



TIGER TIMES

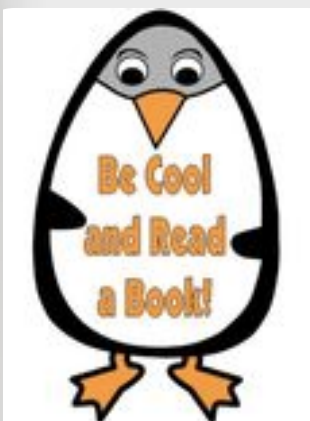


PARP Raffle

Sonya Garcia, Grade 5

Who will win the raffle for PARP? PARP stands for Parents As Reading Partners. You need to read with your parents. There is a raffle for participators; you have to be in it if you want to try to win. There are four weeks of PARP. Here is how you do it: every time you read for one week with a parent you would fill out a PARP slip with your name on it. Then you place your slip in a box

in front of the main office. A name is drawn from the box and the winner will receive a \$25 gift card for Barnes and Noble! All the drawings take place on Friday. If you like to read, this would be great for you! Try your best to win. I wish you luck!



Visit the PV PARP Wiki: <https://pvparp.wikispaces.com/>

<http://pvcsd.org/MS/newspaper/newspaper.php>
Advisors: Mrs. Sherwood & Mrs. Sharp

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Fiddler on the Roof

Sonya Garcia, Grade 5

Friday, May 11 and Saturday, May 12
7:00pm. PVMS Cafetorium

Have you ever heard of the play, "Fiddler on the Roof"? Well the PV Middle School is putting on the play. It's a musical with songs and dances. Ok, on with it then... of course there is music and one of the songs is... "Tradition." You also probably saw the sign that says when the play practice is and what time it begins and ends. Does anyone know the story of this musical? Well, it's about a man with 5 daughters and their experiences as Jewish people living in Russia. All together there are 60 kids in our musical! Mrs. Craane and Ms. Kraus are running it. Guess what? 100 students auditioned! You really need to see this musical! It's so good! Remember, it is on May 11th through 12. Who ever is in the musical, I wish you luck! Enjoy the musical.



Where's the Snow?

Amazing Music

Victoria Clemente, Grade 5

On the 13th of December, the 5th and 6th graders of Putnam Valley Middle School held a band concert. Before the concert some of us performers were asked to play in the lobby before the concert began. One of those people was me. I play the saxophone

My favorite music that we played at the concert was *Frosty the Snowman*. Some of the other songs we played were:

Bold Adventure, The Great Gate of Kiev, The Skaters Waltz, and our last piece was *Ancient Hunters*, which is my favorite.

The 5th and 6th grade concert was very good.



Eighth Grade Chorus Concert

Nicholas Brugnoli, Grade 8

Hooray! Hoorah! The Eighth Grade Chorus Concert was performed on Wednesday, December 21, 2011. They sang such songs as, "The Most Wonderful Time of the Year," "Bidi Bom," and "Double Trouble." At the end of the concert, the seventh grade, (who sang before the eighth grade), joined them on stage and performed the song, "Winter Wonderland." The new seventh and eighth grade chorus teacher is named Mr. Micera. He organizes all of the plays in the high school. He is a very good chorus teacher, and he is a great addition to the middle school. The chorus worked very hard and practiced all year, and it definitely paid off at the concert. As a member of the Eighth Grade Chorus, I think we put a lot of effort and energy into our concert!



The New Year's Ball Drop

Conor Van Riper, Grade 6

Have you ever seen the ball drop in Times Square? Well, here are some facts: the first "Ball Drop" in Times Square was in 1907; the ball was attached to a flagpole, made of wood and iron, and weighed only a couple hundred pounds. In 1955 the design was changed to aluminum, making the ball lighter. The most recent ball from 2011 weighed 11,875 pounds and had over 2,500 triangle Waterford crystals! The coldest ball drop was in 1917 with weather at one degree Fahrenheit and the hottest was fifty-eight degrees in 1965 and 1972. Finally, as the ball begins to drop we enter a new year.



Little Orphan Animeows

Raven Kirby, Grade 5

As you've most likely heard, for their bronze award, the Girl Scout Troop 2173 is collecting dry cat food, wet cat food, old towels, and blankets for *Little Orphan Animals*. Did you know that cats are more neglected than dogs? So those cats need your help! Imagine you're going to sleep on a freezing winter evening, but you can't fall asleep because it's too cold. So you might want to turn up the heat or get a blanket from your closet. However, the *Little Orphan Animals* don't have enough supplies to help all the cats. The cats have to tough it out through the whole freezing night. Wouldn't *you* like to help them? Well, now you can. In front of the main office, there is a bin where you can put your donations. So please, help these cute animeows!

Girl Scout Troop 2173 Members:

Gianna D'Addona
Christine Courtman
Kelly Kennedy
Jessica O'Hare
Samantha Palmo
Jaclyn Pedoty
Jillian Rooney
Olivia Roman
Jacqueline Vaccaro



COMPETITION GOES A LONG WAY!

Our Student Government and Mr. Hanna organized what should have been a simple cereal drive to support our local food pantry. The goal was to donate cereal boxes and the grade that donated the most would be treated to a movie in the cafetorium and of course, bragging rights. What happened next could not have been imagined. The competition was fierce, class against class, student against student, teacher against teacher. In the end, over 1500 cereal boxes were collected. It took lots of helpers, two trucks and a very long trailer to carry the supply to the food pantry!

Congratulations to our 6th grade class who won the movie day. A little competition certainly brought out the best in us and the result was great for the community.



Grades 7/8 Band Concert

Tyrique Scantlebury, Grade 8

The 7th and 8th grade band concert dynamics. And the final song, was a huge success! Everyone who Engines of Resistance was a loud, fast, played did a great job and all of their intense song. I feel the concert and hard work paid off. The concert, the students playing were fantastic. which was the 14th of December, was Both grades did wonderful and it was amazing. The 7th and 8th grade a very successful concert. played both on the same night. The 7th grade played the songs: "Conundrum", "Morning Song", and "Marches of the Armed Forces". The 8th grade played the songs: "Alpine Meadow", "Cumberland Cross", and "Engines of Resistance". I was in the 8th grade band concert playing the alto saxophone. The song, Alpine Meadow, was a slow, peaceful song. It had lots of quiet dynamics and rises of loud and soft sounds. The song Cumberland Cross is a fast, loud-pitched song with lots of strong

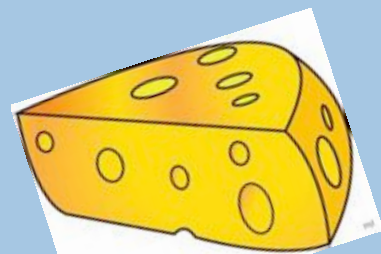


The Big Cheese Drop

Elizabeth Mao, Grade 5

Remember your television screaming at you that it's a New Year? That was mine. The Big Cheese Drop takes place in Plymouth, Wisconsin. The Big Cheese Drop takes place in front of the Plymouth Art Center. There is free Hot Chocolate from 11:45 p.m.-12:15. If you go to Wisconsin to watch "The Cheese", remember to get the free hot chocolate. Who doesn't like free things? Here's the address: 520 E. Mill Street, Downtown Plymouth. You can look on *You Tube* for the Big Cheese Drop video. I looked on this site: http://www.plymoutharts.org/events/special_events/new_years_eve/new_years_eve.html

Remember to bring me some hot chocolate!





Bake Sale for Food Pantry

Mrs. Petrillo and Mrs. Aquillino's classes joined forces to organize a bake sale to benefit the Putnam Valley Food Pantry this past holiday season.

Students learned first hand what it takes to organize this type of event. Students baked, decorated, cleaned, displayed and sold goodies to our Putnam Valley Middle School Community.

The students made over \$250 for the Food Pantry. Great job!





Mr. Turner teaches 6th and 7th grade Physical Education. Mr. Turner also teaches 8th grade Health.

Mr. Turner said he loves it here at Putnam Valley Middle School... in fact Mr. Turner said “he loves all the positive atmosphere here; everyone helps each other”.

Extra Extra Read All About Mr. Turner

Johnny Orlando, Grade 5

I am here to give you information about our new teacher, Mr. Turner. I had a chance to ask him some questions.

Mr. Turner graduated at Central Connecticut State University to become a teacher. Mr. Turner, welcome to our school!!!!



Welcome Mr. Turner



Emma Longden and Kristen Sepa flash a smile while working hard!

HO HO HOLIDAY CONCERT

Raven Kirby, Grade 5

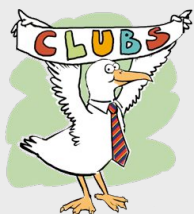
On December 21st the 5th and 6th graders of Putnam Valley Middle School performed in a holiday chorus concert. All the songs they sang were holiday related. Some of those songs were: “How Many Nights”, a Hanukah song, “Winter Troika Ride”, a winter song, “My Favorite Things”, a song from the play/movie *Sounds of Music* and “Christmas in About Three Minutes”, a song with 25 small parts of Christmas songs inside it. All the chorus members did an outstanding job! The bad thing is that they have to wait until May to perform again!



Clubs and Activities

Nick Brugnoli, Grade 8

As you already know, there are many clubs and activities in our school. For instance, Newspaper Club is where any kid can write an article about events that are going on in school. It is run by Mrs. Sherwood and Mrs. Sharp. The newspaper is published three times during the school year; one during late November to early December, one during late February to early March, and one during June. Newspaper Club is a great opportunity to write about fun things that are happening. Another club in our school is i-Team. It is run by Mrs. Sherwood. In i-Team, you learn cool tricks about computers, you learn about new technologies, and you even fix the projectors, printers, and Smart Boards in our school, (and sometimes you may go to the high school to do that). Another club is i-Voice. It is also run by Mrs. Sherwood. In i-Voice, you use pictures to create slideshows and videos about fun things that happen in our school, like the Halloween Dance, Color Day, and more. Another club is the Go-Green Club. It is run by Mr. Carlin. In the Go-Green Club, kids recycle the cans and bottles in our school. The next club is Intramural Club. It is run by the gym teachers. In Intramural Club, kids can come into the gym before school and play any sport they want to with their friends. It is a nice way to be active and get some exercise. Finally, there are after school sports. They are run by various middle and high school teachers or other adults in the area. There are different sports throughout the school year, depending on the season. There are fall, winter, and spring sports. Playing a sport is a great way to stay healthy, be active, and have a lot of fun. Our school has a lot of great clubs and activities that are fun, creative, and teach kids new things.



What Happened to the Chain Reaction Club?

Matthew Scolaro, Grade 8

What has happened to the Chain Reaction Club? Last year, we had the Chain Reaction Club which was a model off of Rachel's Challenge. The club set up boxes that allowed students to put paper slips showing good acts done by a student. These boxes were collected and were stapled and hung across the hallway by the club. We had at least 300 rings and were very successful. The club faded away at the end of the year and did not start this year. What happened, and are we able to bring it back?



Preparing for Winter

Nicholas Brugnoli, Grade 8

Playing in the snow, drinking hot chocolate, and sitting by the fireplace. You know what that means... winter! This year, winter began on December 22. Winter may be fun, but you should definitely be prepared for snowstorms. If you know a storm is coming, you should make sure you have plenty of bottled water, because if the power goes out, you won't have running water. When towns have city water, it means that the city or county controls their water, so when the power goes out, they have running water. It may not be hot, but at least they have water. Unfortunately, Putnam Valley and Cortlandt Manor have well water, meaning that we have no running water at all. Before a storm, you need to make sure you have flashlights or lanterns. This is important, because if you don't have power, you will need to see when it gets dark. You could easily trip or fall down the stairs without lights. Having a lantern can allow you to do things, like reading a book, playing a board game with your family, or giving you some light while you're eating. Speaking of food, it is important to have some non-perishable food that won't require using heat, like bread, fruit, cookies, chips, and other things. This is because without power, you won't be able to use your stove or oven. Also, your refrigerator won't have power during a power outage, so all of the meat and dairy products will spoil within a day.

Black Friday

Matthew Scolaro, Grade 8

Black Friday was here! Black Friday is the day after Thanksgiving when prices for merchandise drop substantially. This drop in prices greatly attracts shoppers everywhere. People go out very early in the morning to find these deals. Many stores open at 4:00 A.M. Many people crowd the stores in the morning. Last year at Wal-Mart, a man was trampled and killed while shopping during Black Friday. This event shows how much Black Friday means to people. There was actually a controversy where PC Richards complained about certain stores opening on the day before Thanksgiving. They said these stores show "little respect for employees and their families, and have no respect for family values in the USA." A couple of these stores were Wal-Mart, CVS, and Walgreens.



Congratulations, Mr. Ignatz and Mrs. Petrillo

Nicholas Brugnoli, Grade 8

The Putnam Valley Middle School would like to welcome a new baby! Mr. Ignatz's wife had a baby girl in mid-January, named Ava. This is his second child. Mr. Ignatz is a very intelligent and funny earth science teacher, and we would all like to congratulate him on his wonderful new baby!



Congratulations to Mrs. Petrillo too!

Let's all welcome Kayleigh Beth Petrillo, born January 16th, 2012. This is Mr. and Mrs. Petrillo's first child. Have fun and enjoy your new bundle!

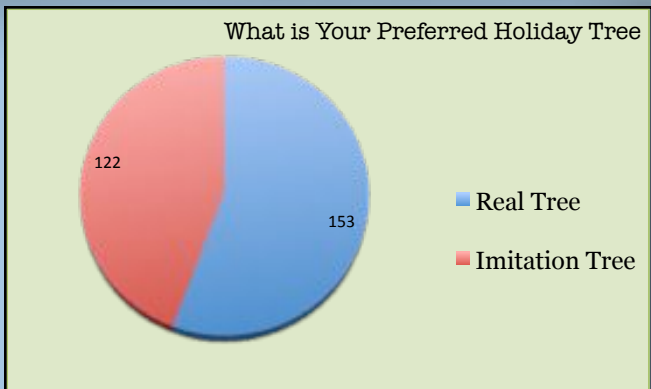
POLL RESULTS

Raven Kirby, Grade 5

Do you prefer a live holiday tree or an imitation holiday tree?

I took a poll during the holiday season. I was wondering how many people had a real holiday tree or an imitation holiday tree. By looking at the results it seems that more students preferred a real holiday tree.

**There are 571 students in our school. 275 students responded to my poll. 48% of all of the students in this school responded to my poll!
153 students preferred a real tree.
122 students preferred an imitation tree.**



Making It On Time

Owen Gifford-Smith, Grade 6

Have you, or your kids, ever had a hard time getting to class before the bell rings? The more complex your schedule, the longer it takes to get your stuff from your locker, go to the bathroom, and get to class. Since there is no running in the hallways, many kids have to skip going to the bathroom and they miss important things while at their locker. The school policy is that you have four minutes in between bells. Teachers often complain about kids asking to go to the bathroom or not being prepared for class. After some research, I discovered that an unburdened student, who stops and takes the necessary time at the locker and bathroom, ends up late by 3 seconds. The student in this measurement has two advantages; they aren't carrying anything and most teachers don't punish for a tardiness of three seconds. More research revealed that a student who is carrying his bags and takes the necessary time for stops takes a total of 4 minutes and 25 seconds. This student would be in trouble when this happened once. They would lose their recess. When it happens twice, the student would be placed in SAP and lose their recess. Three times and the student would have their parents called and SAP.

This research was done with the same student and between the cafeteria and Mr. McCarty's room, which is a distance many students have to walk.



Congratulations to our November recipients of Student of the Month awards.



Hats off to our December Student of the Month recipients too!



Megan O'Leary accepts her Student of the Month award at the December celebration.



Angelo Vazeos at the podium as Mrs. Bale shares his accomplishments at the November ceremony.



Valentine's Day

Erika Seidman, Grade 6

Love is in the air! As you celebrate the festive day of Valentine's Day, remember these few facts: Valentine's Day is always on February 14th. Did you know that it is celebrated in only some countries of the world? Well, it is. The day is named after one or more early Christian martyrs named St. Valentine. It was established by Pope Gelasius I in 496 AD. It is a holiday used for people to celebrate their love and affection between them. Enjoy the spirit of Valentine's Day.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Valentine%27s_Day



Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Sonya Garcia, Grade 5



Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. day was on January 16, 2012. As we might know, Dr. King was a magnificent speaker. His story begins on January 15, 1929 when he was born. In 1957 he was elected president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. Between 1957 and 1968 King traveled over six million miles and spoke over twenty-five hundred times, appearing where there was injustice and protest. During this time he also wrote 5 books. He directed the peaceful march on Washington, D.C., of 250,000 people to whom he delivered his address, "I Have a Dream". He also spoke with President John F. Kennedy and campaigned for President Lyndon B. Johnson. He was arrested more than twenty times and assaulted at least four times. Martin was named "Man of the Year" by Time magazine in 1963; he was the leader of American blacks and was a world figure. Martin at 35, won the Nobel Peace Prize. Dr. King was to lead a protest march in sympathy with striking garbage workers of Memphis, Tennessee. On the evening of April 4, 1968, while on the balcony of his motel room in Memphis, he was assassinated. So on Martin Luther King Jr. day think about his story. He was a great man.

Sources: http://www.nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/peace/laureates/1964/king-bio.html

Love Around the World

Raven Kirby , Grade 5

In case you didn't know, Valentine's Day is celebrated differently in other countries. For most of us, Valentine's Day is a day where people give chocolate, roses, cards, and go out with their *sweetheart*. But it's a whole different story in other countries. For example, in Japan they have an interesting way of celebrating. On February 14, females give dark chocolate to all the males they know. On March 14 the males return the favor. This day is called white day because males give females white chocolates. In Spain a *stylish extravaganza* is held on Valentines Day. Arrangements are made months in advanced to honor and welcome this special holiday. People tour stores looking for love tokens for their sweetheart. Stores put up traditional attires for men and women who try to look their best and impress their sweethearts. In Spain no matter what their age is or if they're married or not, everyone takes place in the true meaning of Saint Valentines Day. In Chile romantic getaways are popular on Valentines Day. There are plenty of natural sights and scenes for people to enjoy; Whether it's going to the Hill Station in Santiago or simply cruising through the exotic beaches of Pichidangu. Other than the exotic tours on Valentines Day in Chile, the Valentine's Day celebrations are all mostly like the ways we celebrate it. Who knew there was more to Valentines day than just exchanging chocolates, flowers, and love notes? If you're ever thinking about traveling to another country, Valentines Day might be the time to go!





Tebow Time

Matt Scolaro, Grade 8

Tim Tebow is a professional quarterback for the

Denver Broncos of the NFL. Tim Tebow's career started at The University Of Florida as the starting quarterback. He was drafted the next year due to his quarterback skill and willpower. Some thought his skills would not translate to the NFL. He has been in the NFL for two years. Many people have taken a liking to him, like me, or some who don't think he is a very good quarterback and just gets lucky with his passes. Many criticize him because of his minimal passing. In one of the regular season games, he only passed the football 8 times and only completed 2 of them. He ran the ball 58 times! This game was nicknamed "The Super Eight Game" because of his eight passes only thrown. Tebow carried the Broncos to the playoffs with an 8-8 record.

They played the Steelers in their first playoff game Sunday, January 8th, 2011 in which they tied and entered overtime. Then, out of nowhere, Tebow completed an 80-yard touchdown pass to Demaryius Thomas. After that, the Patriots destroyed them the next week, 45-10. Tebow's effect on pop culture was also significant. "Tebowing" is an act of getting down on one knee and praying. Tim Tebow does this before and after games and sometimes in the games. He does this because he is a devout Christian. Also, the 4th quarter has been renamed "Tebow Time" by fans because of Tebow's great amount of 4th quarter comebacks. Certainly Tebow's skill has made him an important quarterback. Here are his career stats:

Passing yards: 2,383
Touch Downs: 17
Passer Rating: 75.1



The Box Tops Raffle

Elizabeth Mao, Grade 5

If you put in your box tops for the raffle, collect even MORE! Did you know that \$59 million dollars was collected nationwide last year? Maybe this year we can collect more!



Valentine's Day Means Flowers

Elizabeth Mao, Grade 5

Pink, red and white. Do these colors remind you about Valentine's Day? You can't forget about Valentine's Day.

Here at PVMS, there is a carnation sale which began on Monday, January 30th. Students and staff can order a carnation for \$1.00. The flower and a note will be delivered to their Valentine on Valentine's day by a messenger. I wonder who will get a flower?

The money is being collected by Mrs. Aquilino and Mrs. Pratt's classes and will go to support the local Putnam Valley Food Pantry.



CHINESE NEW YEAR

Elizabeth Mao, Grade 5

Chinese New Year Is January 23, 2012. The Chinese calendar is different than our calendar. According to the Chinese calendar, we are in the year 4,017 and we are in the year of the dragon. The Chinese have a fifteen-day break. In those fifteen days, the people go and spend time with their family. They give each other red envelopes filled with little things like money. On Chinese New Year, they celebrate with fireworks and dancing. Soon they eat a large meal full of different types of Chinese cuisine.



Movie Reviews

Elizabeth Mao, Grade 5

- * *The Muppets*
- * *Alvin and the Chipmunks*
- * *Puss and Boots*

The Muppets

I saw a movie called, *The Muppets* on December 17, 2011 with some of my friends. It was a great movie. It was full of laughter, a sad part, an evil villain with so much money and, of course, the funny Muppets. Kermit and Miss Piggy tell about their heartbroken past. They travel by map that takes them under the ocean to Paris. They also explode bombs, run businesses and sing terrible songs. You can't go wrong with *The Muppets* movie so go see it today!

Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked

I saw the movie called *Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked* on December 22, 2011. It's a great movie. The Chippets and the Chipmunks start their adventure on a cruise ship then Alvin, the mischievous chipmunk decided to hang glide. All the chipmunks get carried away on the hang glider. But Dave and Ian get off by accident. They go

through a jungle and meet a crazy girl. They also have to run away from the island from a raging volcano on the island. Along the way, strange things happen to block their path. I recommend this movie to all ages.

Puss in Boots

Puss in Boots is a twist on a classic fairytale. Humpty Dumpty and Jack and Jill play the evil villains. Puss and another cat are good guys. They all go on a quest for legendary beans from the story of *Jack and the Bean Stalk*. I saw this movie on Sunday, December 4, 2011. The movie

theater was filled with children and adults. It is a great comedy-filled movie. The people were laughing non-stop throughout the movie. I would rate this movie five stars. Even my mom loved it so much. *Puss in Boots* is really a movie to watch.



Holidays Around the World

Raven Kirby, Grade 5

What is Christmas?

Christmas is a holiday celebrated by most Protestants and Catholics. Trees are put inside people's living room and decorated. [Some people have real trees that they buy at a Christmas tree farm, while others buy fake ones] Christmas carols and songs are played almost everywhere you go. Another thing about Christmas is Santa Claus [also known as Saint Nicholas]. Saint Nick was a real person who gave gifts to the poor. Gifts are given to friends and realities in honor of Saint Nick. But to most people, the most important thing about Christmas is that this was the day Jesus Christ was born. Christmas takes place on December 25. *Merry Christmas*



What is Hanukkah?

Hanukkah is a holiday celebrated by people who are Jewish. It started out with the Maccabees in 139 B.C.E [before common era] These people had enough oil in their lantern for one night, but it turned out that the oil lasted for eight nights! That's why Hanukkah lasts for eight nights. Some people think that it's not fair that Christmas doesn't last for eight days. I think the people who wish that just want eight days of presents. They're not really thinking about the true meaning of Christmas. Anyway, Hanukkah is celebrated with a menorah. A menorah is a candle holder that holds multiple candles, one on each of its branches that connects to the center of the menorah. For Hanukkah the menorah has 8 branches which represent the eight nights of Hanukkah. A Hebrew prayer is said for each night of Hanukkah. Relatives come over with food and presents. A food is often brought, they're called latkes. Latkes are potato pancakes. A lot of Jewish people enjoy playing with a dreidel. A dreidel looks like a mix between a top and a dice. There are four sides on it

and each side has a Hebrew sign. A game is played with this dreidel. [You may use chocolate coins as a winning token]. Spin the dreidel and whatever sign it lands on, chocolate coins are either given or taken away. Hanukkah is a holiday to look forward to. If you celebrate it, you know what I'm talking about.

What is Kwanzaa?

Kwanzaa is a holiday celebrated by African American people. It is a week long celebration of feast and gift-giving. It started out in 1966 by an African American named Dr. Maulana Karenga. He started this holiday because he wanted African Americans to be able to celebrate their heritage. Kwanzaa starts on December 26, and ends on January 1. People often fast during Kwanzaa. [this means that you don't eat any food, or just eat certain food for a period of time.] Doing this is a means of cleansing the mind, soul and spirit. During one of the eight nights of Kwanzaa there is something called a candlelight ceremony. The ceremony starts with a TAMBIKO, which is an African form of prayer.

Everyone gathers for this, even the children are encouraged to take a role in this. Everyone prays personal thoughts to their ancestors. Then the elder of the household pours wine, or juice, into a special cup. After the TAMBIKO the elder leads the call HARAMBEE [let's pull together.] Then everyone repeats the word seven times. At last it is time to light one of the candles. Like Hanukkah, the Kwanzaa candles are held in a candelabrum. One candle is lit every night. The center candle is black because it represents all African Americans. The three red candles on the left represent the blood of the ancestors. Three green candles represent earth, life, idea, and promise for the future. The green candles are on the right side of the candelabrum. On the evening of December 31, day six of Kwanzaa, there is KARAMU; a joyful celebration with food, drink, dance, and music for the whole family. This is a time of rejoicing, and recommitment. Who knew that a simple idea could become an enormous holiday?



TIGER TIMES



PUTNAM VALLEY

MIDDLE SCHOOL

