died on the cross for our sins, so it's important that we remember and celebrate the miracle of his birth.

No one tries to remove the religious importance from other winter holidays, like Hanukkah. Hanukkah is a religious holiday, only celebrated by Jewish people. Why should Christmas be any different? It's offensive for non-religious people to celebrate Christmas, especially when they try to turn it into a secular holiday.

Many people try to argue that Christmas isn't actually the birthday of Christ. However, I believe that even we are unsure of the exact day, we still chose a day to celebrate it and that needs to be respected. There is no exact date for Thanksgiving, but we still celebrate it every year and no one complains.

I'm not saying that everyone has to celebrate the birth of Christ, but it should be respected as an important part of Christmas, and not just slowly pushed out of the picture. People need to be respectful of religion, whether they are religious or not.

Counterpoint

Emma Roberts
Business Manager

Religion shouldn't be brought into Christmas. Currently, there are so many other religions throughout the world that celebrate Christmas their own way or celebrate a completely different holiday. People have also drawn away from religion greatly, especially our generation. Just because some-

one doesn't go to church or pray on a regular basis or possibly doesn't even believe in a higher power does not mean they shouldn't be aloud to enjoy celebrating Christmas.

People always stress the importance of giving during the holiday due to the less fortunate not being able to enjoy the same holiday as everyone else. You hear more people asking you to give then you do people talking about Jesus Christ.

Christmas has been celebrated for hundreds of years by many different

people. Some make the holiday all about Jesus and others make it all about giving.

There has been many controversies about Christmas that re-appear year after year. Whether it's Catholics wanting to put Christ back in Christmas, or whether we should even be able to say Christmas.

Christmas is also a made up day for Jesus's birth. Many different days have been said to be the day of his birth but no one knows for sure. So technically speaking, if your reli-

gious you should celebrate Jesus's birth year-round and then make Christmas about giving.

I believe that religion should not be so pressed on Christmas. People celebrate this holiday however they choose and it should not be wrong of they don't believe in God. Christmas should be about giving and just doing kind things for no reason just to put a smile on someone's face. People don't need to be religious to care about making others happy.

Charities pick and choose who to help

Amanda Stutzman
Opinion Editor

With the holidays approaching, it's difficult to go anywhere without seeing charities asking for donations, more specifically the Salvation Army bellringers. There's always a moment of satisfaction when you hear your money drop inside a donation box, but do you ever really think about where that money goes? Most likely, you trust that since you're giving your money to a charity, it will be put to a good use.

The Salvation Army is a charity run by a Christian church, and they often let their religious beliefs affect the ways that they help people. In 2010, the Salvation Army threatened to close soup kitchens in New York and give up \$70 million worth of funding a year because it disagreed with impending legislation "requiring firms that do business with New York to offer health ben-

efits to the partners of gay staffers." "Scripture forbids sexual intimacy between members of the same sex. The Salvation Army believes, therefore, that Christians whose sexual orientation is primarily or exclusively same-sex are called upon to embrace celibacy as a way of life," according to the Salvation Army's stance on homosexuality.

Recently, the Salvation Army has been attempting to clean up their reputation, and even have a statement up on their website explaining how they don't discriminate; people are making up rumors.

Personally, I don't know if I fully believe them. If a charity really wanted to help people in the name of Christ, don't you think they'd want to help everybody regardless of sexual orientation? I think it's important that they are taking the time to try and set some things straight, but if they've always been a "good" charity, then why do they need any clar-

ifications?

An alternative to the Salvation Army is Goodwill. Although this charity hasn't been making any comments about anyone's sexuality. In 2011 Goodwill found a loophole in Special Wage Certificate Program (According to *The Huffington Post*). Basically, the law states that businesses can pay disabled workers based on abilities, with no minimums.

Goodwill took this to mean it was okay for them to pay disabled workers as little as 22 cents (According to *In These Times*). In most states, the minimum wage is somewhere around \$7.25, which is already barely enough money for a person to live month to month. The worst part of this though, at the time, what Goodwill was doing was completely legal.

If the point of Goodwill as a charity is to help people how is it that they could pay people below minimum wage and not feel bad?

After these practices became public knowledge, many people began boycotting Goodwill, who barely noticed to care. Goodwill even backed up its actions by explaining to the media that it was employing people who otherwise would have "no practical job opportunities."

I'm not in anyway trying to say that donating to charities is a bad thing, donations are very important, especially around this time of the year, to make sure that everyone will be able to have an enjoyable holiday.

However, I know that most people don't think much about where their donations are going. It doesn't take too much time or effort to type an organization into Google and do a little research.

Remember this season to donate to charities that really do want to help people. Tis the season to help those in need, so let's make sure our donations help as many as possible.

Stressed out students slammed with work before winter break

Julie Urbaniak
Staff Reporter

A lot of issues can come out of teachers trying to cram a lot of work in before the holiday break. Teachers go into a sort of panic mode slamming students with last minute tests, quizzes and a ton of homework so they can get grades in before the two and a half week break.

Although teachers are known to inform you of the stressful amounts of work that will be assigned to us before we're finally off for winter recess right before it's assigned, teachers never really seem to be sure about how much homework and how many tests they'll decide to assign us. For most students it has come to the point of all work and no play until the pre-winter break cram sesh has come a joyful end.

All of this extra work doesn't just affect the students, but is beginning to take a toll on some teachers as well. There are so many sections that teachers try to cover before

winter break so they'll be on task with their structured calendars in terms of the mid-terms that are quickly approaching.

Most teachers don't realize that in doing all of these last minute tests, they cause an unbelievable amount of stress and the constant problem in their minds that they have to get everything done before our break. So students are not only stressing about all of this extra work but also about the midterms that follow the holiday break.

With the students being slammed with homework this can also affect their grades. If students are missing some assignments it can really lower their grade and affect their GPA., and with college applications and acceptances in mind the stress of grades becomes un-bearable. With the extra work can also come with lack of sleep so students aren't just having a hard time staying focused in class but also staying awake, which makes it harder or students to finish their work.

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Alternative schools should not limit students' options for success

Tanner Hoard
Staff Reporter

Everyone is different in their own way; nearly everyone takes in and learns information differently and some people resort to alternative schools for personal benefit. Why is that so wrong to so many people? Is it because they think the people are slackers? I think alternative schools are a necessary feature to public education.

Excluding the fact that some people learn different, Brighton High School can't hold all the kids the Brighton alternative schools have enrolled right now. FlexTech High School has over 500 students and The Bridge Alternative High School on Main St. has several hundred bringing the total if they all attended Brighton High School, to well over

3,000 students in a single building. We wouldn't have enough lockers, classes or even hallway space to go from room to room.

Alternative schools offer a varietal way of learning aside from the typical public school classroom. I've heard from students that deal with anxiety and other social setbacks that alternative schools are easier to deal with and they can manage schoolwork and assignments more comfortable. Besides its not like alternative school graduates earn the same diploma as a public school graduate. Alternative school students earn a 'low-grade' transcript and it limits the amount of colleges they can attend. Thus, potentially causing them to have not so glamorous of a lifestyle so I think they should be socially acceptable. It's not like the alternative school stu-

dents are at the advantage anyway.

Nearly all jobs in this day and age that pay enough to support a family are given to college graduates. So if a student would rather attend a low-quality alternative high school and earn a well enough grade point average to go to a low-class college that will extremely limit the chances of success rather than failing out of the regular public school in the district, then let them be.

People shouldn't have to be told where to go to school, nor have only one option of schooling available. Because, who knows what someone's brain is capable of if they are limited, while going through the most influential point of their life? Let people branch off and flourish at their own level instead of possibly devaluing their opportunity to earn a good future.

Word choice around the holidays can be offensive

Averi Montagano
Info Editor

Around the time of Christmas people of different cultures and religions celebrate different holidays and traditions around the world. However, since the majority of people celebrate Christmas most people express their excitement about the season using the phrase, "Merry Christmas." I believe due to our diverse beliefs and traditions this is wrong to say. Instead, to prevent excluding and angering people who may not celebrate the same holidays as others it is appropriate to use the phrase, "Happy Holidays."

There are several people that do not celebrate Christmas, such as those of the Jewish, Jehovah's Witness and Muslim religion. There are also Christians that believe since they cannot find Christmas in the bible and Jesus Christ did not tell us to observe Christmas there is no reason to celebrate it. Although these people may have these strong

beliefs you won't know by simply looking at them. Therefore, it would most likely come off awkward or offensive wishing them a "Merry Christmas," in which they will not be celebrating.

We must also come to the realization that as a form of respect those who do not celebrate Christmas, do not discriminate against our holiday by constantly talking of their preferred Holiday. Like how celebrators of Christmas may sometimes do.

For example, those who celebrate Hanukah do not go around telling everyone, "Happy Hanukah." They instead have a sense of respect to the fact that we do not celebrate their traditions, therefore we who celebrate Christmas should have the same respect for them.

Using the phrase, "Happy Holidays," can defeat controversy over celebratory traditions while being in the general public. It will also keep people from feeling uncomfortable and excluded when you are speaking to them along with the people around

them. In saying, "Happy Holidays," you are still spreading the exciting spirit of the season yet you are not being specific to a certain belief.

I believe it is okay to say "Merry Christmas," when you are around people who share the same belief as you. This is because you are sure you are celebrating it. I am not saying that you must only say, "Happy Holidays," to your friends and loved ones however, I am saying that it would be a more suitable phrase to use when you are expressing your joy and excitement for this time of year in public, perhaps to someone whose beliefs you are unsure of.

Everyone has the right to celebrate the holiday that they choose. However, you should not let your choice in holiday effect the thoughts and feelings of others. Instead, wish everyone a happy holiday. This will be a respectful way of showing kindness and hope that whatever they may be celebrating this season be full of excitement, whether it be the same or different from you.

Bentley Takes On Brighton

By Jeremiah Johnson



Staff Editorial: Hallway TVs too much

This year due to the bond, many great technologies have come to Brighton high School. These range from the new flat screen TVs in every classroom, to the handy new data projectors. So far, the in class technology has been helpful in improving the learning process for teachers and students.

But there is one area where the money from the bond is not being used wisely, the brand new flatscreen TVs in the hallways.

For some reason, the school found it appropriate to waste thousands of dollars putting TVs all over the school that are almost never in use. When the TVs actually are used, it is only for putting up blurry images of ads for school events. It seems like quite a waste to buy all these expensive TVs, and then only use them as posters. If this was the way the TVs were planned to be used, the school should have just saved their money and put up bulletin boards instead.

The fact that the TVs are up is not the frustrating thing, it is the fact that they never get used and just sit up on the walls taking up space and wasting money from the bond. It has been nearly half a school year and the amount of times that the TVs have been used could easily be counted on two hands, which is ridiculous.

In some classes, student's aren't able to see videos made by the Leadership class and Executive Board, which should be played during the morning announcements. The TVs in the cafeteria could show these videos during lunch.

Something as simple as the weekly weather forecast would be an improvement, just anything to put the TVs to use rather than just sitting on the wall taking up space would be fantastic. As of right now, the TVs just seem like an unnecessary investment that the school made and isn't using.

Seeing as the TVs are already set up and paid for, the school might as well start using them for something useful. The TVs could be used to display the scores from school sporting events or the records of the schools different sports teams. They could even put up a news channel so that students could be informed about world events. A better thing would be to have the announcements played on a continuous loop during the lunch hour, so that students could better understand what is being said in them. Regardless, the school needs to put this huge investment to a good use.

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