 veryone talks about getting gifts for Christmas but not everyone talks about how they GIVE to others who aren't as fortunate as they are. These people give to our community. Some may give more or less than others but they are all making a difference in other's lives. Hannah S. has raked an older neighbor's yard. Alec M. goes with his baseball team and cleans up the park. Arin S. helps the elderly and he helps at church. Riley P. helps at his friend's church. Garrett M. splits wood for the elderly people. Chris C. helps his grandma clean up her house. Lincoln D. goes and does the clean up with his 4-H group, shovels snow for other people and helps with the recycling at his church. Hunter works at the nursing home and helps to make the Christmas dinner. These were all things students do, but teachers can do community service too. Mrs. Sheets \& Mrs. McMahan give to Goodwill, Personal needs See page 2 for more.


North Union Middle School and High School students recently competed in the VEX Gateway Competition in Marion, OH. There were 22 teams from several other Marion-area schools competing for a chance to compete at the VEX World Final Competition in Anaheim CA in April. One of our NUMS teams, Austin D. and Nick H., participated in the competition and won the Judges Award for being the only middle school team competing $\bullet$ that day. All 21 other teams were high school. Austin and Nick pictured above), as well as a second NUMS team (Jalyn W, Bri S, Karissa Mc, Avery B) will be competing again in February at another similar competition, hoping for another chance to qualify for the VEX World Finals in Anaheim! Good Luck:)

This recipe looks awesome. Give it a try for something nice and sweet this holiday season. Ingredients:
3 c. sugar
3/4 c. butter ( 1 1/2 sticks) 1 pkg. ( 6 oz .) semi-sweet chocolate pieces
2/3 c. evaporated milk (5 1/3
oz.)
1 jar (7 oz.) Kraft marshmallow creme
1/2 c. peanut butter (crunchy or cream style)
1 tsp. vanilla
Directions:
Combine 1 1/2 cups sugar, 6 tablespoons butter and 1/3 cup milk in heavy $1 \mathbf{1 / 2}$ quart saucepan. Bring to full rolling boil, stirring constantly. Continue boiling 4 minutes over medium heat, stirring constantly to prevent scorching. Remove from heat; stir in chocolate pieces until melted. Add 1 cup marshmallow creme and $\mathbf{1 / 2}$ teaspoon vanilla; beat until well blended. Pour into greased 13x9 inch pan. Repeat above steps substituting peanut butter for chocolate pieces. Spread over chocolate layer. Cool at room temperature; cut into squares. Yield: 3 pounds.
http://www.cooks.com/ rec/view/0,187,144173253207,00.html

1. Let's start with Google Chrome.
2. Google Chrome is the new, well, somewhat new, browser that completely stomps out all the competition in my opinion. This web browser gives you so much more than Firefox, Opera, and definitely Internet Explorer. As I like to say, all Internet Explorer is good for is downloading a new browser.
There's this thing called the Chrome Web Store; it's like App Store is to Apple as Chrome Web Store is to Google Chrome. You can get apps, games, browser themes, and even these things called extensions. Extensions are special actions that your browser can do once you download them; I have this one called "Rage Faces for Chrome". If anyone reads Rage Comics, you'll know what I'm talking about. In Facebook, Google+ (which we'll talk about later), and Twitter, it allows you to insert the faces by using a simple code like :trollface: or :nyan: to make the awesome and sometimes animated icons appear. Unfortunately, only other Chrome users can see it.
3. Next comes Google+.

Google + is Googles creation which mimics both Facebook and Twitter. You can follow people and look at their status updates, IM them, edit your profile and personalize it, play games, etc. But there is one distinctive feature that all the other social networks don't have; thier called Circles.
4. Circles are little groups for putting your followers and people your following where they belong. Preset Circles include "Friends" and "Acquaintances", but you can always make your own. In book club? Make a Circle and add your people who are in it to that circle. Have a few BFFFLFETDAANFI (Best Friends Forever For Life For Eternity Till Death And Always Never Forget It; via Katie W.)? Make a circle for them. Keep your people organized.
5. Google Books, Google Music, Google SketchUp, and even Google Documents, which I am using to type this right now, are all great features that the Google Corperation has put out.
They are an empire. And they will NEVER DIE.



By: Brei L
7. Pearl Harbor Day 12. Poinsettia Day
21. Chanukah last 8 days
22. Winter Solstice
(Shortest day of the year)
23. Festival-
for the rest of us
25. Christmas
26. Boxing Day
26. Kwanzaa
27. National Fruitcake Day
31. New Year's Eve

Jokse胃B

What is the favorite Christmas carol for new parents?

## International Rummy: A Great Time-Killer for Winter.

Okay, so you've done all your puzzles, played Yahtzee and Monopoly a million times, and your dog ate half of the tiles to Scrabble. What now? I'll tell you what; international rummy.

International rummy is a card game, usually played with 2-4 people. If you play with any more than that, it gets pretty confusing. So, you use $\mathbf{2}$ decks of cards, shuffle them together, and then you follow these rules.
Deal 15 cards to each player.
Look for sets and runs in your hand.
A set is any card of the same kind; they can be different colors or suits. For example, 3 of clubs, 3 of spades, and 3 of diamonds would be a set of 3 .
A run is a continuous string of cards of the same suit going upwards or downwards in order. For example, 9, 10, J, Q, and K of hearts would be a run of 5 .
Deuces (2s) are wild cards. They can be placed anywhere in any hand, no matter what suit, color, pattern or number. For example, 5 of spades, 6 of spades, 2 of diamonds, 8 of spades would be a run of 4 including a deuce, and J of diamonds, J of hearts, and 2 of hearts would be a run of 3 including a deuce.
You must use the rule for that hand, e.g., you can't just put down a run of $\mathbf{7}$ and a run of 5 when the rule is $\mathbf{2}$ runs of 4. These are the hand rules:
Hand 1 - 2 sets of 3 ( 6 cards played).
Hand 2-1 run of 4, 1 set of 3 ( 7 cards played).
Hand 3-2 runs of 4 (8 cards played).
Hand 4-3 sets of 3 ( 9 cards played).
Hand 5-1 run of 7, 1 set of 3 ( 10 cards played).
Hand 6-1 run of 5, 2 sets of 3 (11 cards played).
Hand $7-3$ runs of 4 ( 12 cards played).
Hand 8-1 run of 10, 1 set of 3 ( 13 cards played).
Hand 9-2 runs of 7 ( 14 cards played).
Hand 10-3 runs of 5 (15/all cards played).
Your main objective is to get rid of all of your cards before the other person does. You need to get down first so that they are stuck with all the points. After you lay down, you draw from the deck until you get cards that play on what you just laid down, or what your opponent has laid down yet, if they have. You can pick up cards your opponents have discarded, also. Pay attention to what the other person/people are collecting, so you can keep what they're collecting either to keep them down or play on their hands when they do.
Also, if you play all of your cards, but have nothing to discard, keep drawing cards until you get a card that does not play so you can discard it. Only then are you officially out of cards, even considering that you would have 0 points still if your opponent/s were to go down.
Whenever someone discards a card that plays and doesn't notice, yell "rummy!", pick it up, play it, and discard.
Any cards you have left in your hand must be counted as points. Scoring goes like this:
Numbers up to 10-5 points.
10s and face cards - 10 points.
Aces - 15 points.
Deuces (2s) - 20 points.
The person with the lowest score by the end of the game wins.

## Side notes:

Turns go clockwise.
Remember; draw, play, discard.
Card laid is card played; no taking back discards.
Buys - take someones discard out of turn, and also take one from the top of the deck. More cards, but better chance. 3 per round, 5 on last 2 rounds.
To play on someone who has deuces on a run, you can replace the deuces with the cards that belong there. Move the deuces up or down in the run after replacing them. Only available until run goes deuce to ace (no places to move deuce).

My parents and I play this all the time, and it's a really fun game.
If there are any questions about the game (because it can be pretty confusing), just find me on Facebook, Twitter (RamenAndNyan), Google+, give a note about it to Mrs. McMahon (the head honcho), or just come up and ask me in the hallway. I'm sure I'll be able to help.

## Mason's Tech Holiday Gift Guide.

Ah, Christmas. That time of year when you get everything you want... oh yeah, and, giving and stuff. Now, I know that some people won't get everything they want, or much at all even, because a lot of families are on a low budget, because the economy sucks. Well, I can't help you there, because my area of expertise it tech. And when you think about it, tech isn't usually very cheap. So, here's my holiday gift guide regarding tech, and not budget shopping.

Cell Phones: iPhone 4S.
Ah, the almighty Apple iPhone.
The one thing thats been on everyone's Christmas list since it first came out. Siri, dual A4 processor chips, brand new redesigned camera, and of course, iOS5. I'm planning on getting one for Christmas myself, and when I do, I'll post a review.
Coming up in close second is the Droid Bionic, because of it's epic laptop attachment.
Gaming: XBOX 360 Elite w/ Skyrim and Modern Warfare 3.
Ah, yes. I've created my own little dream promo package.
Even though I have a PlayStation 3, I really prefer XBOX for it's layout and stuff. The only downfall; you don't have to pay for PlayStation Network, because you can just hook your PS3 up to your Wi-Fi. But with XBOX, you have to pay $\$ 20$ a month to play on XBOX Live. Enough of that. Let's have a look at Skyrim. It's this brand new epic adventure game by Bethesda, and from what my friends have said, it's a really good game. I'm also planning on getting this for Christmas, along with Modern Warfare 3. Do I really need to explain that?
Close second is taken by Battlefield 3.
Computing: Google Chromebook.
Okay, so I was going to use the Apple Macbook Air here, but then I found something better.
I use Google for just about everything; Google Search for web searching, Google Documents for word processing, Google Earth for looking at peoples houses and famous landmarks from above (doesn't everyone?), and I ESPECIALLY love Google Chrome, which you can read about in my "Google Dynasty Lives On" article. Well this thing has all of that and more. And, it's also only $\mathbf{\$ 2 5 0} \mathbf{- \$ 3 5 0}$. That's a good deal for such a great device.
At very very VERY close second comes the Apple Macbook Air 15".
TV Accessories: Boxee w/ Boxee Live TV.
Okay, so Boxee is this little box that hooks up to your TV, and your Wi-Fi, and it's kinda like netflix on your TV, only a million times better. On the Boxee box, you can get movies, TV shows, music, games, apps, stored files, and social networking. XBOX, DirecTV, Netflix, iPod Touch, and a computer all in one. Pretty cool, right?
And then there's this new thing that they just came out with called Boxee Live TV. You basically plug this USB device into the Boxee box, plug the cable cord into the back of the USB thing, and viola! You have cheap, cheap, cheap cable.
The close second in this category was... hmm, the Roku XDS or Apple TV.
Music: Studio Beats by Dr Dre.
Okay, I know these are waaaay expensive for headphones, but I had to squeeze them in. I want these so bad. They are the best headphones in the business right now, stomping out all competition, even Skullcandies. The downside? Their price; about $\$ 300-\$ 400$. Wow.
Close second would have to be and Skullcrushers by Skullcandy.
Stocking Stuffers: (The Less Expensive Stuff).
Callpod Chargepod - charges up to 7 gadgets at once.
Best Buy Gift Card - with all the technology in modern society, Best Buy gave their gift cards a little twist; it doubles as a speaker for iPod, laptop, smartphone, etc. Pretty epic.
Target Gift Card - totally copying off of Best Buy, Target has turned their gift cards into 1.2 megapixel digital cameras. Also pretty epic.

This Month in Band Bygllizbeth As usual weare playthg our instrur ments, butinthemonth ofDerember MirL really challengesustogetall of ourmusisdown pats 50 ourconcertis fantastics Alll band studentsereworking very long hoursend hardtop preparefor the Ghristmas concerton December 14 Ath © 7 O'tlodkpm, The 6 th grade band lis performing Jolly old St Nick Housetopy Ingle Bell Boogit, and last butnotleast.Dedktherlalls, The band isworking hard to perfegtthese songs towownimthe erowd thezth and 8th grade band lis performinglutile ${ }^{2}$ N Nidk GhpmunkSong, Gharlie Brown Ghrist masSongzand Ukrantum Bell carol our Goncertwentwell hopeyou|liked it

## This Month in Choir By: Elizabeth C.

This month in choir, students have been practicing on their songs for the concert on December 14th at 7 pm . The 6th is performing The bull frog, I have a dream, Amani Utupe, and Fun fun fun. The 7th and 8th are performing Shalom Pacem Peace, Dorji, Grease(highlights), and Carol of the Bells. All the choirs are singing The Manger Carol. This is a slow but not soft (a remainder for the choir) pretty song. Hope to see you there. Thank you for reading the paws and prints. Performance pic below.


## Bethany's Cool Electronic

 Stuff of the Month.This is a pic list of what I have chosen to be the best gadgets for December. Check out the website hriqpel/huwwsthnilkgeckoom/gad goctl


Yeah $\sim$ this used to be MasonT's column, but he let me have it because he is such a cool guy, Not! Actually he is working on a big column about Google Apps \& Chrome. BethanyS.




## $\underset{\text { COMPETITION }}{\text { fuTur }}$

The future city team has been working very hard on their model (see the pic below) and their essay. They have done a great job keeping track of time and working had. To show just how had they have been working Allyia N. has taken a picture of their very large mess. As you can see they have used many materials especially recycled material to accomplish the task of creating their model. We hope this year's competition will be the best one yet. Members of the team working on the model below include Natalie S., Mason S., Austin D., Jalyn W., Avery B., Bri S., Grace H., Abby D. Cameron T., and Emma H. By Natalie S.


## Anwers for the Jokes. By Madison P.

\#1 -- A sad candy cane!! \#2 -- No, I wouldn't know what to feed them!!
\#3 --"Silent Night"!! \#4 -- Your Christmas List!!

(Kinda like a cross between a riddle and a quiz!) How many can you figure out?!

1. Where would you go to hear Silver Bells?
2. Who was it that danced with the silk hat on his head? $\qquad$
3. Where would you find Reindeer Paws??
4. What did the cattle do to wake the poor baby? $\qquad$
5. When did I see those three ships?
6. What size were those Kings of the Orient??
7. What is it that helps to make the season bright.?
8. Who wants a pair of hop-a-long boots, and a pistol that shoots?
9. Who still wants a hula a hoop?
10. Who kept time to the drum?

Have you visited the library lately? If not, you are in for a real treat! There are exciting changes going on at the Richwood Library. Stop in and check out our new young adult selection which includes fiction, non-fiction, and graphic novels. If that is not enough, we have new movies, magazines, and books on CD. Come in and check it all out today!

With the holidays right around the corner and schools closing the library is the perfect place to hang out! Do you think checking out a couple great books or a movie over the holidays is a lame idea? Think again with all these exciting choices at the library!
-Learn to play the guitar over break with the great book The Guitar by Frank Cappelli, which includes step by step instructions for guitar enthusiasts.
-Listen to Mockingjay by Suzanne Collins with Audiobook on CD before it hits the theaters March 2012. This is the final book of the intense and wildly popular Hunger Games series.
-Watch the DVD,Pirates of the Caribbean on Stranger Tides, the latest addition to the Pirates of the Caribbean collection featuring Johnny Depp.
-Read Perfect by Ellen Hopkins which tells the story of four teens who go to extremes for perfection in their lives. What would you give up to be perfect? Ellen Hopkins is the New York Times bestselling author of Crank, Burned, Impulse and many more!
-Check out the book The Power of Six by Pittacus Lore. It follows the first book of the Lorien Legacies series, I Am Number Four. Heard of the movie? Well check out the book for more powerful details and join the characters as they outrun death and prepare to fight!

You will find these materials and so much more at the library! Don't forget that we will be having Teen Game Night on December 20th at 4:30 pm at the library. Come hang out that night for free pizza, soda, wii games, and lots of fun!

Happy Holidays!
"Outside a dog, a book is man's best friend. Inside a dog, it's too dark to read."
-Groucho Marx

## Christmas Word Search

 $\begin{array}{llllllllllllllll}F & R & Q & N & G & L & E & T & O & B & A & R & N & R & V & I\end{array}$ C $W$ N I A I I T N Y ME I US N $M \quad O \quad E \quad A \quad N \quad C \quad E \quad M \quad E \quad A \quad T \quad S \quad F \quad D \quad T \quad S$ $\begin{array}{llllllllllllllll}Y & L & O & D & M & L & Y & N & A & U & S & E & F & O & H & E\end{array}$
 OE LS I I N K N U R T T P IC $R \quad U \quad$ I OH E E T TA H S S H L A $\begin{array}{llllllllllllllll}\text { F } & M & H & C & H & Y & S & S & T & O & C & K & I & N & G & S\end{array}$


candycane chimney
Christmas
cookies
cranberries
elves
family
holly
lights
mistletoe
ornament presents reindeer
Rudolph
Santa
sleigh
stockings
stuffing
tinsel
turkey

