



February 2017

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Joelee DiGiacco
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March 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 D-Day Breakfast: Egg & Cheese Muffin Sandwich Lunch: Cheese Pizza Fish on a Bun Italian Chicken School Activities: X-Cats Meeting	2 A-Day Breakfast: Waffles Lunch: Cheese Pizza Grilled Cheese Chicken Salad School Activities: Boys Baseball First Baseball Meeting	3 B-Day Breakfast: Bagel Lunch: Pizza Soft Tacos School Activities: Girls Basketball Sectional Final Faculty Art Show	
5	6 C-Day Breakfast: French Toast Sticks Cereal Lunch: Soy butter and Jelly Sandwich Tostito Scoops RCSD Half Day	7 D-Day Breakfast: Pancakes Lunch: Buffalo Chicken Wrap Cheese Pizza WPTSO Meeting	8 A-Day Breakfast: Egg & Cheese Muffin Lunch: Pizza Chicken and Waffles School Activities: X-Cats Meeting	9 B-Day Breakfast: Waffles Lunch: Hamburger Cheese Pizza Parent/Teacher Conferences	10 C-Day Breakfast: Bagel Lunch: Pizza Buffalo Chicken Sandwich	11
12	13 D-Day Breakfast: Waffles Lunch: Cheese Pizza Buffalo Chicken Wrap	14 A-Day Breakfast: Sausage and Cheese English Muffin Lunch: Cheese Pizza BBQ Bean Salad	15 B-Day Breakfast: French Toast Sticks Lunch: Cheese Pizza Chicken Cheese Flat Bread	16 C-Day Breakfast: Turkey ham and Egg Sandwich Lunch: Cheese Pizza Sweet-n-Sour Chicken w/Rice School Activities: X-Cats Finger Lakes Regional	17 D-Day Breakfast: Yogurt Parfait Lunch: Cheese Pizza Soft Tacos St. Patrick's Day	18
19	20 A-Day Breakfast: French Toast Lunch: Turkey Pepperoni Pizza Soy butter and Jelly Spring Modified Sports begin	21 B-Day Breakfast: Pancakes Lunch: Vegetable Wrap Turkey Pepperoni Pizza Stuffed Shells	22 C-Day Breakfast: Sausage, Egg and Cheese Bagel Lunch: Turkey Pepperoni Pizza Stuffed Shells	23 D-Day Breakfast: Waffles Lunch: Turkey Pepperoni Pizza Soy Butter and Jelly	24 A-Day Breakfast: Bagel Lunch: Cheese Pizza Turkey Ham & Cheese Sandwich	25
26	27 B-Day Breakfast: Waffles Lunch: Cheese Pizza Popcorn Chicken Turkey Pepperoni Pizza	28 C-Day Breakfast: Sausage, Egg & Cheese Lunch: Cheese Pizza Gordita Wrap	29 D-Day Breakfast: Pancakes Lunch: Beef Chili Cheese Pizza Turkey-Ham Wrap	30 A-Day Breakfast: French Toast Lunch: Cheese Pizza Grilled Cheese	31 B-Day Breakfast: Yogurt Parfait Lunch: Pizza BBQ Chicken Soft Tacos	



Holi

February 28, 2017



Tansanika Moody
Wildcat Times
Correspondent

Each year in March, there is a festival filled with enthusiastic people, covered in a variety of colors, expressing the relief of any worries they had and bringing social harmony.

The meaning of the festival originally was to get over the gloom of winter and celebrate the upcoming spring but, over the years, the Holi festival is now a commemoration of a legend:

Old folks had told the story of an ancient King who resented his son and unsuccessfully attempted to kill the prince several times. One attempt involved his sister, the prince's aunt, who was immune to fire. She sat inside a blazing fire with the prince on her lap. Unbeknownst to her, her powers only worked when she entered the fire alone. When she realized this, it was too late and she perished in the fire while the prince, who chanted to the gods for protection, was saved.

The people of India gather wood for weeks before the holiday to make a bonfire to as a symbolic representation of the aunt, Holiku.

The festival lasts two days in the Braj region of India where Holiku was born.

While during the year there is always a separation of women and men, young and old, rich and poor, the celebration brings together thousands of people from around the world and loosens up the strict societal norms, bringing everyone together.

While there is traditional cuisine and entertainment, the celebration is best known for everyone throwing both wet and dry colors in the air.

The colors match the people cheerful mood.

This festival is very messy. While best clothing should not be worn, white clothing is recommended to show off the vibrant colors. And only those that are down to get messy should attend.

Although you can stand on the sidelines, it's not a guarantee you will not get hit by dry and wet paint. Be prepared for stains on your clothes and your hair may be colored for a few days.

For safety cautions, you can only use colors bought from the vendors and outside food, alcohol and drugs are prohibited.

This event is family friendly and everyone is meant to have a good time.

The Holi festival is a unique experience. Lup Sang, a student at Wilson High school, says, "The festival is very fun. It's an event you can feel free around family and friends."

And since it's family friendly fun, Ms. Rice is planning a Holi festival outside the school!

Although the festival originated in India, it found its way to other countries. The world now sees the stress free event as way to bring a city together and have a good time.



The Other Side of Mrs. Monk-George

February 28, 2017



Courage Nou
Wildcat Times
Correspondent

Mrs. Monk-George (aka G-Money) is a living environment teacher at Wilson that is known by her offbeat teaching style and behavior. She makes her class fun and enthusiastic for students but has a different persona outside of school.

Because she acts “cool,” there are rumors floating around that Monk-George uses drugs, which, she says, “is totally false.” While Monk-George is extremely enthusiastic, she is far from a partier.

Monk-George describes herself as a very religious person. In fact, she is an active follower of Baha’i.

Baha’i teaches humans how to know and love god through prayers, reflection and your service to community. Some of the Baha’i practices are daily prayers, meditation, contemplation and fellowship with followers of all religions.

Baha’i faith was found in the 19-century by Bahá'u'lláh (ba-haa-ol-laa) in Persia and literally means “the Glory of God.”

While reading a bunch of articles about the Baha’i belief, Monk-George felt an instant connection. She felt like it was something for her and it was a good feeling that went straight to her heart.

In this belief, no one is “above” anyone else in the community

She said that the Baha’i belief makes her see the world in many different ways and shows her the reason why that she is a part of this world.

Along with teaching at Wilson, she teaches children in a Baha’i class where kids have fun while completing community service projects. The class also reads stories about Baha’i, memorizes prayers and discusses what the different quotes and writings mean.

Monk-George describes a frequent discussion about, “the source of courage and power is the promotion of the Word of God and steadfastness in His Love.”

Every month she hosts an event for her Baha’i community giving the people an opportunity to learn something new. Last month, she brought a professor from RIT to talk about the learning of science.

While she may be described as offbeat or different, Monk-George uses natural methods to enjoy life by helping others while finding her own way.



Cesar Chavez Day

February 28, 2017



Tatiana Colon
Wildcat Times
Correspondent

Cesar Chavez Day takes place on his birthday, March 31. On this day people celebrate and honor the birth and legacy of this Mexican American labor movement leader.

Chavez fought for the rights of migrant farm workers, the farm laborers that work have to move from farm to farm as the seasons change, in the Southwestern United States. The work is difficult and dangerous and Chavez knew it all too well since he and his parents worked in the fields.

Chavez turned into an activist, promoting the rights of farm workers. He was acting to increase wages and improve the farmers working conditions.

In 1962, he founded The National Farm Workers Association, that later merged with the Agricultural Workers Organizing Committee, and together they created the United Farm Workers.

According to The United Farm Workers website, Chavez organized nationwide boycotts of agricultural products until working conditions were improved and salary demands were met, used nonviolent tactics by leading workers in long marches against low living wages, and led a boycott of table grapes.

The 1968 grape boycott mobilized consumer support and won a contract with the major grape owners of California.

Another tactic he used was to go on hunger strikes until the violence against strike workers ended.

It took five years of constant protests and strikes for the United Farm Workers to win a concession when they secured living wages and unionized the grape fields.

With its success, the United Farm Workers grew larger and represented over 50,000 farm workers.

The United Farm Workers continued to bring together farm workers and employers to collectively bargain for workers' rights.

Chavez led the United Farm workers Organization and fought for the rights of farm workers until his death in 1993.

On March 31, 2008 Obama issued a statement stating, "Chavez left a legacy as an educator, environmentalist, and a civil rights leader. And his cause lives on. As farm workers and laborers across America continue to struggle for fair treatment and fair wages, we find strength in what Cesar Chavez accomplished so many years ago. And we should honor him for what he's taught us about making America a stronger, more just, and more prosperous nation."

And in 2014, President Obama made Cesar Chavez Day a federal commemorative holiday in honor of Chavez's achievements.

Cesar Chavez Day

Makayla Wright, a student here at Wilson, sums it up the best: "Cesar Chavez Day helps bring awareness to issues in the country that many may not know about and reminds us all about a piece of history that most often forget.

Darth Vader's #1 Fan



Jah'meir Robinson
Wildcat Times
Correspondent

February 28, 2017

Mr. Burns, an English teacher here at Wilson High School, is very interactive in and outside of school. He is able to combine his enjoyment for Star Wars and passion for public service into one.



Darth Vader is probably the most recognizable Star Wars character from the movie franchise and has been Burns' favorite character since he was three-years-old. He says, "It all started in the late seventies. I lived across the street from a library that had a life-size, cardboard Darth Vader. I asked for it and the librarian said no. I guess I got the last laugh."

Burns has been building his costume for the past year. He has purchased different parts from all around the world: pieces of his Vader have come from California, Argentina, England and many more places. With most parts having price tags in the thousand-dollar range, experts have to be found throughout the world to help make the costume as close to screen accurate as possible. Burns says, "There is a demand but it's not too big. You have to search to find artists that create quality things."

In November of 2016, Burns applied to become part of 501st Legion. The organization's goal is to bring many costume enthusiasts together while trying to make more people take an interest in the Star Wars franchise. Burns stated, "The 501st is the biggest costume organization in the world. They pride themselves in movie accuracy and all events are not-for-profit."

Since being a recruit for the 501st, he has trooped for the Pirate Toy Fund at Eastview Mall, for a local children's hospital at an Albany Devils game, and escorted a young lady to center ice to drop the puck at the Rochester Amerks Star Wars Night where he trooped for the Golisano Children's Hospital.



The 501st troopers are perfect for bringing attention to an event and many sporting teams enjoy adding 'Star Wars Night' to their schedule noting that it is usually their most attended game for the year.

Trooping is voluntary so the characters do not get any kind of compensation. If a person insists on paying, the 501st asks that they donate to the charity they are trooping for that night.

While he doesn't receive pay, Burns still gets a lot from being a member of the 501st. "You get to see a lot of the behind-the-scenes at events and it's just fun to dress up as Darth Vader. A lot of smiles, everyone wants to take pictures with me and I feel like a rock star."

While Mr. Burns does help raise money for charity, his first love is Darth Vader. "Many people give me strange looks when I tell them what I do. All I know is that my eight-year-old self would think that I'm the coolest guy in the world!"