

# THE BASIS SCOTTSDALE GAZETTE

## GIVING THANKS TO BASIS'S OLD-SCHOOL TEACHERS

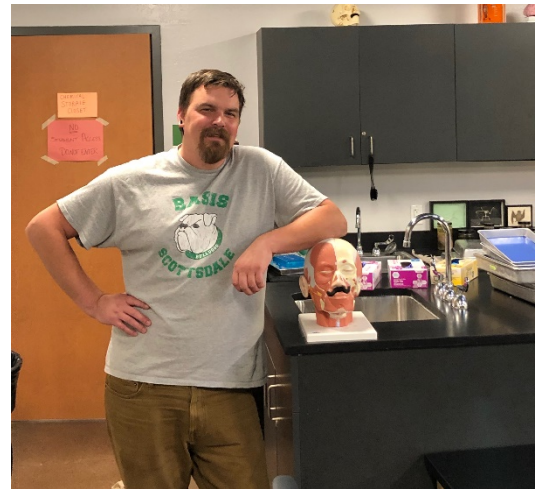
BY VIRAJ MEHTA &  
TANAY VEDARTHAM

In our school's sixteen-year history, there have been countless teachers who have graced our classrooms and passed their knowledge onto their students. Some teachers have stayed longer than others, leaving a positive imprint on the BASIS community. With all their experience, they have seen plenty of changes occur at BASIS, so we decided to ask some of these teachers to share their stories and experiences from their time at BASIS.

*What do you miss about the old building? What do you like or dislike about the new building and what would you like to see changed?*

**Mr. Carey:** As with anything, there's definitely compromise involved. I love the fact that the new building has superior facilities and has allowed me to expand my laboratory programs. However, the new building is also so big, I don't run into people as often. I don't even remember the last time I saw Mr. Garvey!

**Mrs. Bailey:** I do miss the old building because I think it made us feel more like a family, more connected. In the new building, there's more stratification between upper and lower school, eliminating some of the closeness we used to have as a small school.



Mr. Carey (and friend)

*How do you think the teacher-student relationship has changed over time?*

**Mr. Carey:** I feel not all of the students that come here still come for the same reason: a rigorous quality education. The students' passion and drive to learn is the reason I first fell in love with this place and the reason I still love it here.

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### SAVE THE DATE

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| November 28:<br>Thanksgiving                | December 14:<br>Winter Formal            |
| December 2:<br>End of<br>Thanksgiving Break | December 21:<br>Start of Winter<br>Break |

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**Mr. Mac:** I still have a small group of students that I get to know fairly well; however, there are more kids that I barely get to know. When the classes were smaller, I had some kind of bond with almost every kid.

*Are there any old BASIS traditions you would like to see come back/that you miss?*

**Mrs. Bailey:** I started the Harry Potter houses at the old school, which was a lot of fun. While I miss them, keeping track of all those points was a lot of work, and it was tough to keep it going with the expansion of students and teachers at a new school.

**Mr. Mac:** Yes – quiet hallways.



Mr. Mac

*What do you look forward to most each school year?*

**Mr. Carey:** I love starting a new school year – meeting new people, telling jokes, getting work done. One of my personal goals as an educator is to get kids to fall in love with biology, and science in general. I love it when students tell me they never liked biology, but after having excellent teachers like Mrs. Martinez, they tell me they can't wait to take Anatomy and Capstone Topics.

**Mr. Peacher:** I look forward to the opportunity to make connections with new students and continue getting to know students I have taught before. I also look forward to helping all of my students try to reach their academic goals.

*Usually, it is the students learning from the teachers. As a teacher, what do you think you've learned most from your students during your time at BASIS?*

**Mr. Peacher:** During my time at BASIS, I have learned to always think of the positive. All of the students in my time at BASIS have wanted to do well in school. I have been able to support students who are making poor decisions in class by believing in the student's ability even when they do not believe in themselves.

**Mr. Mac:** Since my very first year teaching, I learned that it is not my job to be the smartest person in the room – that's impossible. Instead, I want to help students realize how smart they are, and then get out of the way and let them flourish.

*The BASIS sports department has come a long way from having a cramped karate dojo. How do you think the influence of sports at a primarily STEM school has changed over the years?*

**Mr. Peacher:** I love that the first banners we hung in the gym were for academics! The influence has continued to grow from the first year we had a boys basketball team, when we practiced at Rio Montana because we did not have a court. It's still a work in progress, but there are now opportunities for students to shine athletically, and for the school to come out and cheer for them. For our community to continue to be successful, we need all of the members to work together well and have some fun doing it, and I think that the sports programs help contribute to that core principle.

Our teachers contribute so much to our school's community, so we wanted to dedicate this article toward thanking them for all their work over their long tenure as members of BASIS. We hope we could provide some insight into the minds of some of the original teachers of BASIS and the way BASIS has changed over the years, molded into the community it is today.

# CLUB SPOTLIGHT: MU ALPHA THETA

BY ZANDER HILL &  
DAVID YIN

Mu Alpha Theta, represented by the Greek letters  $MA\Theta$ , is the United States mathematics honor society for high school and two-year college students, and unsurprisingly, the STEM-based BASIS Scottsdale has its own branch. Dr. Bailey, Mrs. Bailey, and myself, the club's faculty advisors and president respectively, arrange weekly meetings to discover the fun of mathematics. We also participate in competitions like "AMC" and "Math Madness," host lectures about math topics that aren't covered in class, and help students complete their assignments.

From this month on, the club is organizing a math competition named Math Mindbenders to inspire BASIS students to further pursue math. It will consist of monthly puzzles with two divisions, Lower School and Upper School, each containing two or three subcategories corresponding to the courses students attend.

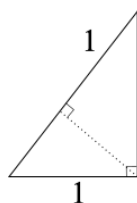
We encourage all students to participate and will offer awards to those who are the first to solve all of the problems. Once you come up with a possible solution, you can directly contact any member or teacher in the club or send us an email (to [zanderhill1023@gmail.com](mailto:zanderhill1023@gmail.com)) to check whether it is correct or not. It will presumably take you some time to get it completely correct, but your effort won't be for nothing.

We will publish the solution of each problem in the next month's edition of the Gazette. Don't forget to check it out — after all, it could be a hint for the puzzles in the next month!

The following are the problems for November:

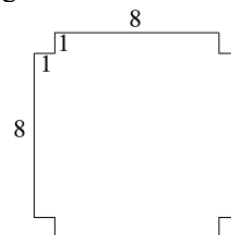
Lower School Problems:

1. Given the following right triangle, what is the length of the hypotenuse?



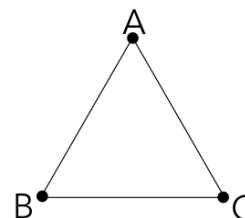
2. What is the area of the largest square that can fit

in the following figure?



Upper School Problems:

LinVec: In the following equilateral triangle, at any time, point A moves in the direction of point B, point B moves in the direction of point C, and point C moves in the direction of point A, all moving with equal speed. Do the three points ever meet, and if so, what is the length of the path point A takes in the process?



History of Math: Show that the sum of the first  $n$  cubes is equal to the square of the sum of the first  $n$  numbers using geometry (hint: use induction).

Category Theory: Let  $G$  be an abelian group whose order is not any power of a prime. Show that  $G$  has a nontrivial proper subgroup whose image under any automorphism is itself.

# TRADITION SPOTLIGHT: THE JUNIOR/SENIOR PICNIC

BY VIRAJ MEHTA

The first half of the school year is usually stressful, especially for seniors, who must complete college applications. Thus, the junior/senior picnic is a tradition organized annually by BASIS in order to reward the juniors and seniors for their hard work, giving them a fun chance to relax and blow off some steam following a jam-packed first trimester.

Following third period, students take a bus or drive themselves to the nearby Rio Montana park, where for a few hours, they can let loose and enjoy some outdoor activities. This year, students spent their time lounging around the park, interacting with teachers and friends, or taking advantage of the park's playground and other facilities. In previous years, one could also find teachers and students playing pickup basketball or volleyball games, eating, or relaxing, providing a great way for students to interact with their teachers outside of the classroom. Teachers and staff such as Ms. Mitrovich and Mr. Carey are almost always in attendance, ready to make the most of the rare field trip. And of course, there is always pizza and other snacks (after all, it is a picnic).

One of the traditions of the junior/senior picnic is the all-girls powderpuff flag football game. This event dates back to 2015 when members of our Leadership club organized it in order to promote school spirit by incorporating more sporting events into BASIS culture. Don't underestimate the players, though; they still pull off perfect spirals and throw outstanding touchdown passes throughout the game. This year, students also organized junior-vs-junior and junior-vs-senior flag football games, refereed by the new AP Capstone teacher, Mr. Wright, who used to play Division II college football. Though the seniors won both football games, school pride wasn't absent on either side, as the entirety of each grade gathered to cheer their teams on, creating a festive, competitive, but still friendly atmosphere.

Between college applications, trimester exams, extracurricular activities, and the gazillion other things BASIS students do, it's refreshing to find a school-organized activity meant to give students time to let loose and have some fun, while also promoting school spirit and connecting students with not only each other, but also all the teachers that come to participate.



Seniors vs. Juniors in a game of Powderpuff flag football



Mr. Madler and some seniors during the picnic



Juniors playing a game of flag football

# CLUB SPOTLIGHT: SHE'S THE FIRST

BY ESTHER LI-CHEN

We've all seen the positive sticky notes posted on lockers every final week, but have you ever wondered about the club behind it? She's the First is a social-justice organization advocating for gender equality and women's education, and it has had a chapter here at BASIS Scottsdale. With Bobby Yalam and Malia Kuo as the President and Vice President, respectively, the club organizes fundraisers to sponsor girls in less-developed countries who are the first in their families to get a high-school education. On October 20th, She's the First held a hiking event called #SweatforSTF, and on November 3rd, a bake sale, #BakeaChange.



STF members at Lost Dog Trail for #SweatforSTF

The first #SweatforSTF of the year featured a five-mile hike at the Lost Dog Trail, from the trailhead to the Taliesin overlook. Seven members and one of the club's co-faculty advisors, Mrs. Peacher, all hiked the trail with each member bringing in at least \$5 per mile from sponsors. Although #SweatforSTF is a new tradition that started only last year, She's the First plans on continuing this event for years to come because of the opportunity to connect with the local community.

By helping raise awareness in the local community, She's the First hopes to increase the amount of donations given to the national organization, which will be used to fund girls' who are the first in the family to receive a high school education. Through events such as #BakeaChange and #SweatforSTF, with other chapters throughout the nation, many girls in countries like Guatemala and Ethiopia will have the costs of their high-school education, from books to tuition, totally covered.



STF Board at Singh Farms

The second event that has happened outside of BASIS Scottsdale is the She's the First #BakeaChange fundraiser. The night before, many members gathered together to bake and decorate cupcakes and cookies for the bake sale. After arriving and setting up at Singh Farms in Tempe, She's the First was able to sell a large amount of pastries and share the clubs' message to an even larger amount of people.

There are many clubs at BASIS, but She's the First is definitely one to watch because of its many out-of-school and in school events. Going forward, the club will volunteer at the Halle Women's Center in downtown Phoenix for a lunch service. She's the First meets weekly on Wednesdays at 4:00 in Mrs. Peacher's room. For more information on the club and how to join, please reach out to any of the club's board members.

# A BREATH OF FRESH AIR: 2019 NOBEL PRIZE OF MEDICINE

BY ZAK HORI

We've all heard of the Nobel Peace Prize, but did you know there are Nobel prizes in other disciplines? Alfred Nobel was a Swedish genius of the 19th century, and his diverse interests are reflected in the five categories of achievement the Nobel Prizes celebrate today: chemistry, physics, medicine, entrepreneurship, and peace. Since 1901, Nobel Prizes have been awarded 597 times to worthy recipients from around the world.

The Nobel Prize of Medicine has had a particularly interesting history. The Nobel Prize association has recognized important developments in biology such as the discovery of vesicles, the development of in-vitro fertilization, and the expansion of a chromosome's structure. In order to be eligible for the Nobel Prize, a very specific nomination process follows many different stages, and jurists choose from over 3000 nominations.

This year, three scientists, William Kaelin, Peter Ratcliffe and Gregg Semenza, were recognized for their research on the relationship between cells and oxygen availability. The trio's conclusions revealed new cellular mechanisms that allow the human body to adjust to different altitudes and oxygen levels, which could create significant positive consequences in the medical field. Since the basic concept is quite simple to understand, their

discovery can be implemented in national biology curriculums in the near future. In addition, diseases and conditions that take up a lot of oxygen, like cancer, anemia, heart attacks, and strokes, might be prevented if more research is expanded off the discovery.

More specifically, Gregg Semenza wanted to explore a hormone which led to the production of red blood cells, and how it regulated oxygen levels. In his research, he discovered a new protein segment coined *hypoxia-inducible factor* (HIF). The lack of oxygen allows HIF to be protected from degradation, binding to specific DNA sequences that can control body reactions. With proper oxygen levels and hydroxyl groups, however, HIF is rapidly degraded in the cell.

As part of the past decade, this new development has built upon previous discoveries, dating back to 2010. Previous laureates have discovered what seems to be common knowledge today: stem cells, circadian rhythms, malaria therapy, and even the dendritic cell. These scientists have expanded one of the most fundamental processes of all life: responses to oxygen. And their discovery will warrant this impressive achievement as it revolutionizes our understanding of fundamental biological processes.

Illustrations of Kaelin, Ratcliffe, and Semenza, the recipients of the 2019 Nobel Prize of Medicine



Illustration: Ill. Niklas Elmedhed. © Nobel Media.

Source: Scientific America

# HALLOWEEN THROUGH THE EYES OF CHINESE STUDENTS

BY HENGZHI LI &  
DAVID YIN

Upon entering BASIS's campus, we saw everything except for normal students. Students wore costumes ranging from Olaf the snowman to Casper the Friendly Ghost, hovering in the hallway. We knew something was wrong. Oh right, it's Halloween!

Although we come from the other side of the planet, the term "Halloween" is not unfamiliar to us Chinese students. From numerous movies and stories, we grasped a general picture of what Halloween looks like. We saw people getting chased by ghosts, and witches giving cursed candy apples to the obnoxious trick-or-treaters. Overall, Halloween seemed mysterious and spooky, at least to us.

We are also familiar with Halloween traditions, but have never truly grasped what they are about. From our textbooks, we learned that, at Halloween, people usually carve pumpkin lanterns and roam around, asking for candy.

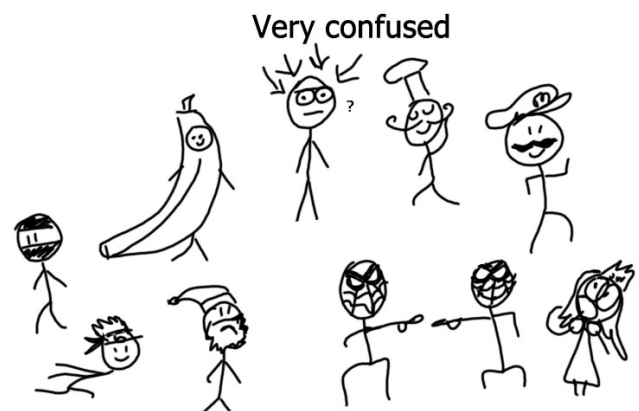
We, like many other Chinese kids, do celebrate Halloween. We even usually go trick-or-treating. However, instead of going from house-to-house, we obtain our candy in school, filling our pockets with chocolate and Skittles. We also decorate our homes with pumpkin lanterns, and some schools even celebrate Halloween by allowing children to wear costumes to class. Although it is still a minor holiday in China, we try our best to establish a sense of horror that comes with Halloween as we imagine.

Actually participating in Halloween in the U.S., on the other hand, is a totally different experience. Coming to the U.S., we were excited to experience what Halloween actually feels like. Expecting terrifying rooms filled with spiders and ghosts, we walked into the school building as if we were entering a haunted house. However, what met us were not spine-chilling skeletons or zombies, but rather students dressed up in colorful costumes! We saw students in banana suits, people carried by aliens, and chefs with huge mustaches. We saw Mario sitting in classrooms, distracted from his goal to save Princess Peach; we saw Kakashi trying to squeeze through the crowd in the hallway, just like all good ninjas would do. Amazed by the colors and excitement in the school, we realized that Halloween nowadays is less about scaring people and wearing the most terrifying costume to school. It is actually just a day when kids become adults and adults become kids, and when people can become who they admire.

Of course, Halloween is also about what happens outside of school. What is Halloween without trick-or-treating? In the night, we put on our costumes and headed out to knock on our neighbors' doors, and people greeted us with smiles. Some of them were confused to see 16-year old kids trick-or-treating, but all of them, to our surprise, were happy to meet us. Coming from a country where Halloween is not a traditional holiday, we thought of trick-or-treating as groups of greedy children banging on people's doors and robbing their candy. Apparently, this is not what trick-or-treating actually is.

As we walked down the road decorated with orange string lights and pumpkin lanterns, we got to know many of our neighbors, and they also got to know us. We shared our previous misconceptions of Halloween and laughed together. Used to living in apartments where no one knows their neighbors, this was refreshing. Thus, we really appreciate the social connectedness between people that Halloween brings to the community. For the kids, it is a great time to familiarize their neighborhood; for adults, it is also a great time to take a rest from their busy work and share the joy of Halloween with the adorable or curious children that come knocking on their doors.

Overall, although different from what we expected, Halloween was a very enjoyable experience for us. We not only obtained our candy supply for the rest of the year, but we also made some great new friends. Although it was to our surprise and a little bit of disappointment that we did not get the eeriness and scariness that we anticipated, we were still happy to find ourselves more involved in the community and enjoyed our time of being what we want to be.



# NOVEMBER: NOT JUST FOR THANKSGIVING

BY HENGZHI LI &  
RENATTA OSREDKER

Every month has its iconic holidays: January has New Year's Day, February has Valentine's Day, and July has Independence Day. November is best known for Thanksgiving and Black Friday, but there are so many more overlooked holidays that we can all celebrate. Here are a few ridiculous, but fun holidays to celebrate in November.

## *November 2nd: Look for Circles Day*

Just find any circle. Any one circle will do. They're everywhere.

## *November 4th: Check your Blood-Pressure Day*

It's pretty obvious, but blood pressure is important. If your blood pressure is too high, then you're at risk of a heart attack; if it is too low, then you can get dizzy or nauseous, and even be put at risk of injury. Blood pressure can also increase with age over time. If your blood pressure gets too high or low, you can use a simple monitor that can be bought at a local pharmacy.

## *November 4th: National Chicken Lady Day*

This day was dedicated to honor Dr. Marthenia "Tina" Dupree for her contributions to education in her community. Known as the "Chicken Lady" for her experience working in a chicken restaurant, Dr. Dupree offered workshops and training programs to help people cultivate their speaking and communication skills, motivating thousands of people to build their way to success.

## *November 5th: Guy Fawkes Day*

Guy Fawkes was a leader of a small revolution when King James I took the throne of England and started persecuting Catholics. However, his plot to blow up the House of Parliament, known as the Gunpowder Plot, was foiled, and its failure has become a cause of celebration. This holiday is mostly celebrated in England using fireworks and bonfires.

## *November 11th: Singles Day*

In 1993, a group of Chinese students at Nanjing University decided to turn their jealousy of couples into pride for being single, hence, creating the annual Singles Day. They picked November 11th as the date because 11/11 looked like four single sticks, resembling the lonely individuals.

## *November 15th: Clean your Refrigerator Day*

It can be easy to leave forgotten food in the back of your fridge long after it's expired. No one wants to know what's growing back there. But on this day, it is time to finally find out what is living in your fridge. Everything that used to be fresh and edible could produce a smell and appear unappetizing, so clean it out!

## *November 16th: Have a Party With Your Bear Day*

Yes, this only refers to teddy bears and not real bears. All you need is a cake, some decorations, and of course, your bear. You could invite some non-bear friends as well. After all, a party isn't a party without more people.

## *November 18th: Occult Day*

This day can get extremely mysterious. When people hear "occult," they associate it with astrology and alchemy. In order to celebrate Occult day, you can join a secret society, bring out the Ouija board, visit an astrologer, or get your palm read.

## *November 19th: World Toilet Day*

This day is for the celebration of – that's right – toilets. On November 19, 2001, the United Nations created the World Toilet Organization, dedicated to increasing public awareness of sanitation problems around the globe. The United Nations subsequently announced this day as World Toilet Day to remind the world of the need for efforts to increase public sanitation.

## *November 20th: Absurdity Day*

Whether it's crazy or not doesn't mean that you shouldn't do it. I mean, today's the perfect day. Sitting back and waiting for something to occur isn't going to happen. Find something to do that's wacky or illogical. Whatever you choose to do, make sure you do it in the craziest way possible.

## *November 24th: Evolution Day*

This is the anniversary of the publication of *The Origins of Species* by Charles Darwin.

As you can see, November is filled with wonderful holidays for all of us to celebrate. Pick a day and just celebrate! We promise it will bring all of us closer together.



# FOUR PIES IN ONE: A RECIPE FOR THANKSGIVING 2019

BY ALLISON LI

As we know, Thanksgiving is a time of turkey, stuffing, and other delicious food. And often, as the feast approaches, it's quite easy to feel like you're running out of time. So, instead of baking four separate pies to finish the meal, why not bake one big pie with multiple flavors to save some time?

## **Four-Flavor Sheet Pan Pie**

*Source: Food Network*

Ingredients:

*For the crust*

- Two 14.1-ounce boxes of refrigerated rolled pie crust (4 crusts total)
- All-purpose flour, for dusting
- 1 large egg, lightly beaten
- $\frac{1}{4}$  cup turbinado sugar

*Apple Pie*

- 2 pounds mixed apples (such as Granny Smith, Gala and McIntosh), peeled, cored and sliced  $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch thick
- $\frac{1}{4}$  cup granulated sugar
- 1 tablespoon fresh lemon juice
- 4 tablespoons unsalted butter
- 2 teaspoons all-purpose flour
- $\frac{3}{4}$  teaspoon ground cinnamon
- Kosher salt

*Sour Cherry Pie*

- 2 cups drained jarred sour cherries, plus  $\frac{3}{4}$  cup juice from the jar
- 2 tablespoons cornstarch
- $\frac{1}{4}$  cup granulated sugar

*Pumpkin Pie*

- 1  $\frac{1}{3}$  cups canned pure pumpkin puree
- $\frac{2}{3}$  cup evaporated milk
- $\frac{1}{2}$  cup granulated sugar
- 1 teaspoon pumpkin pie spice
- 1 large egg

*Pecan Pie*

- $\frac{1}{2}$  cup packed light brown sugar
- $\frac{1}{2}$  cup light corn syrup
- 4 tablespoons unsalted butter, melted
- 1 teaspoon pure vanilla extract
- 2 large eggs
- Kosher salt
- $\frac{3}{4}$  cup roasted pecan halves

Directions:

*For the Crust*

1. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F. Unroll 3 of the

pie crusts on a lightly floured work surface. Stack them on top of each other.

2. Roll out the thick, layered dough into a 15-by-21-inch rectangle.
3. Press into a rimmed baking sheet so that the crust comes up the sides and hangs over slightly. This will be the bottom crust.
4. Chill until ready to use, at least 30 minutes.
5. Use the remaining crust for the top of the pie. Unroll it on a lightly floured work surface and roll it to a 14-by-18-inch rectangle.
6. Cut the dough in half so you have two 7-by-9-inch pieces. One half will be the top crust for the apple portion of the pie.
7. Cut the other half into 1-inch diagonal strips to use for the lattice on the cherry pie.
8. Place the rectangle and strips on a parchment-lined baking sheet and chill until ready to use.

*For the Apple Pie*

1. Toss the apples in a medium bowl with the sugar and lemon juice.
2. Melt the butter in a large skillet over medium-high heat. Then, add the apples and cook, stirring occasionally, until tender, about 10 minutes.
3. Stir in the flour, cinnamon and a pinch of salt and cook until thickened, about 1 minute more. Cool completely.

*For the Sour Cherry Pie*

1. Place the cherries in a medium bowl.
2. Whisk  $\frac{1}{4}$  cup of cherry juice with the cornstarch in a small saucepan until completely smooth.
3. Add the remaining cherry juice and sugar and bring to a boil over medium-high heat. Cook, whisking constantly, until thick and glossy, about 30 seconds.
4. Pour the sauce over the cherries and gently fold to combine. Cool completely.

*For the Pumpkin Pie*

1. Whisk together the pumpkin, evaporated milk, sugar, pumpkin pie spice and the egg and in a medium bowl until smooth. Set aside.

*For the Pecan Pie*

1. Whisk together the brown sugar, corn syrup, butter, vanilla, eggs and a pinch of salt in a medium bowl until smooth. Fold in the pecans and set aside.

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### *Pie Assembly*

1. Remove both baking sheets with dough from the refrigerator.
2. Visually divide the crust into four quadrants. Each quadrant will hold a different pie filling. Prick the bottom crust all over with a fork.
3. Add the apple pie filling to the upper left quadrant of the crust; spread it to cover a 7-by-9-inch rectangle.
4. Moving counter clockwise, pour the pumpkin filling right under the apple pie filling and spread it the same size as the apple filling.
5. Spread out the cherry filling next to the pumpkin filling.
6. Fill the top right empty space with the pecan filling.
7. Cover the apple pie quadrant with the reserved rectangle of dough.
8. Lay the pie strips out diagonally over the cherry pie quadrant. Press any remaining strips of dough around the edge of the pie to thicken the rim.
9. Crimp the edge of the pie, making sure to incorporate and crimp together the dough from the apple quadrant.
10. Brush the edges and the dough on top of the pie with egg and sprinkle with turbinado sugar. Cut decorative slits in the apple pie crust. (Decorations are optional.)
11. Bake until all pies are set and the crust on the apple pie and cherry pie is golden brown and crisp, 55 minutes to 1 hour 5 minutes.

If you feel like breaking from Thanksgiving conventions, give this unique dessert recipe a try. It's sure to please any guests, and with four different flavors it has an option for everyone. Have a Happy Thanksgiving!



Source: Food Network

# THE FINAL FANTASY COUNTDOWN

BY TANAY  
VEDARTHAM

As the NFL reaches the middle of its season, fantasy football leagues prepare for the playoffs, so many players are looking to make a last-second push or maintain their place in hopes of an ultimate victory. While fantasy players may have passion, they may lack the insight needed to win, so I've decided to provide some compelling advice using examples from own league to help you obtain ultimate fantasy prestige.

## Making Trades

After tireless weeks of trading, I finally acquired Patrick Mahomes, a golden goose in fantasy circles. I was excited to have a player like Mahomes, but the following day, Mahomes tore a ligament and was unable to play for a significant amount of time. Don't let setbacks like this get you down – sometimes that's just the way the cookie crumbles. Therefore, persistence is necessary to win a fantasy title. Next, negotiations are the key to a favorable trade. Open the floor to multiple people to drive prices up. Often, for me, this means posting trade offers on a group chat and not personally. Typically, fantasy competitors will deal players for other players of the same position but different caliber. This makes it very difficult to get the best players, so think outside of the box! Trading quarterbacks, kickers, and defenses could be essential to getting the running back or wide receiver that you want. Since those types of players are very standard commodities, feel free to let loose with them, as you can always pick them up on the waiver wire.

## The Power of the Waiver Wire

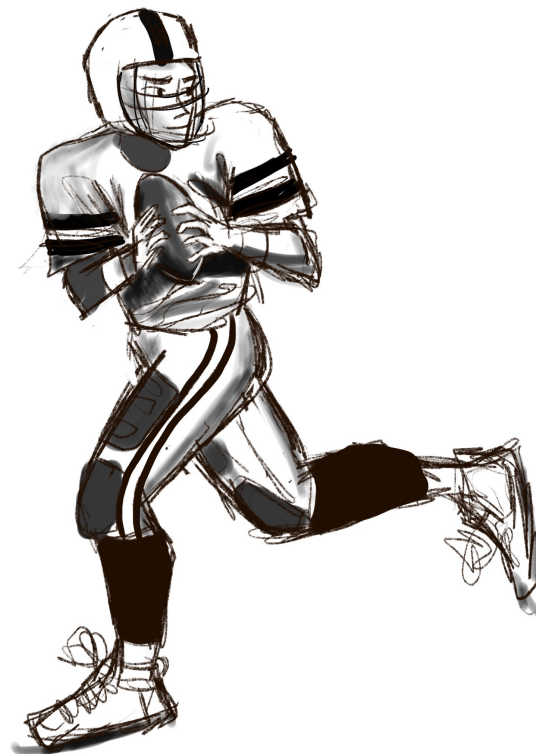
The waiver wire, the pool of unclaimed players, is an incredible asset for any fantasy player. Almost half of my team consists of waiver pickups. The average fantasy player sees waivers as a place to pick up players when their own are on bye weeks, but the fantasy expert sees them as a haven where the rare gems of players reside. The general way a waiver wire works is that (in reverse order of standings) fantasy players can pick any player from the available free agents. As the priority goes to the worst teams, fantasy players falling behind should definitely take advantage of the waiver wire. The prospect of picking up a player that pans out outweighs any other hopes for a bad team. For the average team, the waiver wire can still be a gold mine. Instead of looking for players with high projections for the following weeks, look for players who have been averaging high points throughout the season. This could help you avoid the trap of picking a good player

who gets injured right after you choose him, instead ensuring you get someone who helps your team succeed in the long run.

## Working with the Hopeless

3 wins. 2 wins. 1 win. Winless. One of these four sentences identifies the hopeless team(s) in your league. The team owners seem defeated, as their team continues to be plagued with injuries or underwhelmed by player performances. Although this is not an endorsement for collusion, being nice to these defeated fantasy owners can go a long way. There are always one or two good players on their teams that could help you make the final push. Treating their team as a waiver wire and using proper trade strategy, the right personnel can find their way onto your team and into the playoffs.

Ultimately, these tips do not guarantee victory; that is up to the player and his/her research, strategy, and luck. Fantasy football is just a game, so have fun with it, and avoid blaming the players for disappointing performances. Good luck!



# MAKING MONEY AT THE MOVIES

BY ZAND GORGI

Think back to the last time you watched a movie. Perhaps there were reclining seats, a large movie screen with glowing colors, and the buttery smell of fresh popcorn. Now, think about who created that movie-going experience. Likely, it was AMC, the largest cinema company in the United States. Formed in 1920, AMC Entertainment has been at the forefront of expanding cinemas nationwide and taking its investors along for the ride. As such, my stock recommendation for November, 2019 is AMC.

AMC stock has been down by almost 50% since November of last year. However, since the beginning of October 2019, the stock has seen a 10% gain due to a plethora of factors—most notably, its increasing online presence to boost loyalty membership and rising ticket prices to boost profits. One big area AMC sees growth is in its loyalty rewards membership because the company values gathering data on what customers are watching and how to enhance their experience to drive revenues. AMC continues to incentivize customers with special offers and membership benefits, which, in turn, increases the amount of money AMC makes off of each of its movie showings. One way in which this strategy manifests itself is in AMC's impeccable income statement.

From 2017 to 2018, AMC's total revenues increased from \$5,079.2 (in millions) to \$5,460.8 while the number of customers who bought tickets remained relatively stagnant. Another trend worth noting is the

company's total costs, which include film exhibition costs, food and beverage costs, operating costs, and rent, have declined steadily from 2018 to 2019. From 2018 to 2019, AMC's film exhibition costs decreased from \$1,710.2 to \$847.8, as its operating expenses also halved. This coincides with the firm's efforts to cut costs, such as finding new ways to make the same food using less money and negotiating deals to cut exhibition-related and licensing costs.

However, the company's shares largely declined in value since last year due to growing concern about competition from other movie theatres and streaming companies like Hulu and Netflix. While online streaming and personalized entertainment might pose a threat to AMC in the long run, as of now, the biggest differentiator between AMC and other streaming services is that consumers can only see a movie early at a theater. As a result, AMC possesses a competitive advantage over online streaming services that will add stability to the company's revenues and profits, which will increase the stock price in the long-run.

It's hard to find reasons not to purchase AMC stock. The company has improved the quality of customers' movie-going experience, is incredibly undervalued, and continues to find new ways to increase revenues while cutting costs. AMC truly is the ultimate movie and money-making destination.



# ASK M.E.: ADVICE FOR THE HOLIDAYS

BY ESTHER LI-CHEN & MALIA KUO

Hello Thanksgiving Turkeys,

Another Gazette, another list of questions that we need to answer to help you survive high school and life in general. This season is full of holidays and breaks, which bring many issues only M.E. can solve.

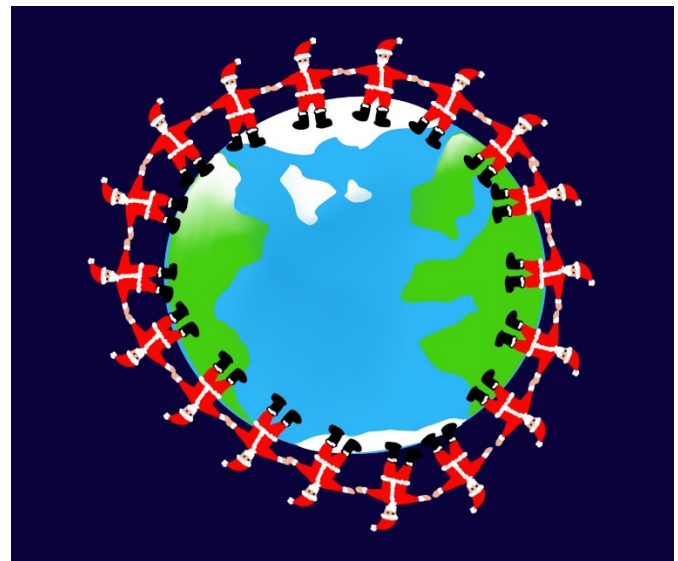
How can I lose weight after Thanksgiving dinner?

Now, we've all experienced the lethargic shame of overeating after Thanksgiving, and we've all wondered how to lose the weight gained during our collective cheat meal. America may be at the top of the charts for obesity, but M.E. will attempt to prevent your slippery slope down an unforgiving road that begins with Thanksgiving. Fortunately, the answer to this burning question is incredibly simple: all you need to do is prepare. Don't be deceived. We don't mean prepare by exercising ahead of time, but instead, prepare your stomach to handle the amount of food by eating more in the days leading up to Thanksgiving. Our bodies are very fragile, and eating too much at once can overload the system and cause you to gain weight (don't worry, I took AP Biology two years ago, and am well-versed in this subject). So, in order to combat the inevitable drastic change in weight, you need to start eating as much as possible every single day, starting today. Once your body has acclimated to the changes, the impact of a hearty Thanksgiving dinner will be significantly lessened, and you'll find that your post-holiday body will be perfect for the coming seasons.

How should I get in the Christmas spirit?

Those who have been raised celebrating Christmas have always heard the typical "deck the halls" with lights and trees in order to get into the festive mood, but what more can we do? What if these traditions have only limited us in our Christmas/holiday preparations? Obviously, the holiday music, the decorated trees, the extravagant wreaths, and the glittering lights all play a crucial role in defining winter, but we all know there's something missing. Traditionally, the figurehead of Christmas is the jolly, allegedly fictional, old Saint Nicholas, better known as Santa Claus, but we think that there is a lack of this mythical creature in our modern markets. Sure, we see him all the time in locations with dense numbers of children, taking pictures and boasting his classic "ho ho ho," but it's never enough. This dearth of Santa Claus ends today. Why isn't Santa Claus more ingrained in the holidays? Even in

these winter months, we hardly feel his presence. His absence in everyday places restricts the level of joy that Christmas should be drenched in. So what do you say guys? Just lace up those black boots, stick out your cookie gut, and hop on a quick flight to the North Pole. Use your shovel to create a small hovel of ice and dirt, and boom! Santa's workshop. You're halfway there.



What type of seasonal drink should I get for autumn?

Finally! The question we've all been waiting for. We know that a lot of people have a basic drink in mind, but we're here to tell you that you should try to be more creative for once in your life. Now, listen, we have this incredible new beverage that absolutely no one has heard of. With this new drink, you'll be the talk of the town. Everyone will fall over themselves in envy. Hear us out: it's based off of a burnt colored vegetable, which is classically known as Cucurbita pepo. Take this garden variety food and crush it into a fine paste. Now, if we steam that in warm, fresh milk and pop in some cinnamon for flavor, we got it, ladies and gentlemen. In front of you is the drink of the season: a pumpkin spice latte.

Although it's still eighty degrees outside, it's also technically the fall season. So, grab your turkey and a pumpkin spice latte and dress up as Santa Claus. It's not too late to have the fall and winter spirit!

Yours truly,  
M.E.

# ALIGNMENT CHART QUIZ

BY ANGIE WONG

You've all seen the memes about them, but which side of the spectrum are you: chaotic evil or lawful good? Or perhaps somewhere in between? Find out with this quiz:

1. You see a classmate drop their books in the hallway. What do you do?
  - a. Drop kick one of the books, aiming it at someone else's face. (4 pts)
  - b. Pick up one of the books and read it in the middle of the hallway. (1 pt)
  - c. Help them before they get trampled. (0 pts)
  - d. Cackle at them and proceed to not help. (3 pts)
  - e. Watch them and do nothing. (2 pts)
2. A particularly rude individual cuts you in line for food. What do you do?
  - a. Start screaming about how unfair this is. (3 pts)
  - b. Pick them up and yeet them out of line. No one messes with your food. (4 pts)
  - c. Cut them back. (1 pt)
  - d. Alert the authorities. (0 pts)
  - e. Ignore it. It's just one person. (2 pts)
3. A few of your friends get together to play a new game. You're the only one that's played this game before. How do you explain the rules?
  - a. I don't. Let them suffer. (1 pt)
  - b. I tell them each different rules for my amusement. Get pranked, suckers. (4 pts)
  - c. I tell them exactly how to play; what else would I do? (0 pts)
  - d. I look it up online and let them read the rules themselves. (2 pts)
  - e. I explain it badly. (3 pts)
4. You get the BASIS plague. What do you do?
  - a. Lick all the doorknobs and sneeze as much as possible in hallways. (4 pts)
  - b. Stay home. (2 pts)
  - c. Go to school and try to not touch anything. (0 pts)
  - d. Go to school with a bunch of Lysol wipes, vigorously cleaning everything you touch. (3 pts)
  - e. Go to school and try not to get upper schoolers sick, but conveniently get the urge to sneeze and cough in the lower school hallways. (1 pt)
5. You see your favorite snack in the store, but then realize you have no money. Why you're in the store to begin with if you have no money is a mystery, but that's besides the point. What do you do?
  - a. I leave the store depressed. (0 pts)
  - b. I steal it. It wasn't that much money anyway. (4 pts)
  - c. I wolf down the snack in the store. Don't worry. I'll throw away the wrapper. (1 pt)
  - d. I stand there and stare at it for a while before reluctantly deciding to leave. (2 pts)
  - e. I bargain with the store clerk. (3 pts)
6. You accidentally drop some food on the floor. What do you do?
  - a. Pick it up and throw it away. (0 pts)
  - b. EAT IT. 5 SECOND RULE. (3 pts)
  - c. Step on it and squish it into the ground, making it into a nice little gross work of art. (4 pts)
  - d. Leave it there and ignore it. (2 pts)
  - e. Manipulate a bystander into picking it up for you. (1 pt)
7. Your parents ask you to wash the dishes. What do you do?
  - a. Ignore them. (1 pt)
  - b. Wash the dishes (0 pts)
  - c. Have the the dishes licked clean, whether it is your dog, your cat, or you doing the licking. (3 pts)
  - d. Negotiate with a sibling to get them to wash the dishes for you. (2 pts)
  - e. Toss all the dishes out the window. If there are no dishes to clean, then you don't have to wash them. (4 pts)
8. Your friend leaves their notebook open as they leave to go to their locker. What do you do?
  - a. Doodle all over their notebook. (1 pt)
  - b. Flip to a random page in their notes and make subtle changes, then see if they notice later in the year. (4 pts)
  - c. Steal their notebook and hide it. (3 pts)
  - d. Continue taking notes in your own notebook and let them copy your notes when they get back. (0 pts)
  - e. Nothing. (2 pts)

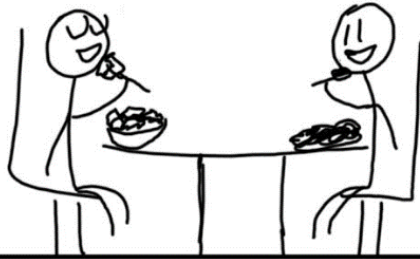
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9. Your friend is looking really tired and asks you to get them coffee. What do you do?
- Insist sleep is for the weak and laugh maniacally at them. (4 pts)
  - Drive out during your free period (or find someone that can drive) to get them coffee, free of charge. (0 pts)
  - Casually make coffee from the teacher's lounge. (3 pts)
  - Repeat answer B, but have them pay you back and charge them with interest. (1 pt)
  - Politely decline, it's a lot of effort. (2 pts)
10. How do you feel about pranks?
- I hate them with a burning passion. (0 pts)
  - I don't really care. (2 pts)
  - If you prank me, expect me to prank you back with a vengeance. (4 pts)
  - They're my favorite hobby. (1 pt)
  - They're funny until someone pranks me. (3 pts)
11. If someone wins a bet with you, you should:
- Make another bet that accumulates more lost bets until you win. (3 pts)
  - Pay up. (0 pts)
  - Find a loophole to get out of it. (1 pt)
  - Argue vehemently about how you technically won. (4 pts)
  - Never pay them in hopes that they forget. (2 pts)
12. You have a long homework assignment due tomorrow. What do you do?
- Panic and stress about it all night as you try to get it done. (3 pts)
  - I complete it. (0 pts)
  - I wait until the class period before doing it. (4 pts)
  - I ignore it. (1 pt)
  - I do half and turn it in half-done. (2 pts)
13. Pick a utensil to eat soup with:
- Fork. (1 pt)
  - Spoon. (0 pts)
  - Spork. (2 pts)
  - Knife. (4 pts)
  - Hands. (3 pts)
14. Thoughts about pineapple on pizza?
- If it's on the pizza, I'll just pick it off and eat it separately. (0 pts)
  - I have a blood feud with the Hawaiians because of this atrocity. (3 pts)
  - I like it actually. (1 pt)
  - I LOVE IT. (4 pts)
  - I don't care. (2 pts)
15. Two of your friends start debating about something. What do you do?
- Say something so outrageous that they both have to stop their argument and address your issues. (3 pts)
  - Join in and provoke more arguing. (4 pts)
  - Plug your ears and ignore them. (2 pts)
  - Grade them on their debate skills. (1 pt)
  - Add meaningful comments to their debate. (0 pts)
- (0-12) Lawful good: You are too pure for this world. How can you be this good of a person? Anyway, you have an innocent energy and kind personality. You are someone that many people trust and 10/10 would die for. You can be a calming force in the presence of chaotic energy and tend to stick with your decisions. Often times, people can predict your actions, but they are good actions. You are almost always 100% honest and will always consider others when making a decision.
- (13-24) Lawful evil: You may have a calm energy, but you do have moments of mischief that distinguishes you from a lawful good. Generally, you are a good person, but you enjoy the occasional evil deed or have a naughty side that shows every so often. Usually, you make decisions that are most convenient for you. You would rather be bluntly honest and hurt someone's feelings rather than try to make them feel better.
- (25-36) True Neutral: This is the middle of the road alignment. You are neither good nor evil and tend to have a calm temperament. You are capable of doing good and bad things, but normally, you choose to do things in between or simply nothing at all. One might call you a normal human being.
- (37-48) Chaotic good: Although you radiate pure chaos, you are (mostly) a good person. You make decisions spontaneously and tend to prank people a lot. You understand situations and read the social atmosphere well, but you do the opposite of what people like just to be that annoying person. You are the type of person that would find your own solution to a problem, no matter how odd it is.
- (49-60) Chaotic evil: You are decidedly the worst. No offense. Not only are you unpredictable, but you also use your power of chaos for mischievous, evil motives. You are a toxic individual that enjoys watching others suffer and likes going against all societal norms just for funsies. Not only do you radiate chaos, you cause chaos as well.

**Holiday Eats**  
By Angie Wong

People eating normally



People eating during the Holidays



Me eating normally



Me eating during the Holidays



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