

Holmstead Gazette

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well hello,
march



St. Patrick's Day



Most people believe that St. Patrick was Irish, but he was actually born in Roman Britain in 385 AD. At age 16, he was kidnapped and taken to Ireland to be used as a slave. He had eventually escaped, and was credited at a later time for bringing Christianity into Ireland and its people. He had built churches, schools, and monasteries. March 17, 461 was marked as the death of Saint Patrick. That day is now the annual remembrance of him and all he had accomplished. Saint Patrick had used a shamrock, the

native Irish clover, to describe the Holy Trinity. A shamrock is a clover with three petals, unlike the four-leaf clover, that has four. The Holy Trinity is the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, used in the Christian religion to describe God in three persons. The first St. Patrick's Day parade had not happened in Ireland, but in the United States on March 17, 1762. Irish military soldiers marched through New York City, reconnecting with their Irish roots and other Irishmen who were serving in the army. The decades following, Irish patriotism flourished amongst American immigrants. This encouraged the rise of "Irish Aid" societies. The Friendly Sons of Saint Patrick and the Hibernian Society were some of these societies, who would hold annual parades with drums and bagpipes, which became popular in the Scottish and British armies initially. In 1848, Irish Aid societies from New York decided to unite the parades, to make one New York City St. Patrick's Day Parade. This parade is recognized as the world's oldest parade as well as the largest in the United States. Nearly three million people line the mile and a half long route to watch this parade, yearly. This parade lasts more than five hours. Other cities also celebrate St. Patrick's Day with a parade, including Boston and Chicago who go one step further and dye their rivers green, along with Philadelphia and Savannah who also have parades.

Spring/ Vernal/ March Equinox

The vernal equinox is the mark of the first day of spring, occurring in March on either the 19th, 20th, or 21st. This year, we experienced the vernal, also known as the spring equinox at 5:58 p.m. ET, Wednesday the 20th. Less than four hours ahead of the March equinox the full moon appeared, and was also a supermoon. This full moon is the last of 2019, and for the next eleven years, until March 2030, the last supermoon. The last supermoon that happened to fall on the full moon of the March equinox was 19 years ago in the year of 2000. A full moon usually occurs approximately once a month. During this time, the moon appears larger and brighter.

Patricia W.

- Q- How long have you worked at Holmstead?
 A- 47 years working at Holmstead and 41 as director
- Q- What do you do at Holmstead?
 A- "I try to help students find their strengths and invite into a school where they fit in"
 Director
- Q- Where did you receive your professional training?
 A- Weston College, William Paterson University
- Q- Do you have any children or pets?
 A- One son, a daughter-in-law and two granddaughters
- Q- If you hadn't become a teacher, what would you want to do?
 A- Star in a Broadway show or heart surgeon
- Q- What is your favorite genre of movie/book?
 A- Historical novels or true crime
- Q- What color would you use to describe yourself?
 A- Sky blue "I think of myself as positive, upbeat and colorful"
- Q- What is your fondest memory during your time at Holmstead?
 A- The biggest patriotic celebration when Marek became a US citizen
- Q- What are your hobbies?
 A- Walking, travel, reading and "spoiling my grandchildren"
- Q- What are your pet peeves?
 A- Knuckle cracking
- Q- What is your favorite motto/quote/saying
 A- Live each day to the fullest
- Q- What is a piece of advice you would give to students at Holmstead?
 A- To find a job that they would LOVE that could last for 47 years.

Vicki D.



- Q- How long have you worked at Holmstead?
 A- Since January 2014
- Q- What do you do at Holmstead?
 A- Teach all levels of math, physics, forensics, and computers
- Q- Where did you receive your professional training?
 A- Ramapo College, St. Peter's University, and currently expanding education at Rutgers University
- Q- Do you have any children or pets?
 A- Three year old daughter, two five year old fur babies
- Q- What is your favorite pastime or hobby?
 A- Binge watching medical shows on Netflix
- Q- What is the last book you read?
 A- "Is that a real question?"
- Q- What is your favorite TV show or movie?
 A- Medical and crime/jail shows on Netflix
- Q- Do you have a favorite food or restaurant?
 A- Mexican and Chinese "Or just all food"
- Q- What are your pet peeves?
 A- Running out of food, when people leave a mess, loud chewing
- Q- What is one thing that most people don't know about you?
 A- "I hate fish, raw and cooked onions, pedicures"
- Q- What is one piece of advice you would like to offer to your students?
 A- "Learn how to cook, you're welcome"

Feast of San Giuseppe/ Saint Joseph's Day



Saint Joseph, also known as Joseph the carpenter was the husband of the Virgin Mary, and the legal father of Jesus, one of the three figures in the Holy Trinity. In the book of Matthew, Joseph was directed by an angel to wed Mary, the virgin mother of Jesus before she gave birth. Following Jesus' birth in Bethlehem, an angel came to Joseph in a dream to take Mary and Jesus to Egypt. Herod the Great, king of the Roman province of Judea had planned the massacre of the children of Bethlehem (Massacre of the Innocents) in which he issued orders all male children, in the vicinity of Bethlehem, two years and under to be executed. The Catholic Church claimed the children's deaths in Jesus' stead as the first Christian martyrs, and hold a feast on December 28th (Holy Innocents Day). After the death of Herod, an angel told Joseph to return to Bethlehem. Joseph took his wife and child to Nazareth in Galilee to avoid the son of Herod the Great. On March 19th, people celebrate Saint Joseph's Day. In other Catholic countries, Spain, Italy, and Portugal mainly, this day is celebrated as Father's Day because Saint Joseph was deemed a model for fathers and father figures. Saint Joseph is viewed as the patron saint of workers in both Catholic and Protestant traditions. Italy, Malta, Spain, Poland, The Philippines, and the United States of America all celebrate Saint Joseph's Day. In Sicily, an Italian country, many regard Saint Joseph as their patron saint and many communities give thanks to Saint Joseph for fending off famine during the Middle Ages. During that time, a severe drought had troubled the people of Sicily, and they prayed to their patron to bring them rain. Promising a feast to honor Saint Joseph (*San Giuseppe* in Italian) if God had answered their prayers on behalf of Saint Joseph. When rain came, the people of Sicily kept their promise and prepared a large banquet honoring their patron saint. Flowers, candles, limes, wine, fava beans (the crop that had saved the population from starvation), breads, cakes, and cookies and a Neapolitan pastry known as zeppole are placed on the Saint Joseph's Day altar. The altar most commonly contains three tiers to represent the Holy Trinity. Since Joseph was a carpenter, foods contain bread crumbs to represent saw dust. No meat is allowed due to the fact that this feast occurs during Lent. Italy also celebrates Father's Day on March 19th.



Grace's Famous Irish Soda Bread

Ingredients:

3 cups of flour
 ½ cup of sugar
 ½ tsp. salt
 ½ tsp. baking soda
 1 tbsp. baking powder
 1 ½ cups seedless raisins
 1 stick softened butter
 1 ½ cups buttermilk



Directions:

Mix flour, sugar, salt, baking soda and baking powder in a bowl. Add raisins and softened butter. Mix in buttermilk. Mix until well blended. Dough will be stiff.

Place on hard surface that has been dusted with flour. Knead for five minutes. Shape dough into an oval loaf about seven inches long. Using a serrated knife, score the top of the loaf in the shape of a cross. Bake on a cookie tray or in a grease round bowl at 325 degrees for about an hour, give or take.

March Sales/ Pi Day

Apple, peach and chocolate mousse slices of slab pies were sold on Pi Day which was on the 14th. Pi is an irrational and transcendental number, with over a trillion digits past the decimal, and is also an infinite number that will never repeat or pattern. Many people like to challenge themselves and others to see how many digits they can remember. In 2005,



Lu Chao of China accurately recited the most digits of pi with 67,890 digits with recognition of the Guinness World Record Book. Another man, Akira Haraguchi in 2006, had beat the record of Lu Chao, spending over 16 hours reciting 100,000 digits of pi from memory. While this record beats Chao Lu, the Guinness World Record Book has not validated his record. Haraguchi has explained that he associates a syllable with each number, making stories with the words that each syllable makes to help remember the digits.

Irish soda bread, chocolate lollipops (3/13) and shamrocks shakes (3/15) were sold in celebration of Saint Patrick's Day.

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**Happy Birthday to Pat W., Peggy R., and Vicki D.
during this month of March!**