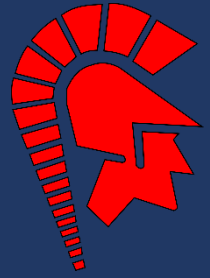


# Trojan Horse Magazine

December 2020

Volume 3, Issue 3



## It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas



### Winter is here!

December is a season of holidays and acts of kindness. It's a good time to appreciate the people around us.

Cover Artwork by  
Lilly Scarsone

I'm keeping busy making gifts for my friends and family. In this issue we have several ideas for gift making. And if you enjoy making things, check out the new Maker Mondays projects coming in January or our Hooks and Books club, starting after the holiday break.

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# News and Notices

## Morning Announcements

Don't miss our school video announcements!  
You can watch them from home on your  
remote learning days from our school website.

<https://www.swcsk12.org/Page/1167>

## Maker Mondays

Maker Mondays is a fun event open to all students. Every other week we gather on Zoom after school to make a project together. Most supplies are provided. We are starting a new session in January. If you would like to join, complete the sign-up form on the Library+ Team or email Miss Zdrojewski.

## Hooks and Books

Join this fun after school group to learn how to crochet or knit while we listen to short stories and chat! Email Miss Zdrojewski for more information or see the story on page 9.

### **Be part of the Trojan Horse Magazine!**

Email your submissions to [mzdrojewski@swcsk12.org](mailto:mzdrojewski@swcsk12.org)

What can you send?

Stories – Poems - Artwork

Crafts – Comics - Recipes

Activities – Jokes - Reviews of books or movies

Photos - Ways to deal with stress

And more!

Send all items to Miss Zdrojewski by  
Monday, December 21.

## Gratitude – Word of the Month

PBIS Word of the Month for November and December is Gratitude.

Welcome to The Gratitude Challenge, a 21-day challenge created by your Southwestern PBIS team to help you take note of the brighter side of life.

Gratitude is the expression of appreciation for what one has and the quality or feeling of being grateful or thankful.

Power up these next 21 days with positivity by cultivating gratitude. You'll experience more well-being, less fatigue, and a brighter outlook.

We are asking you to spend a few minutes each day appreciating all of life's little blessings through a variety of different challenges.

At Southwestern Middle School, we believe that having and sharing our gratitude for everyday experiences can revitalize you and the people around you.

Go to the next page to learn what today's challenge is...

## Tech Troubleshooting

If you have any problems with your technology, contact the SW Tech department at [SWCSTech@swcsk12.org](mailto:SWCSTech@swcsk12.org)

# Gratitude Challenge

Join the Gratitude Challenge!

	December 1 Clean your room and donate any clothes/items you are not using.	2 Do a chore without being asked	3 Make a card for your mom/dad/guardian and tell them why you are thankful for them	4 Bring old blankets and/or cat or dog food to the local animal shelter
7 Do something kind for a neighbor	8 Bake a dessert for someone	9 Leave a positive note to your friend	10 Say something kind to a classmate	11 Write a thank you note to someone you care about.
14 Send a text to someone who makes you smile and tell them why	15 Think of a creative way to pay it forward	16 Do a chore without being asked	17 Donate food to your local food pantry	18 Tell someone that you are thankful for them

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Artwork by Andrew Lindboom



# Arachne: Chapter 2 – Erik

By Kathryn Somers

In an effort to calm himself, Erik made his way to the clearing that held the shrine to Surt. It was a beautiful place. Green grass surrounded a stone pedestal, which held a stone altar. Simple, plain, and just what Erik needed for calm.

He lit a fire and sat down. Bonibel Olmstead was going to be the death of him, he was sure. He looked around, searching for anything he hadn't noticed before. Nothing had changed. Everything always stayed the same. That's what Erik liked about it so much.

Suddenly, a man in livery burst into the clearing, panting.

"Master . . . Erik . . ." he said in between breaths, "I'm afraid . . . something awful . . . has happened."

"What is it?" Erik said it like an order rather than a question, as if daring fate to make his day worse.

The servant, finally composing himself said, "Sir, it's your sister. She's, well, passed."

Erik's eyes grew wide with fear. "No." He ran back to town, back to his manor. No-one was in the kitchen, drawing room, or dining hall. He rushed up the stairs to find Alexandria, his sister. When he got to her room, he saw his mother crying, his father arguing with the doctor, and- oh no. Alexandria.

Unable to process what had just happened, Erik ran outside and back to the shrine. The fire he had lit earlier had almost burned out. He pulled his knees to his chest and cried. Suddenly, the fire shot towards the heavens, and a dark figure stepped out. Oh, no. That couldn't be . . . "Surt?"

"Aye, that's me. good news, kid. The Ice Elemental has been located, and I picked you to go find her."

"Why me?"

"Because you regulate my shrine! Do you know how many disrespectful humans ignore this place and don't even light a fire? So, here you go, use it to find the girl. You have until it melts," Surt said as he pressed a snowflake into Erik's hand.

It looked delicate, but was melting slowly in his warm hand. The snowflake made his heart pang as he thought of Alexandria. He promised to himself that he would do this. For her. Erik moved east. The snowflake turned backwards. He moved west. The snowflake moved west. Ah, so that's how it works. Erik broke out in a sprint, hoping to find this girl before it melts.

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Want to reread Chapter 1 of Arachne?  
Read the November Issue on the library website:  
<https://www.swcsk12.org/site/default.aspx?PageID=963>





# Winter Artwork



Artwork Above by  
Payshents Meredith



Center and Below:  
Artwork by Andrew Lindboom



# A Visit from St. Nicholas

'Twas the night before Christmas, when all  
through the house  
Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse;  
The stockings were hung by the chimney with  
care,  
In hopes that St. Nicholas soon would be there;  
The children were nestled all snug in their beds;  
While visions of sugar-plums danced in their  
heads;  
And mamma in her 'kerchief, and I in my cap,  
Had just settled our brains for a long winter's  
nap,  
When out on the lawn there arose such a  
clatter,  
I sprang from my bed to see what was the  
matter.  
Away to the window I flew like a flash,  
Tore open the shutters and threw up the sash.  
The moon on the breast of the new-fallen  
snow,  
Gave a lustre of midday to objects below,  
When what to my wondering eyes did appear,  
But a miniature sleigh and eight tiny rein-deer,  
With a little old driver so lively and quick,  
I knew in a moment he must be St. Nick.  
More rapid than eagles his coursers they came,  
And he whistled, and shouted, and called them  
by name:  
"Now, *Dasher!* now, *Dancer!*  
now *Prancer* and *Vixen!*  
On, *Comet!* on, *Cupid!* on, *Donner* and *Blitzen!*  
To the top of the porch! to the top of the wall!  
Now dash away! dash away! dash away all!"  
As leaves that before the wild hurricane fly,  
When they meet with an obstacle, mount to  
the sky;  
So up to the housetop the coursers they flew  
With the sleigh full of toys, and St. Nicholas  
too—  
And then, in a twinkling, I heard on the roof  
The prancing and pawing of each little hoof.

As I drew in my head, and was turning around,  
Down the chimney St. Nicholas came with a  
bound.  
He was dressed all in fur, from his head to his  
foot,  
And his clothes were all tarnished with ashes and  
soot;  
A bundle of toys he had flung on his back,  
And he looked like a peddler just opening his  
pack.  
His eyes—how they twinkled! His dimples, how  
merry!  
His cheeks were like roses, his nose like a cherry!  
His droll little mouth was drawn up like a bow,  
And the beard on his chin was as white as the  
snow;  
The stump of a pipe he held tight in his teeth,  
And the smoke, it encircled his head like a  
wreath;  
He had a broad face and a little round belly  
That shook when he laughed, like a bowl full of  
jelly.  
He was chubby and plump, a right jolly old elf,  
And I laughed when I saw him, in spite of myself;  
A wink of his eye and a twist of his head  
Soon gave me to know I had nothing to dread;  
He spoke not a word, but went straight to his  
work,  
And filled all the stockings; then turned with a  
jerk,  
And laying his finger aside of his nose,  
And giving a nod, up the chimney he rose;  
He sprang to his sleigh, to his team gave a whistle,  
And away they all flew like the down of a thistle.  
But I heard him exclaim, ere he drove out of  
sight—

*"Happy Christmas to all,  
and to all a good night!"*

This classic poem was first published in 1823. It is most often attributed to Clement Clarke Moore, who claimed authorship in 1937. This poem is in the public domain.

# December

G D E M S S M V Y C Q S B W U  
 A N R K E L A U H K G L O E G  
 N Z I E A C E R S U Z L X N L  
 R E R D A L I D B I L E S A Y  
 E T W T R S F M D A C B J C S  
 E T I Y T A U W M I D E H Y W  
 D O N M E H O H O E N L A D E  
 N J A E H A S B C N Q G N N A  
 I S I A M R R O W K S N U A T  
 E T B C A A R S H O H I K C E  
 R Q Y M Y A N P E C N J K N R  
 E K A C T I U R F V N S A Y I  
 D E C E M B E R O J E I H K Y  
 C O O K I E S T N E S E R P V  
 G I N G E R B R E A D Y U G S

BAHHUMBUG  
 COOKIES  
 FRUITCAKE  
 HANUKKAH  
 MUSIC  
 PRESENTS  
 SNOWBOARDING  
 UGLYSWEATER

CANDYCANE  
 DECEMBER  
 GINGERBREAD  
 JINGLEBELLS  
 NEWYEARESEVE  
 REINDEER  
 SNOWFLAKE  
 VACATION

CHRISTMAS  
 DECORATE  
 GRINCH  
 MARSHMALLOW  
 ORNAMENT  
 SLEDDING  
 TREES

## Cookie Scrambler

Can you unscramble these names of popular cookies?

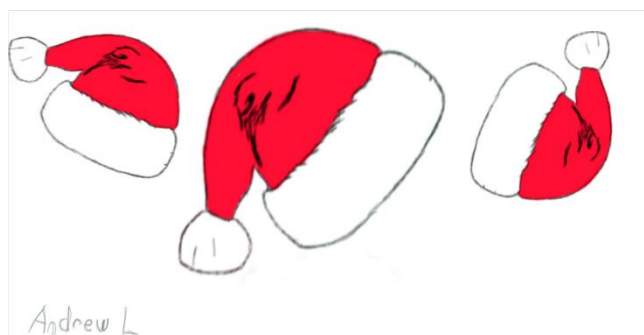
1. RUSAG \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

2. IRDOLEENKCDOS  
 \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

3. OLTCHOECA PHIC  
 \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

4. TENAPU RUBETT  
 \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

5. GERNERDIABG  
 \_ \_ \_ \_ \_



# NEW SORA READS

## eBooks

### ***Landscape With Invisible Hand***

by M.T. Anderson

Young artist Adam needs to find a way to make money when invading extraterrestrials replace his parents' jobs. His streaming videos aliens pay to watch start off as a good plan, but how far is he willing to go to keep his viewing customers happy?

### ***Winterfrost***

by Michelle Houts

Twelve-year-old Bettina's parents have been called away unexpectedly, leaving her in charge of the house, the farm, and baby Pia. In all the confusion, Bettina's family neglects to set out the traditional bowl of Christmas rice pudding for the tiny *nisse* who are rumored to look after the family and their livestock. But when baby Pia disappears during a nap, the magic of the *nisse* makes itself known.

### ***Trowbridge Road***

by Marcella Pixley

It's the summer of '83, and June Bug Jordan is hungry. Months after her father's death from AIDS, her mother has stopped cooking and refuses to leave the house, instead locking herself away to scour at the germs she believes are everywhere. June Bug threatens this precarious existence, gradually befriending Ziggy, an imaginative boy who is living with his Nana Jean after experiencing troubles of his own.

### ***Embassy of the Dead***

by Will Mabbitt

When Jake opens a strange box containing a severed finger, he accidentally summons a grim reaper to drag him to the Eternal Void (yep, it's as fatal as it sounds) and now he's running for his life! But luckily Jake isn't alone - he can see and speak to ghosts.

## Audiobooks

### ***The Secret Garden***

by Frances Hodgson Burnett

After losing her parents to a cholera epidemic, Mary Lennox is sent to live with her uncle in England. Once when he's away from home, Mary discovers a charming walled garden which is always kept locked. The mystery deepens when she hears sounds of sobbing from somewhere within her uncle's vast mansion. This classic story has been loved for generations and has been adapted into a musical and several movies.

### ***A Long Way from Chicago***

by Richard Peck

Join Joey and his sister Mary Alice as they spend nine unforgettable summers with the worst influence imaginable--their grandmother!

### ***Game Changer***

by Tommy Greenwald

Thirteen-year-old Teddy Youngblood is in a coma fighting for his life after an unspecified football injury at training camp. His family and friends flock to his bedside to support his recovery—and to discuss the events leading up to the tragic accident. Was this an inevitable result of playing a violent sport, or was something more sinister happening on the field that day?

### ***The Next Great Paulie Fink***

by Ali Benjamin

When Caitlyn Breen enters the tiny Mitchell School in rural Mitchell, Vermont, she is a complete outsider: the seventh grade has just ten other kids, and they've known each other since kindergarten. Her classmates are in for a shock of their own: Paulie Fink--the class clown, oddball, troublemaker, and evil genius--is gone this year. They'll have to find a replacement with their own version of a reality-show style competition.



# HOOKS AND BOOKS!

Learn to crochet or knit and make a scarf, shawl, or blanket, all while hanging out online with friends and enjoying books together. If you already know how to crochet or knit, you can bring your current work in progress, or you can learn Tunisian crochet.

What will we do? Each meeting, we'll get started on our projects (after we learn the basics), then we'll listen to a short story while we work. After the story, as we continue to work, we can chat.

We will meet every other Thursday on Zoom after school. You do not need to be able to attend every meeting in order to participate. This is open to all Southwestern MS students and staff.

These are the suggested materials you will need.

If you are not able to get these materials, email or talk privately with Miss Zdrojewski before the winter break and she will make arrangements for you.

## **-Yarn**

One skein of yarn will make a scarf. If you are making a shawl or blanket you may need three or four skeins.

For learning, you will want a tightly wound sport-weight yarn, nothing fancy. We recommend Red Heart Super Saver or Caron One Pound, any color (Red Heart makes some self-striping yarn that is fun for scarves).

This is a blanket Miss Zdrojewski crocheted this past summer. She used self-striping yarn and a simple repeating pattern.

## **-Crochet Hook, Tunisian Hook, or Knitting Needles.**

Crochet hooks come in many sizes and can be made from wood, plastic, or metal (plastic is fine). For beginners, we recommend starting with a size H/8 or I/9 hook. These are 5 mm or 5.5 mm diameter. They are a good size for beginners working with sport weight yarn.

If you already know the basics of how to crochet and you want to learn Tunisian crochet, you will need a Tunisian hook. These are longer hooks with a stopper on one end. This is sometimes called an afghan hook. You will want a Tunisian hook that is slightly larger than the size you would normally use. We suggest size I, J, or K if possible.

If you are knitting, you want knitting needles that are not very long and are medium thickness. There are many knitting needles made specifically for people learning.

\*Note – Miss Zdrojewski is experienced with crochet but is just learning to knit. She will not be able to help as much with knitting projects, but she can share what is working for her and she can ask her knitting friends.



# HOLIDAY STEAM

## Hot Cocoa Experiment – Does the water temperature make a difference?

You will need:

3 mugs  
3 packets of instant hot cocoa mix  
measuring cup  
spoons  
water  
timer or stopwatch

Does the temperature of the water affect how quickly and easily the hot cocoa mix dissolves?

Before beginning, predict what you think will happen. Will the mix dissolve at the same speed no matter what water temperature you use? Or will the fastest be cold water, room temperature water, or hot water.

1. Empty one packet of hot cocoa mix into each mug.
2. Measure 6 ounces (3/4 cup) of room temperature water into the first mug. Start your stopwatch and begin stirring. When all of the powder is dissolved, stop the stopwatch and write down how long it took.
3. Repeat the experiment with 6 ounces of cold water in the second mug. Write down the time the powder takes to dissolve.
4. Carefully add 6 ounces of hot water to the third mug. Write down the time it takes to dissolve.
5. Which water temperature was fastest? Which was slowest?

Based on your experiment, is it better to stir in the cocoa powder before you heat your water, or should you heat the water before adding it to your hot cocoa?



"hot cocoa in the summer!" by ohdearbarb is licensed under [CC BY-NC 2.0](#)

## Make Your Own Hot Cocoa Mix

When you make your own hot cocoa mix, you can experiment with flavors. This mix also makes a great gift! Pour some into a recycled jar for a friend, or put a bag of it in a mug with a candy cane for a relative!

You will need:

- 1 1/3 cups sugar
- 2/3 cup unsweetened cocoa powder (for baking)
- 1/2 cup powdered milk or non-dairy powdered creamer
- 1/8 tsp salt

1. Mix all of the ingredients in a large jar or ziplock bag.
2. When you are ready to make your cocoa, mix 2 Tablespoons of this mix with one cup of hot water.

After you make this mix, write down what you think. Is it too sweet? Not sweet enough? Not creamy enough? Take notes like a scientist and try changing the amounts of the ingredients next time (write down what changes you make!).

Try adding crushed peppermint candy, chocolate chips, or mini marshmallows.

# COPING CORNER

While the winter holiday season is fun, it can also add stress to our lives. Remember these five strategies for coping with stress we learned about with our advisement groups last month:

1. Focus on what you can control
  - What are things you have control over?
  - What don't you have control over?
2. Manage your time
  - Set a schedule
  - Use alarms
  - Prioritize school other important activities
3. Take care of your body
  - Get enough sleep every night
  - Eat healthy foods like fruits and veggies
  - Exercise and move every day
4. Use positive talk
  - Remind yourself that you can do it
5. Talk to a friend or adult
  - Don't be afraid to share

In advisement, you also received a list of many ways you can relieve stress.

Which ones have you tried already?

How did they work for you?

Which ones will you try next?

Remember, you can email Mrs. Fisher  
or Mrs. Lindquist at any time  
if you need help with coping strategies  
or managing anxiety or emotions.

## Thumbprint Cookies

These festive cookies brighten up holidays with their bright jam centers. Use several different types of jam on different cookies for a multicolored cookie plate.

You will need:



- 1 can of chickpeas, drained\*
- 1/2 cup of nut or seed butter
- 1/3 cup maple syrup
- 1 tsp baking powder
- 1/4 cup rolled oats
- fruit spread or jam

1. Preheat the oven to 350 F. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper.
2. Use a food processor to mix the chickpeas, nut butter, maple syrup, and baking powder until smooth but still a little chunky. If you don't have a food processor, mash the chickpeas as smooth as you can, then stir in the other ingredients.
3. Stir in the rolled oats.
4. Wet your hands and roll the dough into balls about 1 ½ inch thick. Put them on the baking sheet about 1 inch apart.
5. Flatten the tops of the cookies, then use your thumb to make a dent in the middle of each. Fill the dents with a bit of fruit spread or jam.
6. Bake for 18-20 minutes until the cookies are firm. Let them cool before you eat them.

\*Don't throw away the liquid from the chickpea can! You can use it to make meringue cookies! Check out the recipe in the April 8<sup>th</sup> edition:

[https://www.swcsk12.org/cms/lib/NY19001248/Centricity/Domain/165/TrojanHorse\\_Apr8.pdf](https://www.swcsk12.org/cms/lib/NY19001248/Centricity/Domain/165/TrojanHorse_Apr8.pdf)

# THIS MONTH...

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<b>1</b> National Christmas Lights Day  Picture Retakes <b>Chess Club</b>	<b>2</b> National Mutt Day  Picture Retakes <b>ASL Club</b>	<b>3</b> Make a Gift Day	<b>4</b> National Cookie Day	<b>5</b> Bathtub Party Day
<b>6</b> Mitten Tree Day	<b>7</b> National Letter Writing Day  <b>Maker Mondays</b>	<b>8</b> National Brownie Day	<b>9</b> National Llama Day	<b>10</b> Hanukkah begins at sundown	<b>11</b> National App Day	<b>12</b> Gingerbread House Day
<b>13</b> International Children's Day	<b>14</b> Roast Chestnuts Day	<b>15</b> Bill of Rights Day  <b>Chess Club</b>	<b>16</b> National Chocolate Covered Anything Day  <b>ASL Club</b>	<b>17</b> National Maple Syrup Day	<b>18</b> Bake Cookies Day  Deadline for January Trojan Horse	<b>19</b> Look For an Evergreen Day
<b>20</b> Games Day	<b>21</b> National Crossword Puzzle Day  <b>Maker Mondays</b>	<b>22</b> National Date Nut Bread Day	<b>23</b> National Roots Day  <b>Winter Recess Begins!</b>	<b>24</b> Christmas Eve	<b>25</b> Christmas Day	<b>26</b> National Thank You Note Day
<b>27</b> Make Cut-Out Snowflakes Day	<b>28</b> National Card Playing Day	<b>29</b> National Hero Day	<b>30</b> Falling Needles Family Fest Day	<b>31</b> New Year's Eve		

What does a grumpy sheep say at Christmas?

Baaaaa humbug!

Where do elves vote?

At the North Poll!

What do elves do after school?

Their gnome work!

What's the difference between Santa's reindeer and a knight?

One slays a dragon, but the other's draggin' a sleigh!