



Special Holiday Issue

December 2022

Ringling in the Holidays



Banyan students, staff ready themselves for vacation

By Mr. Hofmann

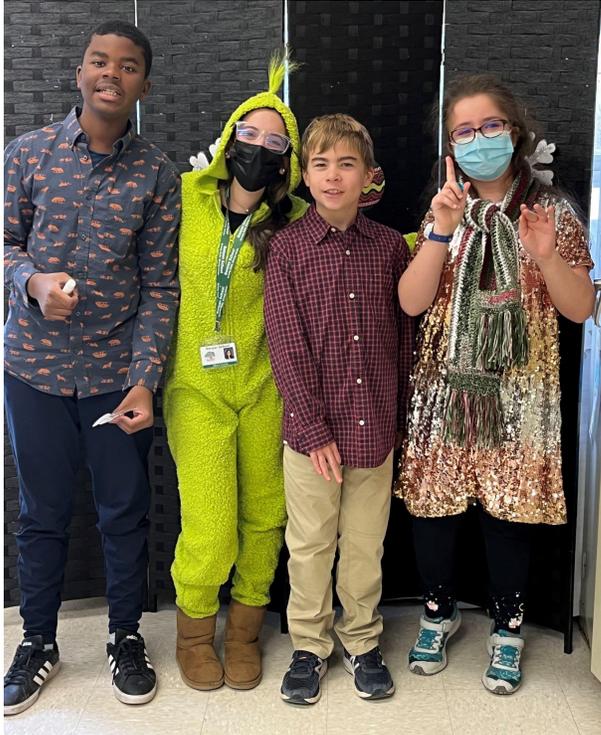
The holiday season is in the air, and what a busy week it has been at Banyan!

Students have been scurrying around the hallways looking for their teachers to give them gifts. Ms. Mastrolia has her students working on the winter concert. Many teachers and students wore Christmas or Hanukkah sweaters, hats or t-shirts to celebrate the holidays during School Spirit week. The high school band performed in the gym.

All week long, everyone was in the right spirit at Banyan!

Some great pictures from the week are on the following pages.













Keaton goes to D.C.

Banyan seventh-grader has a blast in nation's capital

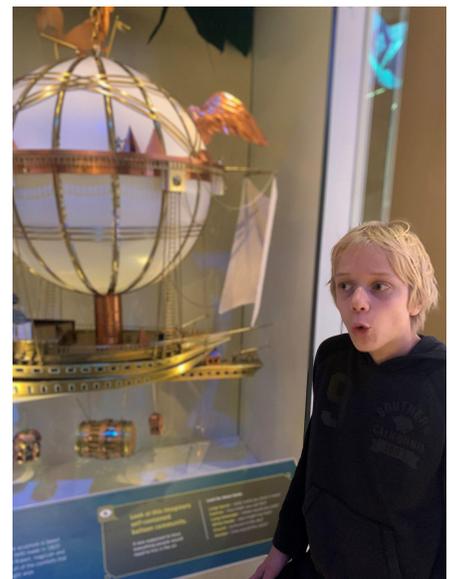
By Keaton

WASHINGTON D.C. – My dad was chaperoning a trip to Washington DC with his students. My dad is a college professor. He teaches journalism. My mom thought it would be a good idea to go to Washington DC. It was a long trip but we eventually got to this sweet fancy hotel called Hilton Embassy Suites. It had a nice hot pool, and the room was very fancy and nice. I felt like a billionaire!

One of the places we went was the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum. There were so many airplanes from old school to new school. There was even a Star Wars plane and I sent a picture to my friend Callum. There was even a cool steampunk house balloon that I really liked.

We also went to my new favorite place, the Hard Rock Cafe. I got a bottle of root beer and I felt like an adult and I ordered off the adult menu which was really cool.

We also saw the Washington Monument. It was pretty nice. We also saw the Lincoln Memorial. It was interesting. We also saw the White House, where Joe Biden lives. I saw a bunch of people protesting about Iran. Washington DC is my favorite place. The thing I don't like about it is that it's too far but I recommend you go. The trip is worth it.

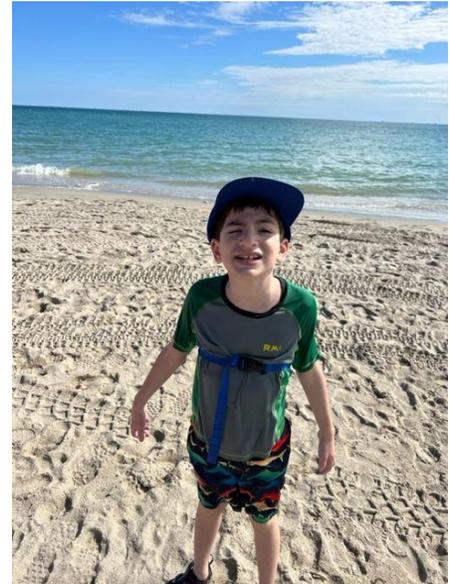


Smooth sailing in Florida

Dan has a wonderful time visiting grandparents

By Dan

During a recent long weekend, Mommy, Daddy, Ryan, and I went to Florida to see Grandma and Grandpa. We went swimming in the pool and the ocean. When I was at the beach, I saw a digger. It was really cool! I rode a noisy boat and the Ferris wheel. My trip to Florida was perfect!



Loads of fun at Saturday Social

Santa, Fairfield Fire Dept. pay Banyan Elementary a special visit



Staff Report

Saturday Social was a HUGE success!!! Santa came on a fire truck and gave out candy canes!! We had a cereal bar with Chocolate cheerios - fruity pebbles and lucky charms and added some fruit to our plates!! We played a musical dot game.... Think musical chairs without the chairs :)

Kiera and Roman were the big winners!!! Lots of fun was had by all!!!



Baby's first Christmas!

Ms. Kempton's daughter celebrates first holiday

By Ms. Kempton

Happy Holidays from my daughter, Penny! Penny dressed up as "Santa Claus" for her holiday pictures. The photographer was great at getting Penny to laugh and smile for the photos. The photographer even tried to get Penny to look like "Elf on the Shelf!" We hope everyone has a wonderful holiday season!



Getting a kick out of soccer

World Cup isn't the only hot spot for soccer

Staff Report

While the World Cup was getting everyone's attention across the globe, Banyan students have gotten their fill of soccer in Phys Ed class. The students learned about teamwork, hand-eye coordination, and conditioning. And, oh yes, they have had a great time while playing!



"Sweet" shirt comes to Banyan

Staff Report

Every now and then, we'll come across a student with a shirt that has a little more meaning than the average shirt. This month's Shirt of the Week depicts the old rock-and-roll song "Sweet Home Alabama" by Lynyrd Skynyrd.



What
do
you
want
for

the holidays?

Banyan Secret Snowflake gift exchange a big hit with students

Staff Report

Tis the season of giving – especially here at Banyan!

Below are pictures of Miss Sami and “Sami’s Little Helper” Theo asking students what they’d like for Christmas or Hannakuh during Banyan’s annual Secret Snowflake gift exchange.

“It went great,” she said. “The kids were amazing and creative!”



The Iceman Cometh ... to Mike's house

Banyan student welcomes a new pet fish into his home

Staff Report

This isn't just another fish story. Michael had a new member of his family named Iceman.

He joined the Trabucco-Schmon family two weeks ago. What a prized catch!

He is a blue Gourami and seems very happy in his new home!



A great time in the Big Apple

Cassidy has a wonderful time at the circus

Staff Report

We came into the city to see The Big Apple Circus. Cassidy loved every minute. She could not pick a favorite act because she thought they all were so amazing. We saw a juggler, acrobats, dancing poodles, a magician, a hula hooper who had at least 10 hula hoops going at once, a hilarious clown, and the famous Wallenda Family of high wire walkers. It was really exciting and so much fun.



Mario has a Grand time on vacation

Great time had by all at family vacation to Grand Cayman

Staff Report

Here are some pictures from our family vacation to Grand Cayman last week. We have Mario at the airport with his dad, swimming in the hot tub with his sisters, and making ice cream sandwiches with his Tio.



Bea is crazy about her pet dogs

By Bea

I have two dogs, one named Pepper and one named Pickles. Pepper is older than pickles by a year or two. My dogs pepper and pickles are very crazy but sometimes calm. They play together all day long. Also they like to play ball in the backyard. They are always barking at the mailman. My mom sits in the hallway to play fetch with them. When we go to the Library (which is in our house) they like to look at us through the window and bark while I am reading with mom. They go outside to run around the yard where they like to play some more. They also like to sit upstairs near my dad's office, which is cute and funny.



Oh man, what a weekend!

Matt travels to Minnesota with his dad for a Vikings football game



Staff Report

Matthew G. had an eventful weekend recently. He boarded a plane to Minnesota and attended a Minnesota Vikings game!

The two returned to New Jersey and Matthew was back in school Monday morning. Now there's a dedicated student!

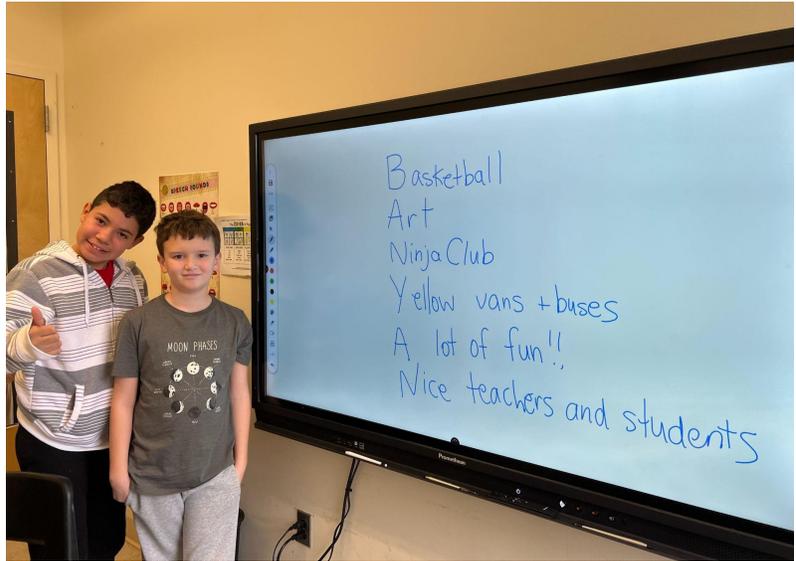


Word games + teamwork = Lotsa Fun

Students play word association games in Ms. Gross' Speech class

Staff Report

Greydon and Matthew T. worked on word retrieval, naming and brainstorming tasks in Speech class. They were given a word and needed to use team work to think of associated words that start with certain letters. They worked really well together!



Off to a terrific start!

Gavin wins big for Morristown, Tri-County wrestling

Staff Report

Gavin, who was a Morris County Tournament champion in his weight class last year, is off to a roaring start this winter.

The Banyan eighth-grader earned the 100-pound spot on his middle school team in Morristown and won his first three matches against Mount Olive, East Hanover, and Parsippany.

In addition, he is also the starting 96-pounder for the Tri-County League team and recently reeled off three straight victories against opponents from Mount Olive, East Hanover, Randolph, and Roxbury.

Here are some pictures of Gavin in action and one with Mr. Western, who came to one of Gavin's matches.



Brrrr! What a race!

Kelly braves freezing temps, completes 5K course

Staff Report

Kelly completed from yesterday's Girl On The Run 5k which took place in Oak Ridge Park in Clark. She completed the course in 38 minutes. It was 23 degrees but she never slowed down, she was a trooper! We're so proud of her!



Throwing their hats into the ring

Ms. Kline's Science class creates interesting hats ... from scratch



Staff Report

Miss Sami stopped by first period and helped Ms. Kline's students with their Holiday Hat Engineering and Design Challenge. The students came up with some clever and creative hats using pipe cleaners, paper plates, and tape! Bella solved the problem of a missing pom-pom on her ready-made hat! Science rocks...and so do Ms. Kline's students!!

Oh the weather *inside* was frightful!

Ms. Swofford's Art class designs giant snowflakes

Staff Report

It wasn't snowing inside Ms. Swofford's Art class but it sure looked that way!

Ms. Swofford's students created dozens of snowflakes and hung them on the wall all around the gym.

Students took a sheet of paper and scissors and went to work.

No two snowflakes are the same and neither were any of the students' creations!



Zone Regulation Fever!

Banyan students love the Zone Regulation Board

Staff Report

The Zones of Regulation Bulletin Board has been a hit! Each month, a new teacher is featured on the bulletin board, and students have to decide which zone the teacher is in and why they might feel that way. For December, Ms. Sami was featured on the bulletin board in the yellow zones.

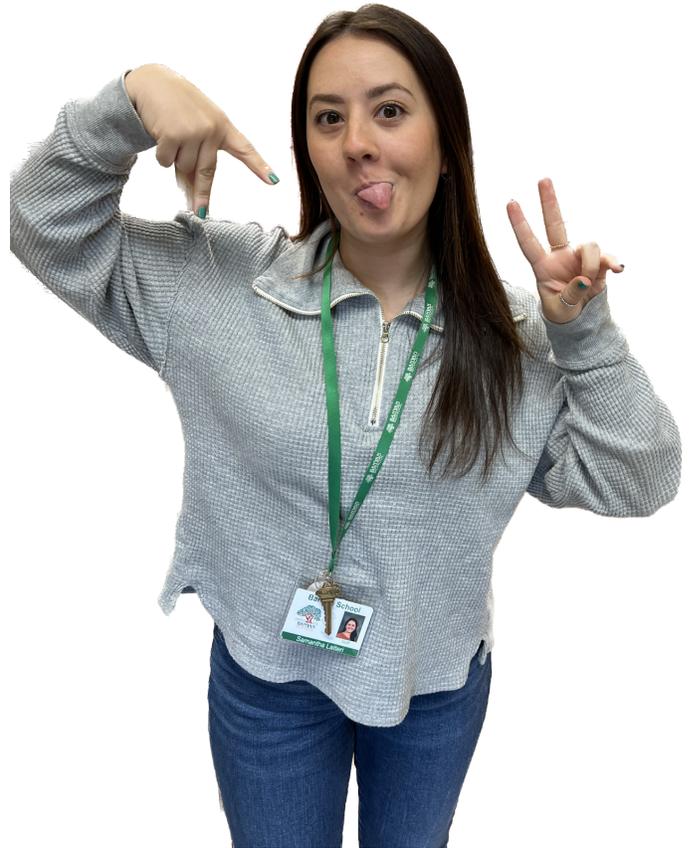
Here are some of the reasons that students thought Ms. Sami felt silly:

Alex CK said Ms. Sami feels silly because she ate too much sugar.

Ethan L said Ms. Sami feels silly because she drank too much soda.

Leila said Ms. Sami feels silly because she drank too much coffee.

Theo said Ms. Sami feels silly because Friday is such a fun and silly day!



Hey ... that looks familiar!

Emma and Ms. Z sport matching outfits



Students make Ms. Kempton proud



By Ms. Kempton

I am back from maternity leave and so excited to see all of the students and staff! It is great to see all of the amazing work that has been going on in the classrooms!

Ms. Kempton's Reading Corner

Starting in January students will have the opportunity to participate in a fundraiser which will also coincide with our annual Learning Ally Great Reading Games event for Read Across America Week. The fundraiser is called "Read for the House" and

supports the Ronald McDonald House.

For those of you who are not familiar with this organization, Ronald McDonald House® programs provide temporary lodging, transportation, meals, and social services to families who travel to Philadelphia for pediatric

care. Throughout the month of January, students will recruit sponsors for their reading. Sponsors can make a general donation of a certain amount or a pledge such as \$0.25 cents per minute that the student reads. Students will log minutes



**Ronald McDonald
House Charities®**
Philadelphia Region

during the month of February and collect donations during March.

Also, Learning Ally's [Great Reading Games](#) start January 9, 2023! Students can listen to books from their digital bookshelf through the Learning Ally

app.

More information will follow about all of our Read Across America activities!



'Tis the season ... for Holiday jokes

Banyan Jokesters kick it into high gear with a new batch

Staff Report

Here are some great December Jokes from Anisa and Benji

What is a Christmas tree's favorite candy?

- a. Orna-mints



Knock Knock

Who's there?

Donut

Donut Who?

Donut open your presents until the Holidays!



3. What did the gingerbread man put under his blankets?

A cookie sheet.



4. What does an elf study in school?
The elfabet.



5. What is a cow's favorite holiday?
Moo-years Day.

