

MACY'S THANKSGIVING DAY PARADE

By Deiana Forde
copy editor

The streets of New York roar as tubas and enormous floats cascade down the streets and the blaring music brings cheers from thousands lining to watch the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in New York City.

"I attended the parade in 2016. I went because my cousin was marching in the band. It was just me, my mom and dad because my brother was really little, so he stayed home," freshman Giada Ger-vase said.

She enjoyed being there.

"Since my cousin was marching in the parade, I got to experience all of the festivities and I got to have a seat in the front row. I remember having a lot of fun, but there were a lot of people there," Ger-vase said.

Students like junior Levi Peterson did not enjoy the parade as much as he had hoped.

"I went to the parade in 2018 when I was about 10 years old, but I would not go again if I had the chance because it was freezing. We waited in line for four hours.

Even though we had really good seats, it just was not fun for me because I was still young and did not know much about it," Peterson said.

Perfect dates and holiday cheer motivated the Petersons' family trip.

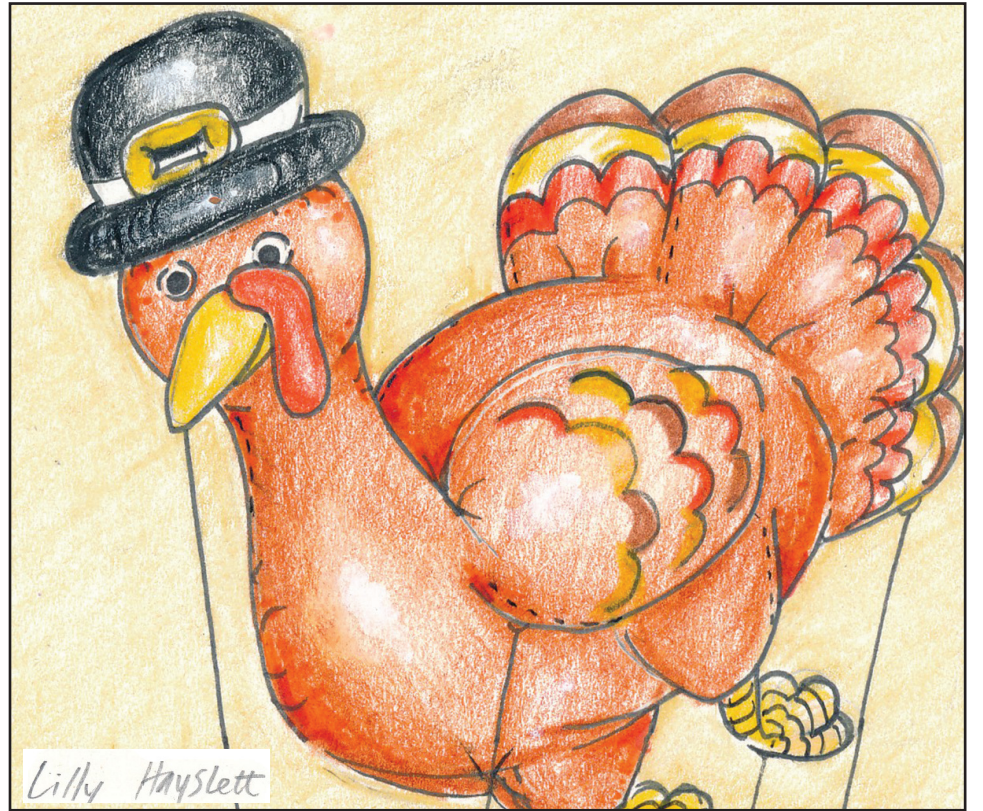
"We were in New York for about a week, and the dates were lined up so that we could go to the parade. My mom really likes the holiday season and loves Thanksgiving, so we got tickets and went," Peterson said.

Out of all of the festivities, he named his favorite.

"My favorite part of the parade was the live performances because I love watching live music and dancing from artists I am familiar with," Peterson said.

The distant memory of the parade remains in junior Lei Whaley's mind.

"I don't remember much because I was 5 when I went. But maybe I will attend again because it seems fun. Most of the time, my family and I would watch it, but in recent years with me being busy with theater, my brother being busy with work, and my dad also busy with work, it is hard to get us all together," Whaley said.



For some families, watching the parade on tv has become a longstanding tradition.

"I've watched the parade with my parents since I was about three or four years old every year. The first year I watched it was with my grandma, and she likes to set the tradition. So now when me and my family watch, it brings back the good time we had watching the parade with my

grandma," junior Fallon Dillard said.

The parade begins in the morning and ends at approximately Noon.

"I have watched the parade for about three or four years, and my whole family watches it together yearly," sophomore Markus Craven said. "My favorite part of the float is the Pikachu float because I love Pokemon. I watch it every year to see it."

Cocoa Cozy blankets Christmas movies



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Picture a crackling fire, twinkling Christmas lights in the background and gingerbread cookies fresh out of the oven. Sprawled out on the couch under a fluffy blanket, cookies in hand, the TV illuminates as flitting images of Santa and elves trot across the screen.

To many Americans, Christmas is the best time of the year. However, it is not just about getting presents and spending time with family; it is how communities come together dressed up, listening to Christmas music, singing carols, cuddling up and watching Christmas movies.

Three specific movies continue to carry the holiday spirit through each generation. Those movies are The Grinch, Home Alone and Polar Express. Most people have experienced the joy these movies bring, and often, watching these movies has become family traditions. I will rate each.



The Grinch follows a mean, furry, green man and his dog as they venture into Whoville to steal away Christmas. The movie wraps up with the Grinch healing from his past trauma and joining in

the Christmas fun, which inspires and touches the audience. Many argue that The Grinch is the original Christmas movie. It carries all the quintessential components, with the Antagonist who hates Christmas, the Protagonist who convinces the antagonist to love it, Christmas music, and the whimsical wintery setting. For these reasons, I love The Grinch, and it is definitely a classic, but I would still rate it as an 8 out of 10 because the storyline is quite basic, so it does not stand out. This is a fair score but will vary based on each person's generation and certain Christmas traditions.



Sophomore Lila Thompson drinks hot chocolate while watching a movie. She made the cocoa to pair with homemade cookies. Addy Rogers photo



Most Gen-Zers remember watching The Polar Express during the holidays in kindergarten. The plot focuses on kids leaving their homes in the middle of the night to climb aboard the Polar Express, which takes them to the North Pole. They are immersed in fantastical adventures. It was inspiring and entertaining as it presented a fictional possibility of the life of Santa in the North Pole. Since it was a movie essentially engrained in my heart but one I do not watch every year, I have to rate it a 9 out of 10.



The last movie is Home Alone. This one is well-loved across America and deserves all of the hype it receives. Each year, Americans settle down and rewatch the whole trilogy as it follows a young child left home alone and uses creative tricks to fend off home invaders. It is heartfelt, funny, and perfectly depicts Christmas ambiance. I rate this

movie a 10 out of 10 because there are not many other movies with the same plot. I make a solid effort to re-watch it every year.

Many new movies contribute unique and funny plots, like one of my personal favorites, Love Hard, which follows a girl meeting a guy on Tinder. Still, she ends up being catfished after flying to his hometown to meet him for Christmas. It is hilarious with the perfect touch of family and romance. Despite my love for this movie, it does not compare to the classics.

Based on these three factors, my chosen favorite deserves a permanent spot atop the Times Square Christmas tree. The best Christmas movie, despite coming out well over 30 years ago, is Home Alone.

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and pie!

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