



Ten Christmas Card Updates

Amber Born, Sophomore
News Coordinator

1. Ebenezer Scrooge finally told everyone he's Jewish, and all the ghosts disappeared in a puff of accidental anti-Semitism.
2. Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer went through a rebellious phase, dyed his nose black, and is now just a regular reindeer.
3. Charlie Brown and the Peanuts gang are in their fifth decade of rehearsing for the Christmas pageant. It has yet to be performed.
4. Frosty the Snowman is in the midst of a feud with Olaf the Snowman. Things have been said, snowballs have been thrown.
5. Buddy the Elf's daughter is having an identity crisis over whether she's an elf or a human, which gives everyone the idea for a "Man or Muppet"-esque song.
6. Flick from *A Christmas Story* is married with four kids. He would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas, but, at the moment, his tongue is stuck to a frozen pole.
7. *The Nutcracker's* Clara has been seeing a psychiatrist to get the visions of sugarplums to stop dancing in her head.
8. The woman on the receiving end of the gifts in *The Twelve Days of Christmas* dumped her boyfriend as soon as the three French Hens started leaving eggs everywhere.
9. The Little Drummer Boy wants everyone to know that he's a man now. And also he's 6'2".
10. Mariah Carey says that it's been twenty years since "All I Want for Christmas Is You," and she kindly requests that people stop citing the song as a reason to invite themselves to her house on Christmas without bringing a present.

Annie: A Re-Packaged Classic

Linda Fitzpatrick, Sophomore
Reporter

Now that the holidays are here, I'm sure some of you are looking for an escape from that crazy household of yours, right? Well, I have the place for you: the movies. The holiday season is a great time for movies, and this year does not disappoint. A new twist on the classic *Annie* is one of the offerings this holiday season. Modernized and with some new songs, *Annie* is just as heartwarming and fun as in previous years. Straight from the beginning, with a nod towards the old *Annie*, the movie shines. Quvenzhané Wallis stars as an exuberant young Annie, with Jamie Foxx as Will Stacks, one of the richest men in New York running for mayor, and Cameron Diaz as Miss Hannigan, the cruel group home caretaker. The cast is star-studded, yes, but that's not to say it's one of those movies that crashes and burns. Wallis's performance is touching and simply, Annie. Diaz brings some humor to her role, while also supplying the sensible lessons that *Annie* is known to spread.

Of course, the movie has its faults. There will always be things to pick at, especially with such a classic. With this *Annie*, I'd agree with critics who say that the film plays at clichés a bit, but what film doesn't? Nothing in this movie was so bad that I couldn't overlook it. The storyline and songs are just as strong as the original stage *Annie*. If you go in with an open mind to experience a light-hearted, good-for-the-whole-family movie, then you won't be disappointed. It is all about your attitude. I went in willing to see how they had re-packaged something from my childhood (well, truly, my mom's childhood) and I wasn't let down. It was actually better than I expected.

I would recommend the trip to the movies to see *Annie* this holiday season. Go by yourself or take the whole family; it's a movie for any age. *Annie* is filled with two hours of laughter, tears, songs, and, of course, smiles.

Powderpuff Team Donates \$6,000 to Julie's Place

Alex Kerai & Liam Reilly, Seniors
Editors-in-Chief

After defeating Swampscott 27-7, the Marblehead girls' Powderpuff team donated the money from ticket sales, \$6000, to Boston-based charity Julie's Place. Headlight Editors Liam and Alex sat down with Melody Chalvin, one of seven Powderpuff captains, to talk about the team's relationship with the charity.

Q: What is Julie's Place

It's a nonprofit in Boston which helps mothers in need to break the cycle of poverty. It also helps fathers with custody of children who are in a similar position.

Q: Why did Powderpuff choose Julie's Place?

Margaret Dever suggested Julie's Place, and this seemed to be the most relatable charity because these women are in Boston, so it's close to home.

Q: Why are you a Powderpuff captain?

We weren't nominated or anything, but everyone who showed up each day for practice was eligible to be a captain, and after two weeks Jacqui [Bouchard] and the coaches chose seven girls to be the captains and represent the team throughout practices and game day.

Q: How much money was donated to Julie's Place?

Several thousand this year, but each year we give a portion of the money to Swampscott to donate to a charity of their choice. The game was our sole fundraiser, and we didn't do anything else to raise money.

Q: Tell us about the Julie's Place presentation that occurred at MHS.

The representatives came in and showed us a commercial video, which was a compilation of interviews with people who'd been helped and were being helped by the organization; it was really heartwarming to watch. I would definitely want to work with Julie's Place again. During the video you get to know the individuals who've been involved in the organization, and you realize what a difference Julie's Place makes in their lives.

Q: Any advice for next year's captains regarding the team and picking the charity?

Do whatever you can to get the team excited, and work to set an example of kindness and community. And be open to everyone's suggestions, because you don't want to start off on the wrong foot. We made a Facebook group and posted a poll there, so everyone voted for their favorite charity.

Q: Do you do any other charity work outside of the Powderpuff team?

I'm an active member of the Bridging Lives club here at MHS. Bridging lives partners "big buddies" with children in the community who might be going through some type of hardship, whether that's a financial limitation, learning disability, or family issue. But if a parent reaches out and asks the group for help, Bridging Lives will match the child with someone at the high school and will try to help. I am a "big buddy" so I get to work with and help kids who need it.

Below, the Powderpuff team presents a \$6,000 check to Robert Monahan, Executive Director of Julie's Place.

Christmas in the Eyes of a Jew

Riley Sugarman, Senior
Reporter in the Field

When I tell people how much I love Christmas I usually get some questionable looks and the occasional, "But I thought you were Jewish?" Don't get me wrong, I love all my Jewish holidays and those eight crazy nights, but there's something about the cheery overplayed music and the contagious spirit of Christmas. Just last week I wore a Santa hat to school for the annual Snow Bash (a day-long fest in the art wing where students show off their work and eat food), and felt there was nothing wrong with it. Christmas has become a universal holiday for all, and you don't have to be Christian to celebrate it.

This may come off a tad sacrilegious, but two years ago I celebrated my first true Christmas with my cousins. We did the works: midnight mass, giving and receiving presents, and eating some Christmas food. As I'm writing this, Christmas music is playing in the background and I've realized I have fully immersed myself in the new term I just created called the Christmas Culture. This is probably already a thing, but it's basically wearing red hats with pom-poms, playing cheery music about jingling bells, and watching a movie about a little boy who accomplishes his goal in life by following the girl of his dreams to the airport. While I won't be attending midnight mass every year, or praying in anything but Hebrew, it's nice to sing about a reindeer with a red nose and a man in a red suit sliding down chimneys that are way too small for him. How can peppy tunes of Santa Claus coming down Santa Claus Lane not get you excited for gift giving and snow days?

Happy Holidays
from the 2014-2015
Headlight Staff!!
We wish you a
happy and healthy
New Year, and we
will see you again on
January 8th when
we publish our
next issue!



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