

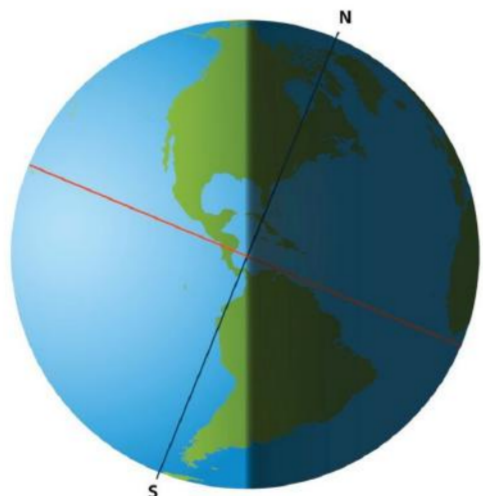
MONTESSORI MONTHLY

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

HAPPY HOLIDAY: TRUE TRADITIONS

By: Sarah-Grace M. and Madison Beltz

Winter holidays were first celebrated to bring light and joy to some of the most depressing, dark days of the year. The Montessori School of Wooster has many different winter holidays and traditions that are celebrated by students and teachers. Some traditions people celebrate are St. Lucia's Day (also known as St. Lucy's Day), Winter Solstice, Las Posadas, and Seollal. St. Lucia's Day is traditionally celebrated in Sweden, Norway, and Finland, while Winter Solstice is celebrated in Iran. Seollal is a Korean New Year celebration. It is celebrated on Sunday, January 22 in Korea, and Las Posadas is celebrated in Mexico. There are so many different, wonderful, winter celebrations around the world!



winter solstice (December 21)

Earth during Winter Solstice Photo credit
weareiowa.com

Another winter celebration that is recognized by some at MSW is Winter Solstice. Winter Solstice is a celebration that takes place on the longest night of the year. This is the day the sun reaches the northernmost position before it starts to get lower in the sky. It is celebrated in December in the Northern hemisphere and in June in the Southern hemisphere. Winter Solstice does not always occur on the same day year after year. This year, Winter Solstice will be celebrated Wednesday, December 21st. Traditions and celebrations for Winter Solstice vary depending on where it is being celebrated, but some include setting intentions and planning for the season ahead, creating a decorative Yule log, lighting candles or lanterns, eating fruits and nuts, gift giving, storytelling and family feasts. Classes learn about different winter celebrations and traditions every year. Montessori respects different winter holidays, whether it's St. Lucy's Day, Winter Solstice or any other winter tradition!



Children celebrating St. Lucia's Day. The boy is dressed up as a Star Boy and the girl is wearing a green wreath atop her head. Photo credit: [Christmas in Sweden](#) by Cheryl L. Enderlein

One winter tradition that is celebrated by some at the Montessori School of Wooster is St. Lucia's Day. Saint Lucia lived a long time ago. She was a Christian who served others. Almost everyone in Sweden celebrates St. Lucia's Day. Ms. Chelsea is a toddler teacher at MSW. She said she celebrates St. Lucia's day on December 13th. Ms. Chelsea explained that she likes that the celebration is focused around a person that did good deeds, as Saint Lucia brought gifts to the Christians. During the celebration, the oldest sister in a family has to wear a white gown with a green wreath on top of her head. Families have a big dinner, where they eat Swedish spritz cookies and sweet rolls. "Santa Lucia" is a popular song for St. Lucy's Day. Green and white are the colors for St. Lucy's Day.



Traditional Swedish spritz cookies. Photo credit: weelicious.com

MAGICAL MUSIC MADE AT THE MONTESSORI WINTER CONCERT

By: Gracelynn Cutlip

Every year, the Montessori School of Wooster has a concert. Whether in-person or online, it is a one-of-a-kind experience. This year, on December 6, we had an amazing performance from different classes, from Lunchbunchers to Middle School. This is the first concert the Montessori School of Wooster has had without the toddlers and preschoolers. When asked about this, the Montessori music teacher, Mrs. Boreman, said that the reason behind this was, "The school is growing...it is hard enough to find a church big enough to fit (everyone)." The concert opened with a stunning performance from the Lunchbunchers. They sang two songs; "Mittens and Gloves," and "If I Could Fly Like a Snowflake," which received tons of applause from the audience. Next, Lower El performed. Mrs. Kowatch's class performed "Snow Celebration" on their chimes, which was preceded by Mrs. Miller's class' "Snow Processional," also on chimes. Then, the two classes came together and sang "Winter's in the Air." Afterwards, the audience was given quite the show from Upper El.



First, they did "Chimes Jingle," using a combination of chimes and sleigh bells. Afterwards, they did a one-of-a-kind production of "Hip Hop Elves," which got a standing ovation from Middle School. Last, Middle School did "Frosty the Snowman" on chimes and "Siberian Sleigh Ride" with flashlights, which used colored flashlights to bounce along to the song. Then, all the classes, except for the Lunchbunchers, joined together to sing "Don't Forget to be Thankful" and "Go Now in Peace."

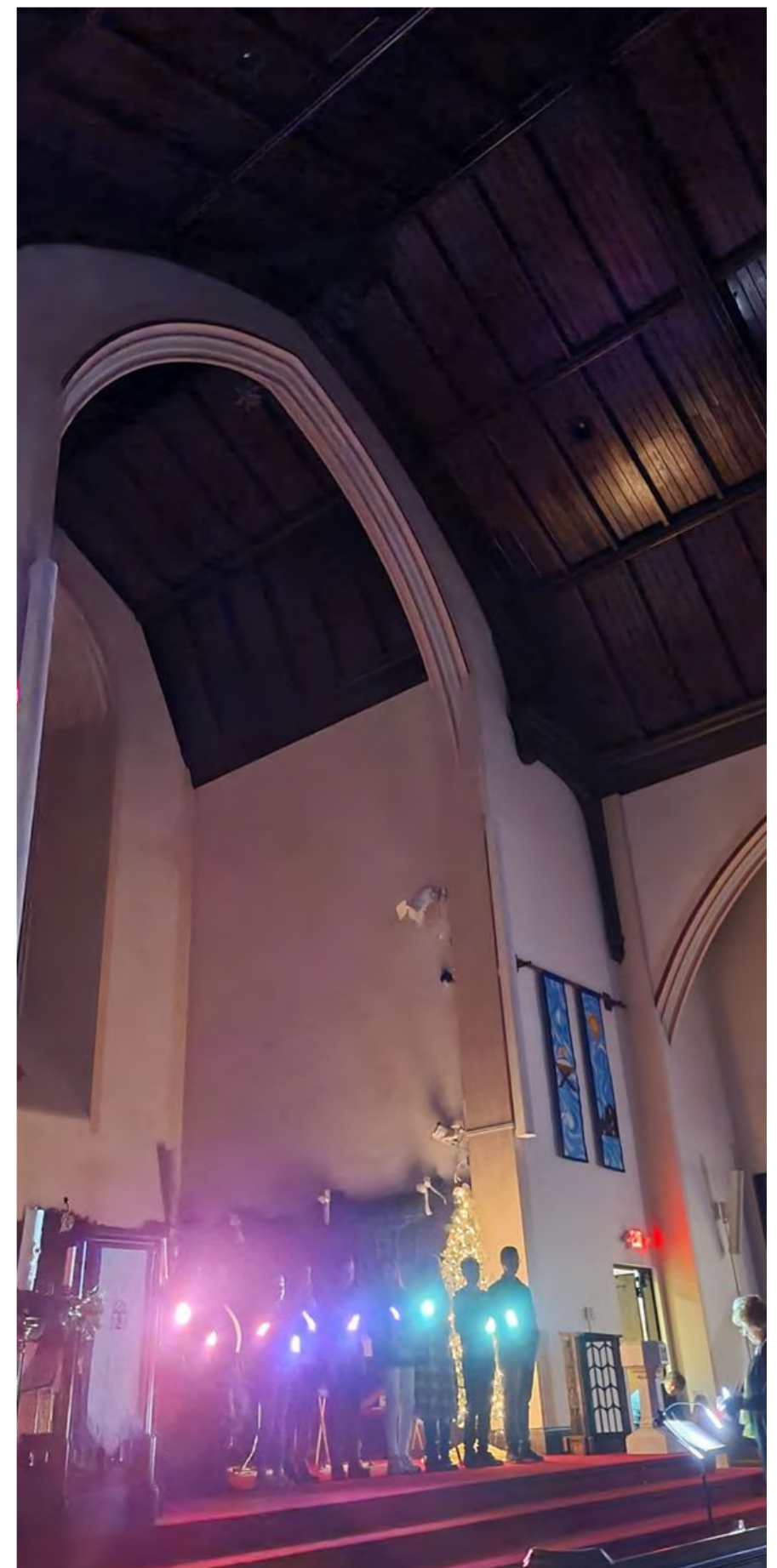
The concert was a hit with both students and parents alike. When asked whether they liked the concert or not, Avery, a Lunchbuncher, answered "Yes." Every student that was asked about the concert said they enjoyed it.

Ronan said that his favorite part of the concert was "Everybody singing." A lot of students agreed with Ronan.

Hazel, a Lower El student, said that she liked "The flashlights," the best. No matter what people liked the best, everyone had a good time.

After the concert, the school had a cookie buffet to celebrate a concert well done. There were 600 cookies there, or 50 dozen. Almost all of them were eaten, with only a small handful left. It was a huge success.

There are rarely school concerts that manage to bring joy to all, but the Montessori School of Wooster's 2022 Winter Concert has managed to do just that. From the Lunchbuncher's Mittens and Gloves, to the school singing Go Now in Peace, the concert was a hit with children and adults alike. We are grateful for everyone who was a part of making it happen, including the people that came to watch the concert, and the teachers. It was a concert that will be remembered for years to come!



TAKING A LOOK INTO WINTER AROUND MONTESSORI

By: Alexander Gueth and Aryn Huffman



Children in Ms. Seling's class enjoy a variety of holiday and winter themed activities

Winter is a fun time to have epic snowball fights and drink hot cocoa with marshmallows. It's a time that brings joy, happiness, and families together. Animals hibernate through the winter until spring, so we don't have to worry about hungry grizzly bears chasing us while we ice skate on the pond. Building snowmen and snow forts is hard work, but very fun to do on a snowy day off of school. Family and friends get together to eat great food during the winter holidays. People celebrate holidays like Hanukkah, Three Kings Day, St. Nicholas Day, Christmas, and more. The winter season can be found all around MSW, even in the classrooms! Mrs. Seling's toddler class is learning about winter holidays like Christmas, Hanukkah and Kwanzaa.

We asked some of her students what their favorite thing to do during the winter. Sloane said she likes to kick a red ball and sled. Natalie and another friend enjoy decorating the Christmas tree and playing in the snow. The class will have fun learning about the warm and cozy snow pants and fluffy coats when they return to school in January.

Whether you enjoy snuggling up with a cozy blanket and watching a movie or braving the cold to have snow ball fights and build snow forts, there is something for everyone to do. Just like at Montessori, whatever your favorite activity is, you will never be out of exciting options to do during the coldest months of the year.

TEACHER SPOTLIGHT:

MS. ANNE DITLEVSON

By: Emmett Relle and Kevaria Godbey



Ms. Anne has worked at the Montessori School of Wooster for two years as the Assistant Head of the School. As the Assistant Head of the School, Ms. Anne focuses on supporting staff, students and their families. If you are not sure who Ms. Anne is, she can be found outside every morning during arrival dropoff, greeting families with a big smile and wave. The Montessori Monthly staff sat down with Ms. Anne to get to know her a little better.

1. Before coming to Montessori where did you teach? "D.H.Conley High School, in Greenville, NC; P.S. Jones Middle School in Washington, NC; and Mapleton Middle and High School in Ashland, OH."

2. What is it like being an administrator? "I think it is amazing and I love helping people with their questions. I also love the community, and how the families and teachers take care of each other."

3. Why did you come to Montessori? "I wanted a change, and I love how the teachers are able to reach students."

4. What are your hobbies? "Playing music, skateboarding, walking my dogs, playing with my four year old son, Andy, and reading."

5. What is one fact no one knows about you? "I have been a musician for 22 years and I have been in several bands, one of which was signed to a record label."

6. What were you like as a student when you were in school? "I was very kind and friendly to everyone, but I was not always the best at paying attention, and I struggled because of that."

CLASSROOM SPOTLIGHT

By Nora Davis and Adalynn Cutlip

The Montessori School of Wooster has two Lower Elementary classes. This month's Classroom Spotlight goes to Mrs. Kowatch's Lower El class. Lower El is comprised of grades 1st and 2nd. Mrs. Kowatch's class likes to encourage independence and hands-on learning, along with individualized learning plans. "My favorite part is to get to see the lightbulb go off," Mrs. Kowatch stated, when asked what her favorite thing about being a teacher is. In Lower El, they teach and learn practical life skills that include various jobs such as money, feeding fish, washing tables, and folding laundry.



Pictured above is the Lower El Peace Table

We asked some students what they liked most about being in Mrs. Kowatch's class. Hazel said that her favorite part was "Being able to move around instead of just sitting all day." Sadie said "Math."

Students were also asked what they were learning about and they said Christmas around the world. When asked what their favorite thing to do in class, Sadie said, "Doing projects." Hazel said, "Fractions and geometry." Students in Lower El are very lucky to have such great teachers, classmates and a great learning environment.



A student in Mrs. Kowatch's class is working on an independent task.

HOW TO MAKE THE PERFECT CUP OF HOT CHOCOLATE

By: James Latimer

To make the perfect cup of hot chocolate, you will need milk, unsweetened baking cocoa, sugar, vanilla extract, whipped cream, and marshmallows.

Step 1: Find your favorite mug.

Step 2: Pour 1 cup of milk into your mug. Then, add 1 tablespoon of cocoa powder, 2 tablespoons of sugar, and 1 teaspoon of vanilla extract.

Step 3: Stir the ingredients together
Step 4: Microwave the chocolate mixture for 1-2 minutes.

Step 5: Carefully remove the mug from the microwave and stir it well.

Step 6: Add your favorite whipped cream then put marshmallows on top.

Step 7: Drink and enjoy this warm, sweet treat!



Photo Credit: deliciouslyyum.com

Word of the Month
Photo & Definition Credit: merriam-webster.com

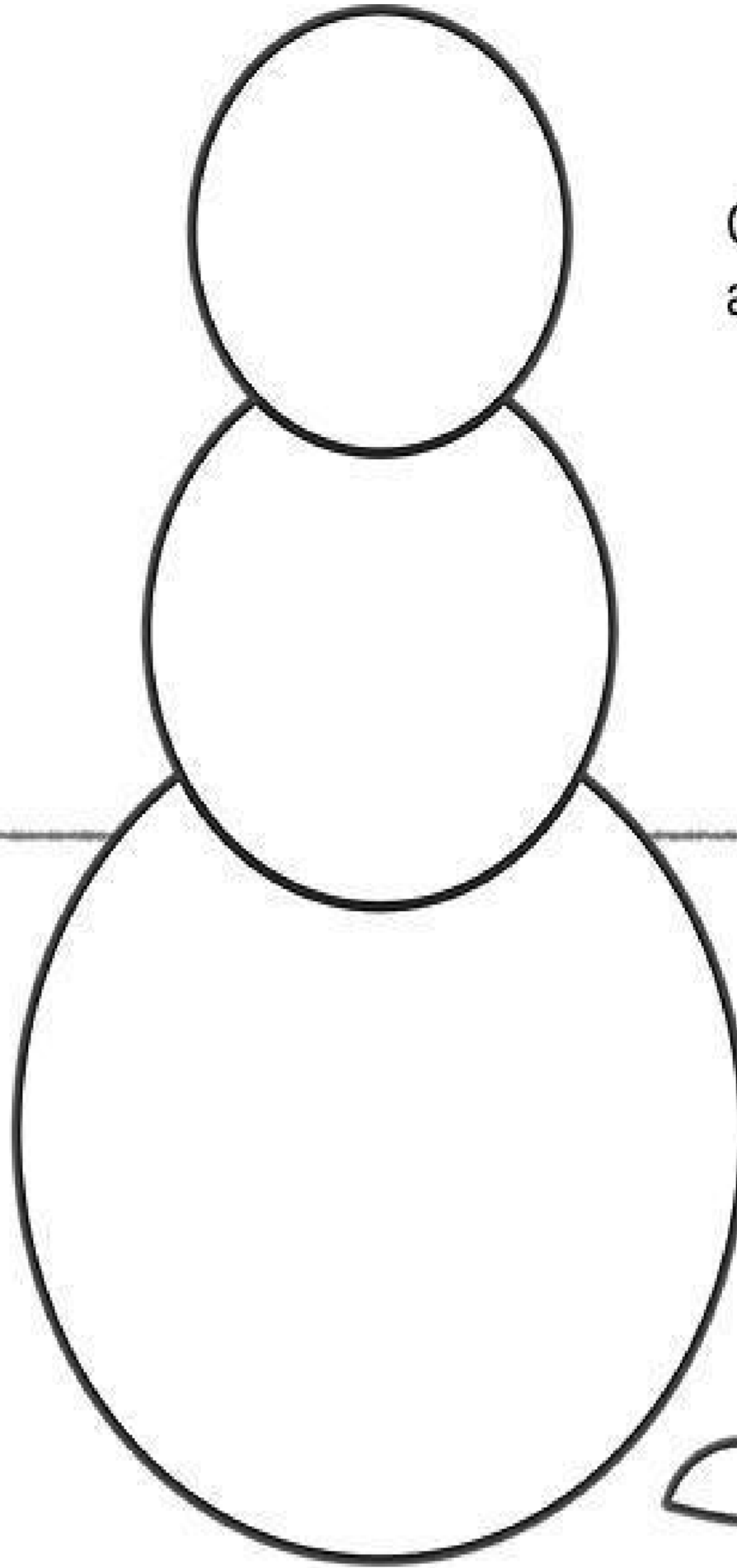
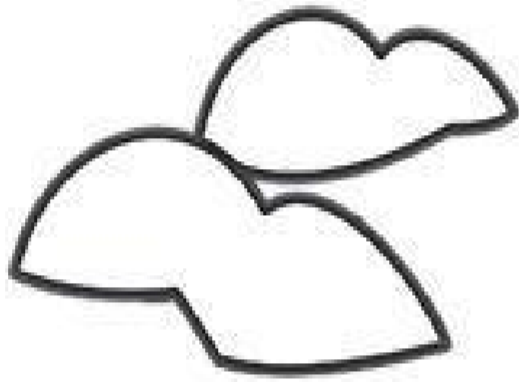
Apricity:
the warmth of the sun
in the winter



KIDS CORNER

Come one, come all!

Color this snowman and make it as silly as you can.



If you are the winner, your picture and drawing will be in the next edition.

Turn in finished pictures either at the lobby or the front desk in Children's House. Make sure to include your first and last name and your grade level.

FUN ANIMAL FACTS

Short-tailed Weasel

- They are also called stoats
- Their fur turns white in the winter



Left: Short-tailed Weasel Right: Polar Bears
Photos and facts from: nps.gov

Polar Bear

- Polar Bear skin is actually black
- Scientists can extract polar bear DNA from just their footprints
- They can swim constantly for days at a time

PUZZLE CORNER

Unscramble the winter words.

etinrw
olcd

wsnonam
onws

etinrw = snowman
wsnonam = snowman

olcd = cold
onws = winter

THE FIFA WORLD CUP MAKES A STRIKING RETURN!

By: Curtis Briggs and Caleb Pycraft



Photo Credit: FIFA

The Fifa World Cup is one of the largest soccer tournaments in the world. Thirty-two of the best teams in the world compete to see who is the best. The first World Cup was in Uruguay in 1930 and was also won by Uruguay. Twenty-two World Cups have been completed. The team that has won the most World Cups is Brazil, with a whopping 5 titles.

Brazil has also played in every single World Cup. Brazil has scored the most goals in the World Cup with a staggering 231 goals. The most goals scored in one world cup match is 12, when Austria defeated Switzerland 7-5 on June 26, 1954. The World Cup takes place every 4 years. It is held in a different location every 4 years. This year, it is in Doha, Qatar.

The final 16 started on December 8th, which is where the final 16 teams in the tournament duke it out for the semi-finals. Matches were Netherlands vs. USA, Argentina vs. Australia, Japan vs. Croatia, Brazil vs. South Korea, France vs. Poland, England vs. Senegal, Morocco vs. Spain, Portugal vs. Switzerland, as of December 3rd. Fans all around the world are celebrating the exciting final win on December 18th. With a tied score of 3-3, a penalty kick won the game against France! Argentina won the World Cup!



Photo Credit: FIFA

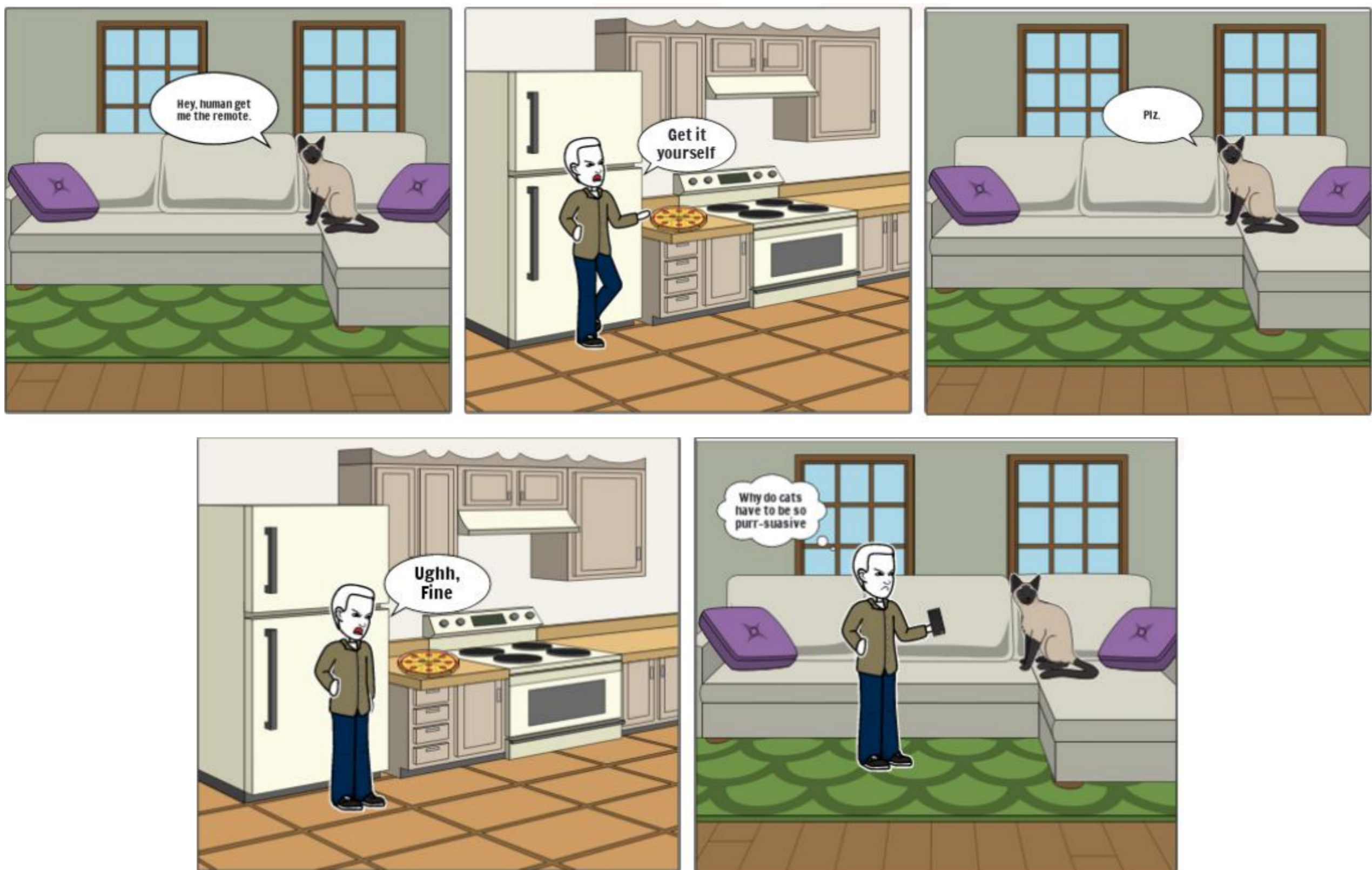
POTATO TAILS: THE BAD GUYS

By: Lukas Derr and Aryn Huffman



The Purr-fect Comic

By Adalynn Cutlip



10 Reasons Hot Chocolate is the BEST Winter Drink

By Hadassah Latimer

1. Hot chocolate is the best when it is cold out.
2. It warms you up after playing in the cold snow.
3. It's the best drink when you love chocolate.
4. A great part of having hot chocolate is all the marshmallows and the whipped cream.
5. Any kid and/or adult who doesn't like coffee, would love hot chocolate.
6. It's great for holiday parties at winter time.
7. The best thing about hot chocolate is that it doesn't have to be just a drink for the winter time.
8. The warm mug heats up your hands.
9. It smells awesome and the steam warms you up as you drink it.
10. Homemade hot chocolate tastes great if you make it correctly (powdered hot chocolate isn't always good).



Middle Schoolers, Adalynn and Nora, sip on hot chocolate by the fire

Meet the Montessori Monthly Team



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Kids Corner
Classroom Spotlight
Writer & Comics



Nora Davis
Kids Corner &
Classroom Spotlight
Writer



Madison Beltz
Main Story Writer



Sarah-Grace M.
Main Story Writer



Curtis Briggs
Sports Writer



Caleb Pycraft
Sports Writer



Hadassah Latimer
Listicle Writer



Alexander Gueth
Feature Story
Writer



Aryn Huffman
Feature Story Writer
& Comics



James Latimer
"How To" Writer



Lukas Derr
Technology/ Layout &
Comics



Gracelynn Cutlip
Feature Story Writer &
Editor



Kevaria Godbey
Teacher Spotlight &
Editor



Emmett Relle
Teacher Spotlight
Writer