THE NEW YEAR’S EVE BALL DROP

Every year, there are about a million people in Times Square, and millions more watching the festivities on television. How did this New Year’s Eve tradition start? The first New Year’s Eve celebration in Times Square was in 1904, which was when The New York Times moved its headquarters to this now famous location. In those days, the New Year was brought in with fireworks. Concerns about fire hazards lead to a ban on fireworks, and subsequently to the creation of the New Year’s Eve ball in 1907. The first ball was made from iron and wood and weighed 700 pounds. It was five feet in diameter and was decorated with 100 25-watt light bulbs. This ball was used until 1920, when it was replaced by a 400 pound iron ball.

The ball has been lowered in Times Square every year since 1907 with only two exceptions. The ball was not lowered in 1942 and 1943 because of the “dim-out” in New York City due to the war. In 1955, an aluminum ball weighing 150 pounds replaced the iron ball. From 1981 to 1988, during the “I Love New York” campaign, the ball featured red light bulbs and a green stem to look like an apple. In 2000, the New Year’s Eve ball was designed by Waterford Crystal. The millennium ball combined new technology with traditional materials to symbolize memories of the past century and hopes for the future. The ball was composed of 504 crystal panels that were specifically designed and cut to withstand extreme temperatures atop One Times Square.

Each year 72 of the panels are replaced with panels to reflect a new theme. Waterford Crystal designed last year’s Ball, a 12 foot geodesic sphere, double the size of previous balls, and weighing in at 11,879 pounds. The theme of the ball was “Let There Be Joy,” featuring an angel with arms uplifted welcoming the New Year on 1,728 new crystals. The remaining 960 triangles are of the previous year’s “Let There Be Light” design of a stylized radiating starburst.

Be sure to tune in to the celebration in Times Square this New Year’s Eve! For more information, visit http://www.timessquarenyc.org/nyc/nve.html.

THE GOLDEN SNOWBALL AWARD

The Golden Snowball Award is presented annually to the city in New York State that receives the most snowfall. The award originated in the 1970’s as a friendly competition between forecasters from Albany, Buffalo, Binghamton, Rochester, and Syracuse who sought bragging rights for their cities. In the 1990’s, the closure of National Weather Service offices in Rochester and Syracuse put an end to the contest. However, the competition between the five cities was revived for the 2002-2003 snow season, with the winning city receiving the Golden Snowball Trophy and $100 check donated to a local hat and mitten drive.

Buffalo is routinely favored to win the award, due to our status as the country’s “Snow Capital”. This designation ironically emerged after the famous Blizzard of 1977, during which only 12 inches of snow fell. Since then, Buffalo’s winter storms have reinforced this national reputation. The 1985 “Six Pack Blizzard” (which dropped 33.2 inches of snow), the record 38 inches of snow that fell in 24 hours in December 1995, the seven feet of snow that buried Buffalo in December 2001, and on Friday the 13th in 2006 the two feet of snow that fell during the “October Surprise”.

Syracuse won the 2008-2009 Golden snowball, for the seventh year in a row. Surprisingly, Buffalo had the most snowfall of the competing cities only once in the last decade (Winter 2001-2002), one year before the Golden Snowball Contest was revived. (Continued on page 2)
EDIBLE NEW YEAR’S HATS

These chocolate covered cones are a stylish addition to the New Year’s celebration, serving as both festive decorations and a sweet topping for a scoop of ice cream!

Ingredients:
* Sugar-cones
* Chocolate frosting/white frosting
* Food coloring
* Decorative icing
* Shoestring licorice
* Decorative sprinkles & Nonpareils

Instructions:
* Stir in a couple of drops of food coloring into white frosting until desired color is reached (you can do this for multiple colors or just one).
* Spread frosting (chocolate and/or colored frosting) over each sugar cone with a small spatula. Let harden in refrigerator for about 20 minutes.
* Use decorative icing to make designs and write on frosted cone hats.
* To attach nonpareils and sprinkles, use a small dab of frosting.
* When hat is finished attach a piece of shoestring licorice to the inside of each cone with icing!

Fun Edible New Year’s Hats!

Enjoy!

***For more family fun ideas, check out: http://jas.familyfun.go.com***

THE GOLDEN SNOW BALL AWARD (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

While there are localized regions south of Buffalo which average 200 inches of snow or more per winter, the average snowfall at the Buffalo airport is 93 inches, and the Amherst area around the University at Buffalo averages about 80 inches a year. That’s no competition for Syracuse’s average annual snowfall of 115 inches. Despite Buffalo’s reputation for brutal snowy winters, according to the National Climatic Data Center, Buffalo is not one of the top 10 snowiest, coldest, or windiest cities in the US. On average, there are only two storms per winter in Buffalo with accumulations of more than six inches. This puts Buffalo in the same category as Boston, MA. Buffalo has an average of 60 days with temperatures over 80 degrees and only three days when the temperature drops below zero. There are only about 25 days of measurable snowfall in Buffalo each year and less than half of Buffalo’s winter days have ground snow cover.

The winner of the 2009-2010 Golden Snowball Award will be announced this spring. Many Buffalonians would like to see Buffalo win the award this year, while many may be content to see the trophy stay in Syracuse. Whichever side you’re on, you can keep track of the exciting contest at www.golden-snowball.com. The site reports the competing cities’ snow accumulation and also has many interesting facts and statistics about the area’s snowfall.

NEW YEAR’S AROUND THE WORLD!

WHAT TIME WILL IT BE IN NEW YORK WHEN THE REST OF THE WORLD RINGS IN THE NEW YEAR?

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<tr>
<th>Place:</th>
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<tr>
<td>Christmas Island</td>
<td>December, 31st 2009 5:00am</td>
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<td>Auckland (New Zealand)</td>
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<td>Sydney (Australia)</td>
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<td>Tokyo (Japan)</td>
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<td>Beijing (China)</td>
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<td>New Delhi (India)</td>
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<td>Dubai (United Arab Emirates)</td>
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<td>Moscow (Russia)</td>
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<td>Athens (Greece)</td>
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<td>London (U.K.-England)</td>
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<td>Rio de Janeiro (Brazil)</td>
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<td>San Juan (Puerto Rico)</td>
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<th>Place:</th>
<th>Time:</th>
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<tr>
<td>New York!</td>
<td>January, 1st 2010 Midnight! 12:00am</td>
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<td>Chicago (Illinois–U.S.A.)</td>
<td>1:00am</td>
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<td>Denver (Colorado-U.S.A.)</td>
<td>2:00am</td>
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<td>Vancouver (Canada)</td>
<td>3:00am</td>
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<td>Anchorage (Alaska-U.S.A.)</td>
<td>4:00am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Honolulu (Hawaii-U.S.A.)</td>
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http://www.timeanddate.com/counters/multicountdowna.html
ENJOY WINTER IN BUFFALO!

Gusto at the Gallery!
Albright Knox Art Gallery
1285 Elmwood Avenue
Buffalo, NY 14222
(716) 882-8700

Gusto at the Gallery features music, dancing, film, poetry, parties, guest speakers, artist talks, curator workshops, and an endless variety of other fun and intriguing events. Friday nights are FREE from 3-10pm through Dec. 18th, then resumes again in Jan. 2010! Every second Friday is Family Day. Parking is $3.

New Year’s Eve in Buffalo
December 31, 2009
Buffalo Niagara Convention Center
Convention Center Plaza
Buffalo, NY 14202
(716) 855-5555

This New Year’s Eve, head downtown to First Night Buffalo, a drug and alcohol free New Year’s Eve sponsored by Independent Health. The event features children’s activities, music, dance, sports activities, and a variety of visual and performing arts at the Buffalo Niagara Convention Center. From there, don’t forget to visit the Electric Tower to count down the seconds for Buffalo’s own ball drop!

Check out: www.firstnightbuffalo.org/index.html for this year’s planned events, ticket prices, and other information.

Free Ice Skating at Rotary Rink
November 2009 – March 2010
Rotary Rink at Fountain Plaza - Main at Chippewa Streets

Hours of Operation:
Monday: Closed
Tuesday – Friday: 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. and 5 p.m. – 9 p.m.
Saturday: 11 a.m. – 10 p.m.
Sunday: 11 a.m. – 6 p.m.

The annual Downtown Holiday Tree Lighting marks the official opening of the free ice-skating season in downtown Buffalo. Rotary Rink is an outdoor rink and is weather dependent. If temperature reaches 45 degrees, please call 854-RINK before you head downtown to skate.

Illumination of the Falls
Sat. Nov 7 to Mon. Jan 4
5:00PM - 12:00AM
6650 Niagara Pkwy, Niagara Falls
www.WFOL.com, 1-800-563-2557

The spectacular Niagara Falls will be illuminated every night during the Winter Festival of Lights from 5:00 pm to midnight. Come see the mighty falls in all its wintry glory. Makes for fantastic photo opportunities!

Buffalo Bandits

This winter, get tickets to see the Buffalo Bandits Lacrosse team play at HSBC Arena. Their season opener against the Knighthawks is on January 9th, 2010. Games continue into April.

Ticket prices range from $22-$32. Game schedule and tickets can be found at www.bandits.com.

Buffalo Zoo
300 Parkside Avenue
Buffalo, NY 14214
(716) 837-3900

The Buffalo Zoo presents: Warm Up With the Cold-Blooded. Learn all there is to know about reptiles from keeper talks, snake feedings, interactive enrichment activities, and much more!
When: Jan. 16th from 11am-3pm
*This event is FREE with Zoo admission.

The Zoo is open Wed.-Sun., from 10am-4pm through January and February, and Sun.-Sat., from 10am-4pm beginning in March. Admission is $6 for children, $9.50 for adults.

Visit the Zoo’s website at www.buffalozoo.org and look for upcoming events and attractions, like Winter Nature Camp Workshops for kids and Wild Weekend Workshops for the whole family to enjoy Spring 2010!

Winter is the time for comfort, for good food and warmth, for the touch of a friendly hand and for a talk beside the fire: it is the time for home. ~Edith Sitwell
This is an easy craft with lots of room for creativity. Personalize a tie dyed t-shirt for a quick and thoughtful gift!

**What you need:**
- Plain white t-shirt (100% cotton)
- Rubber bands
- Soda ash (or baking soda)*
- Various colors of fabric dye
- Plastic wrap
- Clean, empty mustard bottles or hair dye bottles

**What to do:**
1. Get some type of bottle to dispense the dye. A good idea would be to use something like a mustard bottle.
2. Wet white T-shirt; then wring it out so it is damp and lay it out on a flat surface.
3. To find the center of your circle, put your finger in an area around the middle. Leaving your finger in place, begin to wind the shirt around your finger, making sure the shirt stays relatively flat.
4. Continue until you get it all wound up. It should be about as tall as a doorknob, and the diameter relatively close to that of a saucer.
5. Put three to four rubber bands around it, spacing them evenly, so it sort of looks like a pie.
6. Fill up your sink with just enough water so that the shirt can be fully submerged. Pour a ¼ cup of soda ash into the water, mixing it in with the water fairly well. Let the shirt soak in that for about 20-25 minutes. Then wringing the shirt until water doesn’t come out. Do not rinse!
7. Squirt the colors on the shirt, in an alternating fashion, adding enough so you don’t see white, but not soaking the material. Make sure you get into all the little folds of the shirt. *Try mixing colors, like blue and yellow.
8. Cover the shirt with plastic wrap for 24 hours.
9. After 24 hours, run cold water over the shirt until the water dripping out is fairly clear. Then cut the rubber bands off to reveal your creation.
10. Directly after rinsing, wash only the shirt with warm water, using liquid soap. Then put the shirt in the dryer for about 20 minutes.

HINTS: Wear plastic gloves to keep the dye from staining your skin. *Use Arm & Hammer brand (Super Washing Soda) to prevent bleeding.

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**WINTER MOVIES**

**Alvin and the Chipmunks:**
**The Squeakquel**

*Release: Wednesday, December 23, 2009*

Pop sensations Alvin, Simon and Theodore must put aside music superstardom to return to school, and are tasked with saving the school’s music program by winning the $25,000 prize in a battle of the bands. But the Chipmunks unexpectedly meet their match in three singing chipmunks known as The Chipettes—Brittany, Eleanor and Jeanette.

**Tooth Fairy**

*Release: Friday, January 22nd, 2010*

Dwayne Johnson is “The Tooth Fairy,” also known as Derek Thompson, a hard-charging minor league hockey player whose nickname comes from his habit of separating opposing players from their bicuspids. When Derek discourages a youngster’s hopes, he’s sentenced to one week’s hard labor as a real tooth fairy, complete with pink tutu, wings and magic wand. Follow Derek’s journey as he slowly adapts to his new position, and begins to rediscover his own forgotten dreams.

**Alice in Wonderland**

*Release: Friday, March 5th, 2010*

See *Alice in Wonderland* come to life in Tim Burton’s movie masterpiece, starring Johnny Depp as the Mad Hatter. Follow Alice on her journey back to Wonderland, the magical world from her childhood, where she reunites with old friends and learns of her true destiny: to end the Red Queen’s reign of terror.

**RATED: PG**

**WINTER READING FOR YOUNG ADOLESCENTS**

**What if . . . All Your Dreams Came True (Choose Your Destiny Series)**

*by Liz Ruckdeschel, Sara James*

Haley’s come to the end of her junior year, and it’s time for her friends and readers to bid her adieu. But you’ve got one last job to do: leave her on a happy note! Can you give Haley the tools and friends she needs to lead a happy life? Should Haley follow up on her childhood, where she reunites with old friends and learns of her true destiny: to end the Red Queen’s reign of terror.

**What They Always Tell Us**

*by Martin Wilson*

James and Alex have barely anything in common anymore—least of all their experiences in high school, where James is a popular senior and Alex is suddenly an outcast. But at home, there is Henry, the precocious 10-year-old across the street, who eagerly befriends them both. And when Alex takes up running, there is James’s friend Nathon, who unites the brothers in moving and unexpected ways.

*Pub. Date: February 09, 2010*

**The Shepherd’s Granddaughter**

*by Anne Laurel Carter*

Amani longs to be a shepherd like her beloved grandfather Sido, who has tended his flock for generations, grazing sheep on their family’s homestead near Hebron. Amani loves Sido’s many stories, especially one about a secret meadow called the Firdoos. But as outside forces begin to encroach upon this hotly contested land, Amani struggles to find suitable grazing for her family’s now-starving herd. While her father and brother take a more militant stance against the intruding forces, Amani and her new American friend Jonathan accidentally stumble upon the Firdoos and begin to realize there is more to life than fighting over these disputed regions. Amani learns a difficult lesson about just what it will take to live in harmony with those who threaten her family’s way of life.

*Book recommendations from Barnes and Noble for Young Adolescents ages 12-15. For more books like these, check out www.barnesandnoble.com*
Snow Day Hidden Picture!

CAN YOU FIND ALL OF THESE HIDDEN PICTURES?
LOOK CAREFULLY!

BUFFALO LOGIC PUZZLE

One Saturday afternoon five friends visited the HSBC arena. Each wore a different color t-shirt and each rushed to watch their favorite sports team practice at the arena. Using the clues below, can you name each child's favorite team and the color t-shirt they wore?

- One of the children wore a white t-shirt, the same color as their favorite team, the Bandits.
- Steven, who was not wearing red, went to watch Ryan Miller block shots, and Ashley, who did not watch the Buffalo Bills, wore a yellow shirt.
- While watching Trent Edwards throw, Chase saw the girl with the red shirt watching Aaron Laffey strike someone out.
- Paul, who does not like watching the Yankees, heard the boy in the purple t-shirt yell "go for a touchdown!".
- On her way to visit the Buffalo Bisons, Michelle passed Steven who was wearing a black t-shirt.

Cold Weather Search

Find these words in the puzzle above going horizontally, vertically, and diagonally. Good luck!

SUDOKU PUZZLE

Fill in the boxes using the numbers from 1 to 9. Every row and column and every group of 6 boxes inside the thicker lines must contain each number only once.
Buffalo Logic Puzzle Solution:

- Ashley watched the Yankees and wore the yellow t-shirt.
- Chase watched the Bills and wore the purple t-shirt.
- Michelle watched the Bisons and wore the red t-shirt.
- Paul watched the Bandits and wore the white t-shirt.
- Steven watched the Sabres and wore the black t-shirt.

Sudoku Puzzle Solution

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On behalf of the entire UB Adolescent and Family Development Project, please have a safe and enjoyable winter!!!