

## Roosevelt Celebrating 55th Year of Operation Holiday Basket!

This year Roosevelt High School is celebrating our 55th year of doing Operation Holiday Basket after starting in 1970 due to teachers wanting to help feed families in their community.

Unique Abrams ('27)

At Roosevelt High School, the holidays aren't just about decorations and spirit days; they're about 55 years of giving back through Operation Holiday Basket. Earlier this week, I talked to Ms. Christol Schultz, the organizer of Operation Holiday Basket. When interviewing Ms. Schultz, I asked why we do the activities we do and what the meaning behind them is.

Out of all the weeks in the year, winter spirit week only happens once. This is the only week when we do these specific days: Monday is Comfy Day, Tuesday is Ugly Sweater Day, Wednesday is Hat Day, Thursday is Candy Cane Day, and Friday is School Spirit Day.

The two days that really stood out to me were Hat Day and School Spirit Day. Ms. Schultz explained that "back in the old days," before students were allowed to wear hats in school, you had to pay a dollar to get a sticker allowing you to wear one. School Spirit Day is also a standout tradition because one year, when the Star Tribune covered Roosevelt's Operation Holiday Basket, the front cover featured a student wearing another school's sweatshirt.

This made me realize how much thought and effort is put into this tradition and why Ms. Schultz would want all the credit to go to Roosevelt, especially if we are the only high school in MPS that does this. I also asked how the school knows who to give baskets to. Ms. Schultz explained that some students ask teachers if they could receive a basket, and the teachers then relay the message. She also said that surrounding schools in the community, such as Bancroft, Winona, and Sanford, can send in names of people who would benefit from receiving one, along with organizations like the Sabathani Community Center, which gives back to the community and hosts many events.



Picture of Ms. Christol Schultz taken by Unique Abrams 12/18 9:44 am.

During the interview, Ms. Schultz said, "They might not be our school, they might be going to Washburn, but they're still in the community." This showed me that what we do during this one time of year can make someone's entire year, and that it really is worth it.

## Review of the RHS Bad Parking IG Page

Fritz Saunders ('27), Dylan Cramer ('27)

The RHS Bad Parking page on Instagram has accumulated a lot of likes and views recently.

With snowstorms rolling in through Minneapolis, there have been some rather questionable parking jobs in the student parking lot. These questionable parking jobs gave some students the idea to create an IG page that features the learning curve for student drivers at RHS. This page offers a fun, daily dose of excitement and is addictively entertaining for the student body here at RHS, but this page also has a positive effect. Students are more motivated to refine their parking skills in hopes of avoiding the embarrassment they might face. Because of this, the quality of parking in the lot has improved greatly since the page was created. Although the creator of the page prefers to remain anonymous, you can submit bad parking jobs to the page by simply searching up @rhsbadparking123 on IG and messaging them your submission. While the owners will encourage submission, they will not remove a post once it is up so tough luck if you're on the page.

## Quickly Grab a Gift Off the Shelf Just in Time for the Holidays!

Boontuu Negassa ('27)

It's time to quit procrastinating and get ready for the holiday times! Finding the perfect holiday gift doesn't have to be stressful. Whether you're shopping for someone who loves cozy nights in or appreciates practical gifts they'll use everyday. Get ready to start adding items to your cart, this holiday list highlights simple, thoughtful items that bring comfort, warmth, and joy throughout the winter season.

### 1. Fluffy blanket

Get a fluffy blanket for your giftee this holiday! Minnesota has made a comeback with its large amounts of snow and not-so-generous temperatures. A warm, soft blanket is a generous gift to your giftee for them to stay warm during long winter nights, whether they're relaxing on the couch, reading, or watching their favorite show.

### 2. A mug

Your giftee can also keep warm this holiday with a hot drink in a cute mug! Pick out a cute mug for your giftee that reminds you of them to add that personal touch. This gift can be used for their everyday coffee, tea or hot chocolate during the colder months

### 3. A candle

Add to your giftee's cozy environment this holiday and pick out a refreshing candle. A candle can instantly make a space feel warm and relaxing, helping your giftee unwind after busy winter days while filling their home with comforting scents.

### 1. Comfy slides/slippers

Pick out some comfy indoor or outdoor shoes for your giftee! Slides are perfect for a quick errand, lounging at home, or staying comfortable while moving around the house, making them a practical yet thoughtful gift they'll reach for often.

### 4. Digital Camera

You can pick out a small camera for your giftee this holiday so your giftee can capture any moment! Whether your giftee is experiencing the snowy landscapes, time with friends, or everyday memories, a camera encourages creativity and helps preserve special moments beyond a phone screen.

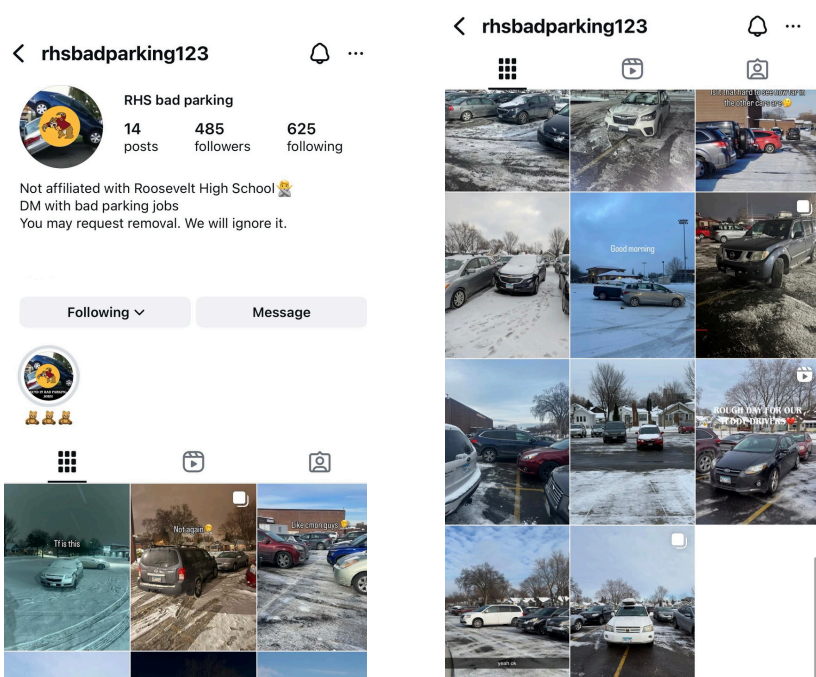




Image of the Winter SKOLstice's ice maze, image provided by MinnesotaParent.com

## “N’ICE” Winter Festival Minnesota

Jefferson Tang (‘28)

As the holidays get closer everyday, and winter break is just around the corner. A lot of people are probably wondering what to do during their break. If you have no plans, ask your family to check out The Minnesota Winter Festival in Eagan!

The Minnesota Ice Festival, or its more popular name the Winter SKOLstice, is back this winter for its 5th year this winter. It started back in November, and is ending in February. During this festival, there will be lots of fun winter activities, a great place to go during winter break, there's an available drive-through light show, an ice rink for you to have fun with friends and family, an ice slide, food, drinks, live performances and most importantly, the Guinness World record ice maze! If you would like more information, go to [winterskolstice.com](http://winterskolstice.com). Hope you all have a great winter break!

## Winter Celebrations Around the World

Caroline Dake (‘28)

During this time of the year, many holidays are going on from Christmas to Hanukkah to Kwanzaa. Many different cultures celebrate such different holidays!

Hanukkah is an 8-day Jewish celebration during the winter time. This year it started on December 14th and will end on the 22nd. Hanukkah started being celebrated around 164 B.C according to Laura Goertzel from National Geographic Kids. It's often referred to as the “Festival of Lights” and is celebrated with candles, family, friends, and food.

“Kwanzaa is an African American and pan-African holiday which celebrates family, community, and culture.” according to the African American Cultural Center. It starts December 26th and goes through January 1st. The holiday was created in 1966 to help African Americans reconnect to their African roots.

Christmas is an Christian religious holiday. It's celebrated December 25th every year. The holiday celebrates the birth of Jesus. During the Christmas time there are many different traditions that go on gift-giving is very common, tree decorating, Santa Claus and many more.



Joshua Frye (‘28)

## What to Look Forward to in 2026!

John Ferrara (‘28)

There are many things coming out in 2026, such as games, movies, shows, new activities, and events to do and go to, but here are some things you can look forward to once 2026 is here.

The first thing we believe you should check out is the FIFA World Cup, which goes from June 11th to July 19th, and the countries hosting next year will be Canada, Mexico, and the United States. Some movies upcoming in 2026 that you should check out are *Scream 7*, coming out on February 27th, 2026. More films to check out include *Avengers: Domsday*, coming out December 18th, 2026. *The Hunger Games: Sunrise on the Reaping* is coming out on November 20th, 2026, and is anticipated as the sixth sequel to *The Hunger Games* franchise. Video games you could check out in 2026 are *GTA VI*, which is the highly anticipated game planned to be released on November 19th, 2026. Another big game set for release in 2026 is *Marvel's Wolverine*, scheduled for release in the fall of 2026. Another event occurring in 2026 is the Winter Olympics, happening in Milan-Cortina, Italy, from February 6 to 22, 2026.

## Students Giving Other Students Rides to School due to an Increase of ICE

Treva Russell (‘27)

Since the start of December, some latino students haven't been going to school because they are afraid of waiting outside for the bus, or being on the bus, and ICE appears. In order to help these students get to school safely, teachers and parents have organized rides for them.

Ever since the surge of ICE agents in Minneapolis, there has also been a surge of fear in latino families of getting caught by ICE while going about their lives, like going to school. These rides can be from other students, or from parents of other students, who aren't directly affected by ICE and can drive at least one person to school. Thanks to these rides, students can come to school knowing that it will be safer for them while their families don't have to worry as much. After Winter Break, these rides may still continue depending on what ICE decides to do next.

## Minnesota's Snowplow Naming Contest

Robert Crants (‘28)

So then, what is this contest? Glad you asked. The annual Snowplow Naming Contest is a special competition where civilians come up with names for all new snowplows in service, such as "fast and flurrious." This year's winners include the following: Anthony Sledwards, We're Off To See The Blizzard, Snowtorious B.I.G., Plowabunga!, Sköl Plow, and I Came, I Thaw, I Conquered. I'll include a link if you want to vote next year. This tradition is truly something special, so I hope you participate, just like you should with next year's Fat Bear Week.



## Buried Deep; a dive into the largest snowfalls in Minnesota history

Emerson Davis (‘26)

Minnesota is famous for its cold and snow and over the years we have received much of it. But today we are looking at the largest snowfalls in Minnesota history from 1884 to 2025.

The largest snowfall in Minnesota history and the one most people remember is the Halloween Blizzard of 1991, which from October 31 to November 3 received 28.4 inches of snow. Before the Halloween Blizzard the record was held by the 1975 Blizzard of the century that got enough snow to bury cars. The Final Domebuster of 2010 was nicknamed such after the 17.1 inches of snow collapsed the Hubert H. Humphrey Metrodome famous roof. Just below that is the Armistice Day Blizzard of 1940 which caught hunters off guard with a sudden temperature drop and extreme wind, becoming the deadliest in Minnesota history. In short Minnesota snow often comes in large sizes fairly often.