

Student Newsletter

- CHENANGO VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL -
DECEMBER 12, 2018

ROCKEFELLER CHRISTMAS TREE

The Rockefeller Center in Midtown Manhattan is home to many activities that attract millions of people annually. Skating at the ice rink, gazing over the city from the Top of the Rock observation deck, or splurging on Christmas gifts at one of the many shops, are a few of the most popular during the winter months. Although, the most prominent tourist attraction is the Rockefeller Tree Lighting Ceremony.

This yearly tradition started simply as a beacon of hope for the people of New York City. In December of 1931, the Great Depression was raging throughout the country and many citizens of New York were struggling to scrape together enough money for food, clothes, and shelters, let alone Christmas gifts and decorations. During this immense time of difficulty, a group of construction workers from the city decided to combine their sparse salaries and make a small but influential purchase.

On December 24, 1931, Christmas Eve, these spontaneous workers stood a twenty foot balsam fir tree in the middle of a recently cleared work site. The workers and their families decorated this beloved tree with strings of cranberries, garlands of paper and even a few tin cans.

Two years later, in 1933, the first annual tree lighting ceremony began with a 50 foot balsam fir and dubbed the ceremony a tradition. In 1936, the skating rink was opened to the public, reigning in more attention to the tradition. In 1942, one single tree was replaced by 3 individual, smaller trees, each decorated with one of the flags colors in recognition of the second world war. Between the years of 1944 and 1945, the tree went unlit due to blackout regulations during the war. The first time this event was televised on NBC was in 1951 and in 1969, the tree was joined by twelve angelic metal figures, created by artist Valerie Clarebout, in the Channel Gardens on Fifth Avenue. These herald angels are arranged in two facing line and each individual angel holds a six foot long brass trumpet. In 1971, the 65 foot tree was the first of its kind to be mulched and recycled. This tree produced around 30 bushel bags of mulch and was used for nature trails in upper Manhattan. The tallest tree on record was erect in 1999 as a 100 foot spruce from Killingworth, Connecticut. Lastly, in 2001, the tree was decorated in hues of red, white, and blue in honor of the 9/11 attacks earlier in the year. Undoubtedly, these trees have been emblematic throughout the history of the United States and continue to project joy throughout the holiday season.

As this attraction is visited by an estimated 125 million people each year, it calls for a plethora of extravagant decorations. In 2007, the old fashion bulbs that previously strung upon the tree were replaced with new, more energy efficient string lights. Since 2004, each Rockefeller tree has worn the same topper: the Swarovski star. Created by German artist Michael Hammers, this adornment is 9.5 feet in diameter and weighs 9,001 pounds and consists of 25,000 Swarovski crystals, 1 million facets, and LED lights.

In 2018, the Norway spruce from Wallkill, NY was decorated as lavish as ever. On November 28 at 9:33 p.m., the tree exploded with color before thousands of spectators. This renowned occasion will hopefully continue to be an influential event to the people of New York and the entire nation.

By: Kami Bates

2019 New Years Resolutions: Ideas & Advice

Every beginning of the year millions of people make promises and goals to achieve in the new year, trying to reinvent themselves, better themselves, and make a change in their lives. Especially in high school, you're trying to find your place, find who you are, what you want, and what you want to do after school. Here are 5 resolution ideas for high school students and advice on how to start the new year off right:

1. Stop procrastinating

EVERYONE procrastinates one time or another; it's alright if you do, you are not alone. But the more you procrastinate, the more stressed you are going to be. Manage your time! Go out and have fun with friends and on outings, but prioritize your work as well. It isn't fun staying up until midnight writing that essay due the next day, or cramming to study for that test tomorrow and being disappointed when you didn't get the grade you wanted. Write your priorities down and plan out the day, schedule time to study or to write part of that essay, I promise your life will be so much less stressful!

2. Commit to getting good grades

Yes, grades do count when colleges are looking at your application. If you want to get into a good college, you have to work hard, there is no way around that. And Freshman, your grades now are going to be seen by those colleges you want to be accepted in, so start working hard right off the bat.

3. Pick and choose

It's better to find something you love and excel in that than to be a jack of all trades and try to be involved in everything. Anyone can join 10 clubs and be "marginally" involved in them. Schools are looking for commitment and really being dedicated with something.

4. Try something new

This is high school! Everyone is trying to find themselves and what interests them. This time is all about experiences and getting out of your comfort zone (which is easier said than done). Want an internship? There's no harm in calling and asking someone if they could use a high schooler and if they say no, they say no! Go and try the next thing; no big deal. Want to try a new sport? Go and try it, it's a good place to meet new people. You don't need to know what you want to do in high school, but this time can give you an idea and can help narrow down your interests!

5. Make new friends

Everyone, I'm saying everyone with no exaggeration wants to make new friends in high school whether you want to admit it or not. Everyone wants to fit in and feel wanted. Everyone wants to feel like they belong somewhere. By this time of the year, people typically have their groups and their best friends, but some are still looking to find where they belong, and the only advice I can give to those people, even if you have friends and want more, just start talking! Compliment someone, join a club or a sport and meet new people, start a conversation with that kid who sits behind you in study hall, go to a basketball game. You have to push yourself out of your comfort zone to make things happen and meet new people. I'm telling you, you are not the only one trying to make new friends, it may seem like it, but if you really listen to people, you will be surprised.

By: Grace Elliott

12 Most Notable Events of 2018

1. Winter Olympics in South Korea
2. Royal Wedding
3. Midterm Elections
4. World Cup in Russia
5. California Wildfires
6. Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico
7. Trump meeting in North Korea
8. Separation of families at the border crisis
9. Brett Kavanaugh hearings
10. Death of George H.W. Bush
11. Trump pulls out of Iran nuclear deal
12. Baseball World Series

By: Mary Kate Doyle

SPORTS

Mallorie Turner committed to Binghamton University to run track and field. Mallorie currently holds the school record in the triple jump and the long jump. She was the 2018 STAC champion in the triple jump. Nate Lehr accepted a scholarship from Limestone college to play Lacrosse. The college is in Gaffney, South Carolina. He is a two time All- Section goalie. Congratulations and good luck to all the athletes who will be playing at the college level.

By: Keira Warwick

DECEMBER BUCKET LIST

- Bake Cookies
- Write Christmas Cards
- Drive In The Neighborhood And Look At Christmas Lights
- Gingerbread Houses
- Ice Skating

By: Vanessa Rodzinka