



TRITON VOICE

HYPED for the Holidays

Whether you travel near or far, holidays are special

By Abbie Magee & Anthony Ostrander
Staff Writers

With the holidays approaching quickly, students across the country are becoming excited for their time off from school.

Many students have their own favorite things to do in their free holiday time, so the *Triton Voice* talked to students about what their planning on doing with their school-free holiday vacation.

Some stay with family over vacation, while others go away with family, and some just focus on hanging out with friends.

"I stay with my grandparents for most holidays in Mansfield, Mass. We do all the normal holiday activities on Thanksgiving. We eat turkey and on Christmas we open presents. I love staying with them," said junior Komal Patel.

Patel also celebrates an Indian holiday tradition, called Diwali. This is a five-day festival of lights, celebrated by millions across the world, according to *independent.co*. The holiday is a celebration of the triumph of light over dark and good over evil. Patel decorates her house with diyas, which are similar to candles, but they are in a clay pot. Also flowers, garlands, and rangolis are added to the household.

Other students and their families choose to take advantage of there break over the holidays by getting away somewhere tropical.

Sophomores Kiley Hughes and Madi Landry plan on going to Key West, Florida for their holiday break.

"Our families love to travel around the holidays," said Landry.

"It brings the holiday spirit into effect," said Hughes.

However for some families, just keeping it simple and spending time at home surrounded by their loved ones brings out the holiday spirit. Junior Mason Ferrick loves to spend the holidays at home with his family.

"There is nothing better than sitting by the fire, with the family, playing board games, waiting for santa to come," said Ferrick. A common family tradition, this is an essential part of the holidays to many.

Though the holiday season may bring stress and times become chaotic, it seems to bring the best out of everyone.

Holidays remain a time for tradition with friends, family

By Caitlin White & Makayla Sprague
Staff Writers

As the holidays and cold weather are arriving, Christmas music is playing, candles are burning, and festive activities are beginning for the students at Triton.

"To get into the holiday spirit, I love to help my mom decorate around the house, including the Christmas tree right after Thanksgiving," said Triton senior Lindsey Gardella. "For activities, I love to shop for people's gifts, spend the day at my dad's house with my step side of the family, and bake cookies."

Many families and religions have different traditions for the holidays, whether it is to create a playlist to listen to while conjuring up festive activities, watching the countdown holiday movies on the *Hallmark Channel*, or making paper snowflakes.

Getting into the holiday spirit for some may even include the jolly activities that come with winter and the snow, such as bundling up in winter gear and walking outside into the brisk weather to enjoy making snow angels or rolling up snowballs, or adding a scarf, buttons, a carrot for a nose, a hat, and sticks for arms to make a snowman.

An additional contender to getting into the swing of the holidays is the holiday countdown. Families often have a specific countdown of their own that they like to follow. Perhaps an advent calendar filled with chocolate, or maybe even Legos or small toys. "We get advent calendars from Winfrey's," said Triton junior Emily Debenedictis.

Sipping a sweet hot chocolate while sitting by the toasty fire with holiday tunes playing in the background may fill some with the holiday spirit. Others may find themselves baking cookies and other delicious treats to share with friends and family members.

"Every year, my family makes Hershey Kisses wreaths. We also have an advent calendar," said junior Sarah Burd.

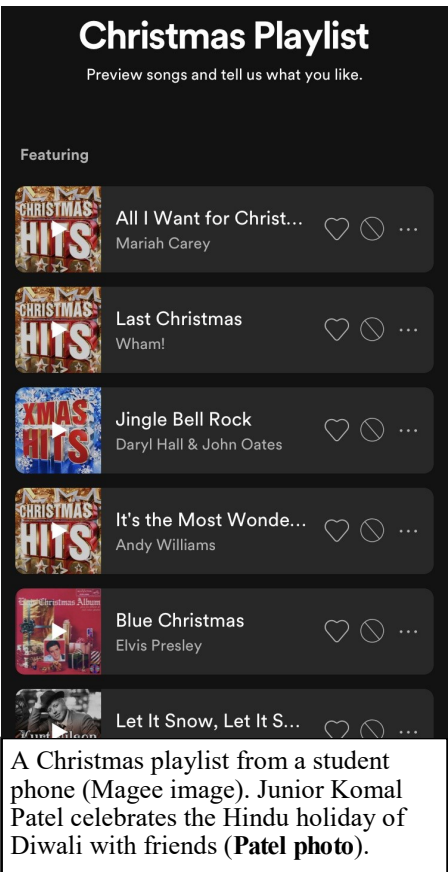
"I love to bake Christmas cookies and listen to Christmas music as I count down the days to Christmas," said junior Felicia Cardillo.

"We always make buffalo chicken dip for our family party," said junior Katie Blouin.

Others use slope-side activities as their motive to get into the holiday spirit.

"In the start of winter break, my Grammy takes my cousins and I to North Conway to stay in a hotel. While there we go tubing at different ski resorts. We also go to outlets to do some holiday shopping," said Triton sophomore Jawzyln Flanagan.

"I go skiing with my friends and family and get a new pair of Christmas pajamas on Christmas eve night," said Blouin.



A Christmas playlist from a student phone (Magee image). Junior Komal Patel celebrates the Hindu holiday of Diwali with friends (Patel photo).

The next college stress: DEBT

Beautiful facilities and and demand-side economics are what's driving students to spend big bucks

By Alexander Michals
Staff Writer

The rise of college tuition has made many students go into debt, and many others fear going into college knowing the burden of the future costs. So, why is it so expensive?

Students from Triton High, like many other high school students, face the ongoing problem of college tuition costs. The constant rise of tuition forces many students into debt each year, and many here at Triton worry about what their lives beyond college will be like. For students, it's important to understand why college costs so much and how we got here.

Timothy Coyle has spent the majority of his life teaching politics and government to students at Triton High School. Since he teaches seniors, and has two children currently in college, he cares deeply about the increase of college debt.

"It's basic economics: supply and demand," said Coyle. "As the economy changed and mainly muscle jobs and factory jobs left the United States, they were being replaced with service jobs. It was required to have a higher level of education and training, so much so that it became crucial for schools and leaders to encourage a higher percentage of young people to go college."

Laura Kuleszka teaches business law and finance classes at the Triton.

"Demand is high," said Kuleszka. "More people are attending college than 30 years ago. When I went to college, tuition was so much cheaper than it is now."

Mehgan Ober, the director of guidance at Triton High is closely connected to many seniors at Triton as she helps many of them and their parents in the college application process.

"They are obviously businesses," said Ober. "As a result they need to constantly compete against each other to get students, and a way to do that is to continue to offer innovative programs, nice buildings, and to have very beautiful facilities. And that's all great, but it comes with a cost. To put it into perspective, as someone who is working now, I still have debt."

Junior Linda Freeman recently researched the causes of high tuition costs and found information about what colleges spend most of their money on.

"Colleges spend most of their money on the buildings and advisors," said Freeman. "Not the teachers."

The draw for the college experience is also used by colleges to sell themselves. For senior Jeremy Dufford, it's a saying used to attract kids coming out of high school to go to college.

"When I hear 'college experience,' I think of parties," said Jeremy Dufford. "I absolutely think the term 'college experience' is used to attract kids to go to college."

However, life after college is likely to be strenuous for those who rack up a high debt, which brings up a question. Is college worth all that debt?



Senior Eric Desprez reviews advertising for colleges (Michals photo).

First-time voters share their experiences

By Michael Fish
Staff Writer

Many Triton students voted for the first time during last month's midterm elections. They voted on three questions (or four questions if a person voted in Newbury), and a multitude of positions for the state and federal government.

Voting can be intimidating to people going in for their first time; they see the lengthy descriptions for the questions as well as the large number of candidates running for the positions in the government. If a voter is unprepared going in, they may have trouble deciding which way to vote, and what to say to all the questions.

Due to the fact that many companies pay for advertisements for their candidates or their opinions on the questions, it is hard to not know what at least one of the questions is.

"I felt prepared when I went in," said Brittney Nalesnik, 18, of Salisbury, who voted for the first time on Tuesday. "I read the questions beforehand and knew what I was saying on the questions when I went to answer them. I also knew who I was voting for the government positions."

Nalesnik did research ahead of time so she knew what she was voting on, and who she wanted to vote for based off of where they stood on political issues. However, some people did not.

"Hah! No! I had no idea who I was voting for when I went into the booth," said Joshua Quintiliani, 18, of Newbury. "(History teacher) Mr. Coyle prepared me for the questions I would be answering, but I did not know who I was gonna vote for in the political positions."

Quintiliani said he felt nervous, "I was the only one in there under 60 years old! I felt like I was the center of attention." He said he felt good after voting though, and was satisfied with who or what he cast his vote for.

"Of course I would've made sure I totally understood what/who I was voting for, that's the reason I did not vote," stated Quentin Callewaert, 18, of Byfield. Callewaert chose not to vote since he was uninformed of the questions and the people that he would have been voting for.

With their first election in the rear view, some students are looking forward to the presidential election of 2020. In 2020, there will likely be a larger number of younger people voting for the first time since more people vote in presidential elections. That could change the outcome of the election had that generation not been able to vote.

First Person Singular My first vote

By Mike Fish

Walking up to the Newbury Fire Station for the first time was a bit surreal; *I'm actually doing it*, I thought. *I'm 18-years-old and I'm going to vote.*

I walked in the building, and all they asked for when I walked up was my address and my name. *No I.D.?* They handed me a paper, and told me to go into a booth.

As I stepped into a booth, it felt like I was back in elementary school, taking a test with the dividers between the desks to keep the little kids from cheating. I gazed down at the long list of names, and decided to start with the questions; I knew my answers already. When I went back to the state positions, I looked down, and did my best to vote for names I knew.

I finished up, and walked over to the machine, and put my paper in. The woman told me to wait to make sure it was accepted; it was. I walked to the door, but before I left, I was given a sticker: "**I voted today**" was printed in big letters with an American flag. As I walked out, that surreal feeling hit me again, realizing that I actually voted, checking another item off of the "Officially an Adult" list.

Christmas Carols & Curtain Call

How the visual and performing arts department celebrates the holiday season

By Jacqueline Downs
Staff Writer

While much of America prepares to welcome in the 2018 holiday season on Thanksgiving, students in the visual and performing arts are busying themselves with a different sort of preparation.

"I often find myself realizing that people get hospitalized for exhaustion," joked Sue Densmore, program coordinator of the Visual and Performing Arts Department and teacher to various vocal and instrumental groups. "You have to know when your deadlines are and what they are. There are a lot of little details."

The showing of the fall play, *Our Town*, upcoming parades and football games for the marching band and color guard, along with the annual holiday concert for vocal and instrumental groups have caused this wing of the school to descend into full-on practice and rehearsal.

"My favorite thing is when the performing groups get to perform and they do a great job," explained Densmore. "You get to watch that joy spread among the students and among their parents. It's really cool."

While the Senior Citizens Tea on December 13 and the Holiday Concert on December 20 keep vocal and instrumental groups busy with learning new music, students do not need to wait that long to see their fellow classmates perform. The official fall season for marching band and color guard has recently ended, but the groups can still be seen at the Thanksgiving Day football game and at the Newburyport Santa Parade.

For those seeking a type of entertainment that is both tear-jerking and funny, look no further than the 2018 fall play.

"Triton theater is very good, very high quality theater," explained Sharon Riordan, drama teacher and director of Triton's fall plays and spring musicals. "We always put

quality on stage."

This year's fall play, *Our Town*, is the most frequently produced modern American play, taking place at the turn of the last century. Depicting life, love, and death, this play takes place in a fictional New Hampshire town, Grover's Corner, from 1903 to 1917.

Because the play is showing November 29 to 30 and December 1, Riordan explained that it doesn't get in the way of holiday preparation as it is showing after Thanksgiving and long before Christmas. However, senior Olivia Valley finds, from a student's perspective, that it is still a busy time of year.



The marching band and color guard just finished up their season, ending with the finals (Sue Densmore courtesy photo).

"Theater's really fun because I love being on stage and getting to be a different person and play a character," explained senior Olivia Valley. Even so, Valley finds herself in the holiday crunch of the season. "Not only are there familial commitments and other holiday stuff, but it's also a busy time academically," revealed Valley.

Riordan said she wanted all of Triton's students to see the play, especially those who have never seen a live show, and to get involved in the plays and musicals. She also stressed that Triton's theater department is made up of students from all walks of Triton life, including athletes.

"Come see what we do and get involved in what we do," said Riordan. "It's a lot of fun. Theater becomes like your second family."

Grandma's Milly Rock

Trends of our elders that drove their parents insane

By Bridget Tucker
Staff Writer

In 2007, it was "Crank That" by Soulja Boy. There wasn't a party one could go to without seeing people cranking that and doing the Superman. This was one of the first 'viral' songs.

In 2013, it was the "Harlem Shake." There wasn't a place one could go without hearing the lyrics "Con los terroristas," and proceeding to see people spaz and writhe around on the floor.

In 2016, people were either mourning Harambe or making a "Mannequin Challenge" with a group of friends. In this day and age, we'd call these internet-spread trends 'memes'. Memes, the sense of hu-

mor of most modern-day adolescence, will forever boggle the minds of those generations before us. The saying 'Kids these days,' will always be said so long as youths keep starting new trends.

However, the people muttering this phrase seem to have forgotten that this was at some point muttered at them. These fads, trends, or crazes seemingly came from nowhere, making no sense to anyone unless you were in on the joke. *Triton Voice* decided to take a deeper look of fads of the past.

One of the earliest fads on record is flagpole sitting. The craze involved a teenager climbing atop a flagpole and sitting on it for an extended length of time. The fad started with Alvin "Shipwreck" Kelly, who was either dared by his friend or just attempted a publicity stunt by sitting on a flagpole. Shipwreck's first try lasted 13 hours and 13 minutes, and when the news broke of that in 1924, it soon spread through the teenage world. "They'd sit in public areas, you know, think like Newburyport by the firehouse," says Mr. Chad Richards, a history teacher at Triton. "Young people mostly, thought it was cool to do."

Following flagpole sitting, was the notorious goldfish swallowing which was all the rave in the 1930's. Although it is not clear how the fad emerged, it wasn't uncommon to see teenagers in the United States to try and eat live goldfish. The stunt went so far that Massachusetts State Senator George Krapf filed a bill to "preserve the fish from the cruel and wanton consumption," according to *Smithsonian Magazine*.

"Old people are so annoying," said sophomore Andrew Babine. "It's like, they more to yell at us for doing the cinnamon challenge or the tide pod chal-

lenge, or the knife game, or whatever but then they go out and swallow live goldfish? Imagine the diseases you'd get from that!"

In the 1950's, the hot thing to do was phone booth stuffing. When some teenagers saw a red phone booth in the streets, they'd run to it and try to fit as many people in as possible. By 1959, the fad had spread to the United States, Canada, Britain, South Africa, Durban, and Southern Rhodesia. According to *Mortal Journey*, on March 20, 1959, in Southern Rhodesia, 25 male students in the South African YMCA set a world record when they all fit in at least one body part in the booth. The tallest boy being 6 feet and 2 inches, and the shortest at 5 feet and 4 inches. When the phone rang, no one could answer it.

Like memes, fads faded. The phone booth fad became passé towards the end of 1959, soon replaced by hunkering, which was like the 1950's-version of planking, in a squatting position.

"These are so stupid," laughed Emily Debenedictis, a Triton junior looking at pictures of old teenagers swallowing goldfish. "This reminds me off the tide pods—oh my God! Tide pods are the Goldfish of our generation! But in all seriousness, it's pretty cute that they'd do stuff like this. I just think it's annoying how news stations are shaming kids these days when they were just as stupid when they were our age. I think a lot of us—and them, forget that they were kids, too."

Popular Trends since 2010

Nyan Cat - A YouTube video of an animated flying cat, set to music

Ice Bucket Challenge - A charity-driven effort where a nominated person either donates \$100 to the ALS Association, or to pour a bucket of ice-cold water on their head.

Kylie Jenner Lip Challenge - Based on trying to recreate the big lips of television star Kylie Jenner, one uses a small vessel like a shotglass that covers their lips and sucks in all the air they can manage, which temporarily puffs the lips.

Mannequin Challenge - A viral Internet video trend where, people remain still while a video is recorded, usually with music in the background, most commonly "Black Beatles" by Rae Sremmurd.

Running Man Challenge - A series of dance videos originally that uses the song "My Boo" by Ghost Town DJ's Salt and ice challenge - Internet phenomenon wherein participants pour salt on their bodies, usually on the arm and ice is then placed on the salt.

'Dab' - A dance move where a person drops their head into a bent, slanted arm, with the other arm out straight and parallel

LazyTown - The song We are Number One from an Icelandic children's show became a meme in October 2016, and many videos were created. It became one of the fastest growing memes in history, with 250 videos uploaded in 5 days.

