

The Whitney Press (New Year Edition)

January Issue

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Puzzle Pizza by Katanga S

National Puzzle Day is celebrated on January 29th and focuses on the good things about puzzles like problem solving and helping you concentrate. That is why I wanted to give my ACES friends a recipe for Puzzle Pizza to warm up for the cold January days! Shaping the dough into puzzle pieces is a great way to celebrate National Puzzle Day and is great for family time or a group activity. It's also easy to put on your own favorite toppings so everyone can enjoy their own unique slice. Whether you're celebrating National Puzzle Day or just looking for a fun and delicious meal, Puzzle Pizza is the perfect choice to brighten up the winter season!

Ingredients:

- Pizza dough (store-bought or homemade)
- Tomato sauce
- Shredded cheese
- Favorite toppings (pepperoni, veggies, etc.)



PUZZLE PIZZA

Instructions:

1. Roll out the dough and cut into puzzle piece shapes using a knife.
2. Spread tomato sauce and sprinkle cheese on each piece.
 3. Add toppings as desired.
4. Bake at 400°F (200°C) for 10–12 minutes, or until golden and bubbly.

FLYING HIGH

WITH GOOD CHOICES

BY JOSIAS R.



MAKING GOOD
CHOICES IS LIKE
SOARING HIGH.

THINK BEFORE YOU
LEAP OR YOU'LL END
UP IN A NEST OF
TROUBLE.



STAY ON YOUR PATH AND
FLAP AWAY FROM
DISTRACTIONS!



Snow days are the perfect time for fun, whether you're sledding, building a snowman, or cozying up by the fire! For outdoor adventures, layer up with a waterproof jacket, insulated snow pants, and warm gloves to stay dry and toasty. Don't forget a snug hat and a scarf to protect against chilly winds. Waterproof boots with good traction will keep your feet warm and safe on slippery surfaces. If you're staying indoors, trade the gear for fuzzy socks, soft sweatpants, and a cozy hoodie or blanket. Whether outside or inside, snow days are all about staying comfortable and having fun! Peace and Happy New Year!

Read this to discover how to make the most of snow days—stay warm, stay safe, and have fun inside or out! ❄️☕



Celebrating A Sports Legend Born in January: Eli Manning by Shalom K

To start 2025, I want to focus on a well known sports figure who was born close to a New Year. Eli Manning, born on January 3, 1981, in New Orleans, Louisiana is one of the most celebrated quarterbacks in NFL history. As the youngest son of former NFL quarterback Archie Manning, Eli grew up in a football-loving family. He followed in the footsteps of his older brother, Peyton Manning, to become a star in his own right. Eli played 16 seasons with the New York Giants, leading the team to two Super Bowl victories in 2008 and 2012, earning MVP honors in both games. Known for his calm demeanor and clutch performances, Eli's leadership on the field cemented his legacy as one of the NFL's greats. ACES, I chose Eli Manning but here some other famous sports figures born in January: boxer Muhammad Ali, running back Derrick Henry, and other quarterbacks Drew Brees, Lamar Jackson, and Joe Flacco. If you look up more, let me know and I would love to talk to you about them. Happy New Year!



**Born in January, Eli Manning: A
Football Legend Who Led the
Giants to Glory!**



What inspired you to work as an individual aide?

I have a family member who is on the spectrum and this helped build my patience and empathy to be able to work in this role.

How do you work with your teacher to help your student succeed?

Working in Tylers class, I make sure we have a very open line of communication so we can share insights into what works best for the student.

What is a way you help your student stay focused and organized?

I always make sure the schedule is in place and referred to a lot with reminders so that we can break the day into manageable chunks and I can guide the student to focus on one task at a time.

Where did you grow up, and what's something unique about your hometown?

I am from Hamden. What always comes to mind for me is the holiday events they would have on the green (Town Center Park).

What is your favorite part of the classroom?

I like how active our room is with cooking and using the funds to do fun stuff in the community.

What's a fun or interesting fact about yourself that most people don't know?

I actually speak three languages- English, Spanish, and Portuguese.

What do you enjoy doing in your free time?

I just love chilling with my dog. His name is Oreo and he is a Shitzu Poodle.

Winter Fun in Stardew Valley! by Chris P

Looking for a fun way to spend your chilly January days? Dive into *Stardew Valley*, a game created by ConcernedApe in 2016 that's perfect for fans of farming simulators and sandbox adventures. It's available on almost every platform, including PC, mobile, consoles, Nintendo Switch, and Steam Deck!

In *Stardew Valley*, you escape your busy city job at Jojacorp and return to your grandpa's old farmhouse in the peaceful Pelican Valley. But surprise—Jojacorp has made its way into your new home too! It's up to you to build up your farm, help restore the town's Community Center, and connect with your neighbors.



You'll improve in five skills:

- 🌾 Farming: Plant crops, care for animals, and grow your farm.
- 🎣 Fishing: Cast your line and catch a variety of fish.
- 🌲 Foraging: Hunt for wild goods like berries and flowers.
- ⚔️ Combat: Fight off creatures in the mines.
- ⛏️ Mining: Dig deep for rare gems and materials.

Winter in the game is awesome. During the "Feast of the Winter Star," you and the townsfolk exchange gifts, spreading joy and holiday spirit. It's like Stardew's version of Christmas, where you can buy goodies from Pierre and give gifts to make others smile!

While *Stardew Valley* doesn't currently have a New Year's Eve celebration in the game, fans are excited about the possibility of a future update adding this event. Who knows what surprises might be around the corner?

Top 5 Outdoor Winter Activities by Braydon C



The Top 5 Scoop



When you think of winter, you may picture cozy mornings sleeping in or rewatching favorite Christmas movies. But in my opinion, the best way to spend a cold, snowy day is enjoying fun outdoor activities. Let's explore why!

5. Sledding: This activity is a really fun way to pass some time and can be easily enjoyed with some friends or family! Try looking for a big snowy hill and make sure the hill doesn't have hazards such as rocks or trees or you will get hurt.

2. Making Snowmen: Can be very rewarding to make one yourself or can be fun to make one with others! Find the necessary ingredients including 10 small pebbles, a carrot, two sticks, don't forget a hat and a scarf. Then roll up 3 snowballs, one big, one medium and one small, then stack the medium on top of the big snowball and the small

4. Snowball Fights: Is great when there is a lot of snow and you have a big group of friends or family! Find a big open area such as a field or your front yard (if you have a big one) as it makes it more fun to run around and throw snowballs...

3. Ice Skating: Although a challenging activity for some, it is also very rewarding and a great challenge for those looking for a tough activity. Those who have trouble balancing, can find a class that teaches ice skating and try it out! You may never know if you enjoy it or not!

1. Winter Hiking: This is one of those activities that many don't mention or remember as much! It is often forgotten as other seasons are typically better to hike in. Some even say that hiking in winter is too cold, but to me it's number one because it makes it 100% unique!

With You, Vanessa: A Poem by Kerron H

With you, my heart feels alive.
You are like a flower in bloom,
Brightening the darkest days.

From the moment we met, I knew
You were meant for me.
You bring sunshine into my life,
And your smile makes everything better.

I love your voice and your eyes.
You are beautiful, my queen, my everything.

One night, under the full moon,
You kissed me, and I felt complete.
In your arms, I find love and peace.

Vanessa, you are my heart, my love, my forever



Raul's Report: An Aces Survey Every Month to Keep You in the Loop!



Happy 2025 ACES. The 2025 College Football Playoff National Championship will feature the Notre Dame Fighting Irish against the Ohio State Buckeyes. This matchup is scheduled for Monday, January 20, 2025 at 7:30 p.m. The game will take place at Mercedes-Benz Stadium in Atlanta, Georgia. If you are interested ACES, the game will be broadcast live on ESPN. Let's see what we think around here and let the debate begin!

Notre Dame To Win

Kathy B 207
Jayden 201
Stacye 215
Leah 215
Johnny V 215
Shaquan 218
Bri 212
Lizzie floater
Shirley 230

Ohio State To Win

Bobby 203
Bridell 203
Pete D 203
AJ BT
Ben 212
Joe 212
Laura 225
Steph 230
Jose 230
Ebony 230

The Aces Rundown By Devon H



Happy New Year Aces, This is your Aces Rundown with Devon H and I'll be reporting you events happening at ACES every month from now on. With Black History Month right around the corner and Martin Luther King Jr's Birthday on January 15th, I wanted to do a write up on this important historical figure.

Martin Luther King Jr was an American Baptist minister, activist, and a political philosopher who was the most prominent leader of the Civil Rights Act. He was born on January 15, 1929 in Atlanta, Georgia, He attended Booker T. Washington High School and skipped both 9th and 10th grade. At age 15, He entered Morehouse College in Atlanta in 1944. He started running movements because he wanted to stop racism and segregation! He faced a lot of obstacles such as people trying to hurt him and the crowd, a lot of hateful comments, and police violence/mistreatment. His "I Have a Dream" speech was for everyone to realize the deep-rooted racial discrimination and the need for changes in civil rights laws in the US. And with all his hard work, MLK Jr. helped change unfair laws and fight against racism, making the country more equal for everyone for many years.

Reminder- Board Game Club is starting back up in the New Year. We have a wide collection of retro video games, role playing games, tabletop games, card games, and more. Stop by 231 at the end of the day on Fridays to learn more!



The Whitney Weekly

The Whitney Weekly returns with a brand new episode on Friday, January 24th. Find out all about our swimming program at the Wallingford YMCA.

The following week, sports reporter Johnny V. will sit down with members of our Eagles basketball team to learn about their season.

Finally, stay tuned for a special guest host this February! Who will it be ???

*** A note from the editor: Happy New Year! We at The Whitney Press are very excited to begin 2025 by putting out our longest paper yet. And remember- we make it a policy to never turn down any members around the school looking to join so just drop on by 231. We want to wish everyone happiness and success in the new year.**