

Networks News

December 2024 / January 2025



Staff and Students Return to School on Monday, January 6th

Additional Upcoming Dates to Keep In Mind for January Include:

- January 15 and 16 Professional Dress
- January 17 - Movie Night
- January 20 - Schools Closed for Martin Luther King Day
 - This is also Inauguration Day.
- January 27 - No School Grading Day for Teachers & PD day for Paras
- January 28 - PBIS Event during school hours — SKATING



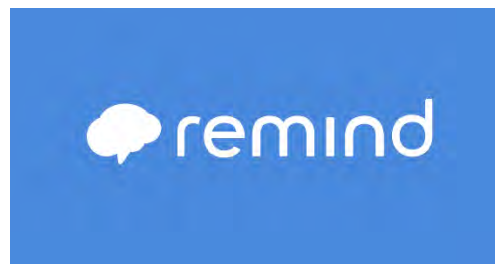
Here are a few reminders as we are approaching the winter season:

SCHOOL CLOSINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Due to inclement weather or other emergencies, it may be necessary to cancel school for the day, dismiss school early or have a delayed opening. We encourage you to tune in early when bad weather is predicted as we try to make the announcements as soon as the decision is made. Please remember that any decision affects only one school day; a new announcement will be made if the situation continues.

In the event of a schedule change due to inclement weather, the decision will be communicated through the following outlets:

- ParentLink Notification System
- CSD Alerts, Christina School District's ALERT e-newsletter.
 - <https://www.christinak12.org/schoolclosings> **SIGN UP TODAY!!!**
- The District Facebook and Twitter pages
- The Christina School District Website
- The State of Delaware School Closing Information website @ <https://schoolclosings.delaware.gov/>
- Local Media Outlets
 - The News Journal
 - Radio: [WDEL 1150 AM](#), [WILM 1450 AM](#), [WJBR 99.5 AM](#), [WSTW 93.7 FM](#)
 - Television: [CBSPhilly*](#), [ABC6 Action News*](#), [NBC10 Philadelphia*](#)



Additionally, there may be times that the district will call for a Remote Learning /Synchronous Learning Day as practiced on November, 1, 2024. As a reminder, **synchronous learning** is a learning method where students and instructors engage with course content and each other in real time, whether in person or virtually. Synchronous online learning means that students are required to log in and participate in class at a specific time.

Please check for an email or a notification via the Remind App from your child's teacher(s) for learning times.



From the Nurse's Office



As we gather with others for the holiday season whether it is our own extended family members or with others, we may not even know at holiday spectaculars, there is a higher chance of coming in contact with germs that may make us ill. Our first thought is the common cold, the FLU or even COVID. Let's all do our part in staying healthy not only during the holiday season but all winter long. Stay home if you are ill or if think you may be sick and you must go out; wear a mask to prevent spreading germs.

How to Calm



The Dreaded Cough

Catching a cold is normal in the winter when we spend so many hours inside sharing the same air and **GERMS**. Coughing that comes along with the cold is a key part of the body's recovery process, even if it feels and sounds as though your child's symptoms could be getting worse.

Coughing is a normal symptom associated with a cold, and rarely indicates something more severe. The cough reflex clears out excessive mucus and protects the lungs from pneumonia so many doctors do not give medications to stop a cough even though it is very irritating to the sick person. Noisy breathing is normal and results from vibrations of mucus in the nose or pooling in the lower throat and is often referred to as 'rattling in the chest'. Coughing up mucus is actually a sign the cold is improving and the infection is starting to break up. We are actually coughing up the damaged cells. The yellow or green sputum (phlegm) is part of the normal healing phase of viral bronchiolitis (usually caused by a cold or flu virus) and it does not mean there is a bacterial infection. It is important to note that a cough can last up to 3 weeks.



What you can do to cope with your cough

Try to rest and make your family member or yourself as comfortable as possible when battling a cold. Many people do not like to eat or drink while sick because of the pain of swallowing and this causes many people to become dehydrated. It is very important stay well hydrated throughout your cold. If your family member is one year old or older, give them warm apple juice, milk or decaffeinated tea with honey in it. The warm liquid can soothe their throat and loosen the mucus. Help clear their chests with a cool mist humidifier or turn on the hot shower and breathe in the steam.

Signs you should see your primary care provider

If your child is coughing up blood. The color and consistency don't really indicate a level of severity and many pediatricians are not too concerned about the color, just whether or not there's blood.

For younger children, it's rare for them to cough and show you any mucus. But if your child is having difficulty breathing or their temperature increases beyond normal, you should contact your pediatrician.

Contact your pediatrician immediately if your exhibiting:

- Blood in the mucus
- Harder or faster breathing
- Using chest or abdominal muscles to breathe
- Tugging or flaring nostrils while breathing
- Uncontrolled fever

Cover your Cough



Cough or sneeze into your upper sleeve, not your hands.

OR



Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue.



Put your used tissue in the waste basket.

Clean your Hands

After coughing or sneezing:



Wash with soap and water.

OR



Clean with waterless hand cleaner.

Vision To Learn - An Opportunity for Free Eye Glasses Final Visit

During Vision to Learn's Visit to Networks in October, 2024, a total of 29 students were seen by the Optometrist who visited Networks. A total of 25 students have received FREE glasses so far and only 4 did not need glasses!! 18 students will need to wear glasses full time; 3 students need their glasses in the classroom only while 3 need in the classroom and distance. If there are problems with glasses dispensed, please send them into school to be checked when the VISION TO LEARN program returns to Networks again on Thursday, January 23, 2025. If your son / daughter missed the opportunity to participate because they started at Networks in the FALL 2025 or if you changed your mind about participation, you may contact the Networks School Nurse for additional questions about the program: michelle.gayeski@christina.k12.de.us. All that is needed for the student to participate is a completed and signed permission form. PARTICIPATION IS VOLUNTARY and all you need to do is complete and return the attached permission form.



MOBILE VISION SERVICES CONSENT AND RELEASE FORM

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Vision To Learn is a nonprofit organization that offers routine eye exams and glasses to kids at no cost. Vision To Learn will be bringing its mobile vision care clinic to your child's school or organization to provide eye exams and glasses to children who need them. If you would like to give your child permission to participate in the Vision To Learn program, please complete and sign this form. Return the completed form to the school nurse or site coordinator.

Vision To Learn follows CDC, state and federal regulations including staff daily health screenings, the use of Personal Protective Equipment for staff and students, non-contact exam procedures, and thorough disinfection between patients. Vision To Learn is committed to following best practices to prioritize the safety of our students.

There is no cost to you for your child to participate

PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE:

REQUIRED:

Child's First Name:			Child's Last Name:		
<input type="text"/>			<input type="text"/>		
Child's Date of Birth:	Month	Date	Year	Child's Gender (please check one):	
	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> MALE	<input type="checkbox"/> NON-BINARY
	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> FEMALE	
Parent/ Guardian First Name:			Parent/ Guardian Last Name:		
<input type="text"/>			<input type="text"/>		

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Street Address:		Unit/Apt:	City:	State:	Zip:
<input type="text"/>		<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Phone Number:	Emergency Phone Number:		Email:		
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>		<input type="text"/>		

SCHOOL INFORMATION:

Name of School:	Name Teacher:
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Grade:	Classroom:
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

OPTIONAL:

INSURANCE INFORMATION:

Child Has Medicaid	Child Has Private Insurance	Child is Uninsured
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Provider:	I.D. Number:	
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	

By signing this form, I acknowledge that I have the right to refuse any services provided by Vision To Learn but that I am choosing voluntarily for my child to receive vision services. Vision To Learn provides a routine eye exam. Vision To Learn is able to provide glasses to students who need them, but does not administer eye drops or dilation. I understand that services provided by Vision To Learn's mobile clinic may be billed to my child's Medicaid benefits, unless my child is referred for follow-up care. My signature shows that I have read and understood this voluntary Consent and Release and I agree to its provisions.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____



MUNCHworks

"Souper Bowl" Special

Please place your order by Monday, February 3rd, 2025
for Delivery or Pick Up on
Thursday, February 6 or Friday, February 7, 2025
Phone (302) 454-2233 FAX (302) 454-5446



1 Quart Turkey Noodle Soup



1 Quart Tomato Soup



1 Quart Zuppa Toscana

Customer Information:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Daytime Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Order Information:

Item	Price	Qty.	Total
Turkey Noodle Soup	\$12.00		
Tomato Soup	\$12.00		
Zuppa Toscana	\$12.00		
2 Oatmeal Dinner Rolls	\$ 2.00		

Select :

Pick Up – No Fee

Christina School District Building – Free on Friday, February 7th

Newark, Bear, Glasgow areas – \$5.00 for residential or businesses

New Castle, Wilmington, Northern New Castle areas – \$10.00

Order Total + Delivery Total: _____ **Total Amount:** _____

Pick Up or Delivery Date Preference: (please circle one) Thur., Feb. 6 or Fri., Feb. 7, 2025
Please indicate **pick-up time BEFORE 3 pm:** a.m. OR p.m.

Recipient Information (if different from above):

Name: _____

Location: _____

Phone Number: _____

Payment Information:

Cash _____ Check (payable to Christina School District) _____

Thank you for supporting our students!

**Special
Olympics**
Delaware



**LEWES
POLAR BEAR
PLUNGE**

NETWORKS PLUNGING PENGUINS

2025 SPECIAL OLYMPICS POLAR
BEAR PLUNGE

Thursday January 30, 2025 at
Networks School for
Employability Skills

Please help us out and
donate to our Virtual
Plunge!! No donation
is too small. Click on
the QR code or click
the link below.



[Click here for a link to our
fundraising page](#)



FLORALWORKS
Valentine's Day
SPECIALS



BE MINE,
VALENTINE
\$25.00



SWEETHEART
BOUQUET
\$40.00



FULL OF LOVE
BOUQUET
\$65.00



SCAN QR CODE TO ORDER.

ORDERS DUE BY FEB, 6TH

CASH OR CHECK ONLY

EMAIL: ANNA.FARRO@CHRISTINA.K12.DE.US



ART WORKS FOR ALL

A group of students participated in Pilot Program, Art Works for All, that Networks has been participating in this fall. Art Works for All, is a statewide non-profit organization that works to enhance the capabilities, confidence and quality of life for children and adults with disabilities by providing educational opportunities in the arts.

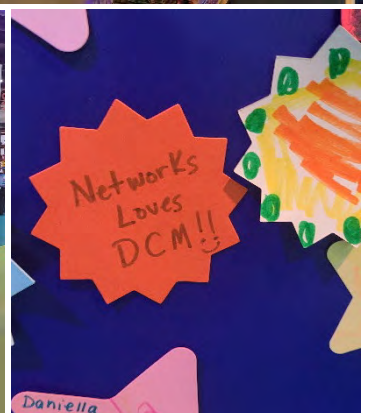
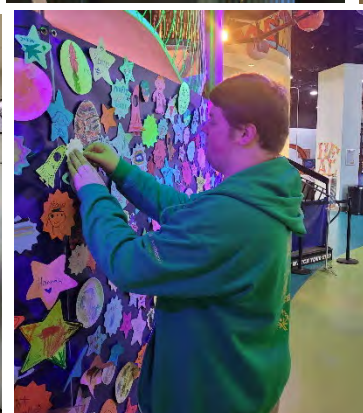
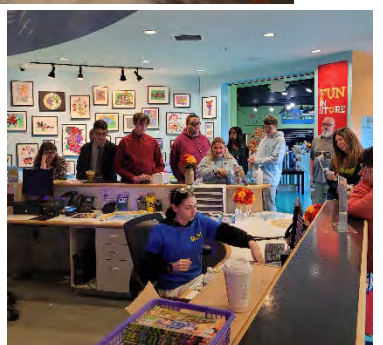
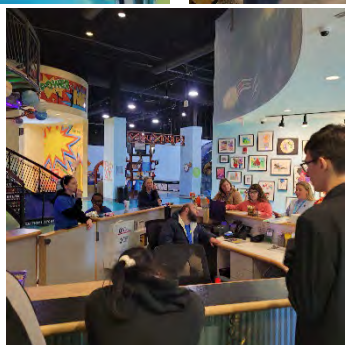
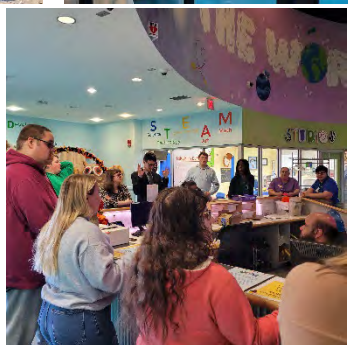
Networks is partnering with Art Works for All on a pilot program showcasing a variety of employment opportunities available in the performing arts industry. This newly designed school-based program has specialists in the museum, theater, and music industry. Members of this organization first meet with a small group of students in a classroom setting to provide a presentation about various jobs and employment opportunities in each of these performing arts industries.

A second session involves a field lesson to explore these jobs in vivo at:

- the Delaware Children's Museum in October
- the Otello Meucci Performing Arts Center in November
- JK Percussion & Arts Music Studio in December

The students a variety of jobs and tasks performed in a museum and/or in a studio and rehearsal space. The students also get a chance to try some of these skills. All of the students learned a lot and enjoyed the visits so much they wished they had more time at each location. As we were leaving one location, a student said, "This was the best day of my life!". We hope you enjoy some pictures from our visits to the different sites!!

The Delaware Children's Museum





The Otello Meucci Performing Arts Center



JK Percussion & Arts Music Studio



AUTOWORKS

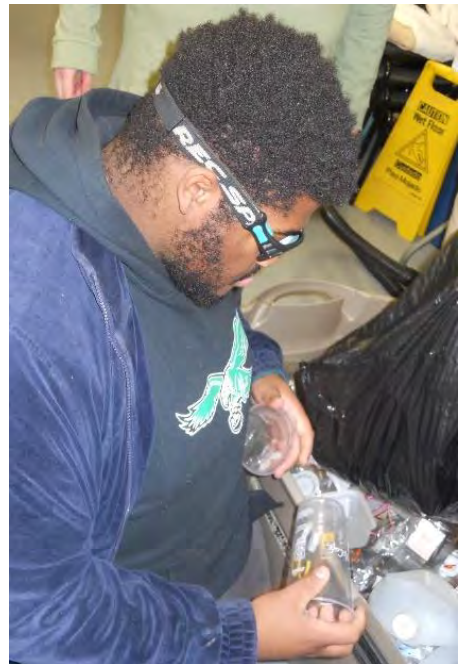
This month, our focus in AUTOWorks has been “Making a Good Impression on the Job”. Though December always seems like a shortened month, it was also packed with exiting events for our students before the upcoming Winter Break.

AUTOWorks learned the importance of dressing appropriately for a job interview, first impressions, positive attitudes, caring for our clothes and the qualities a good employee should possess.

Our students were able to work together to make products to sell at our annual Holiday Shop.

We also will be helping out with our school wide recycling project by sorting plastic bottles.

The AUTOWorks staff would like to wish everyone a happy and safe holiday break!



Best Wishes for the New Year!

BITWORKS NEWS

BITWORKS SERVICE



BITworks students worked on counting and sorting skills through the Holiday Food Drive. We collected, counted and sorted over 750 items. **Thank you for your generosity.**

LESSON TOPICS

Nearpod:

Lessons have focused on employer expectations, living on your own, and basic hygiene skills.

Move This World:

MTW lessons have been about how our actions impact the world around us.

MONTHLY HIGHLIGHTS

In the Classroom

Daily lessons provide students opportunities to learn & reinforce skills that promote independence.



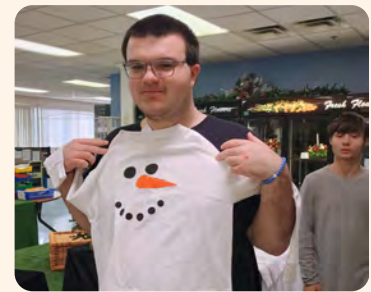
At Training Sites

Students are doing a great job cleaning, stocking shelves, and front-facing products at several stores, churches, restaurants & gyms.



At the School Store

Instead of operating the regular School Store students were very involved in the prep work for and running of the annual Holiday Shop.



CONTACT INFORMATION

Email Addresses:

Colleen.Naccarato@christina.k12.de.us
Jason.Lomas@christina.k12.de.us

Networks Phone:

(302) 454-2233

REMINDER

Professional Dress days are excellent ways for your student to earn additional PLUSes. Please encourage them to "dress to impress" on January 15th or 16th.

BRENNENworks

December 2024

Look at Our Stats!

In the first 12 days of December, we have:

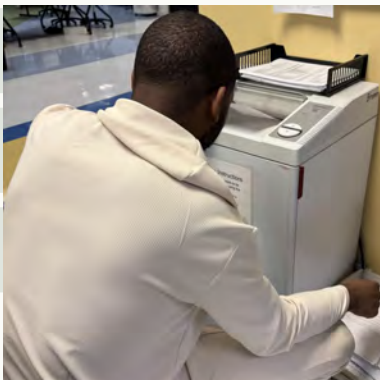
- ~shredded **13 bags** of paper
- ~rolled **67 pounds** of plastic
- ~packed **315 bags** of cotter pins
- ~put together **325 sentence strips**
- ~packaged **80 bags** of gaskets
- ~made **20 mason jar candles**



Making Mason Jar

Candles for Holiday Shop

Shredding Paper



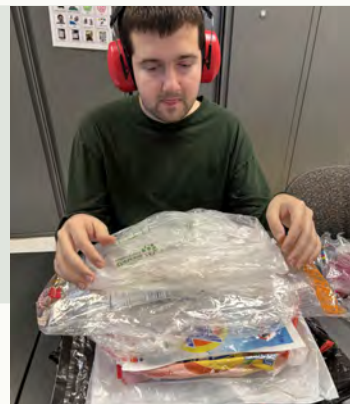
Working on Sentence Strips



Counting Cotter Pins



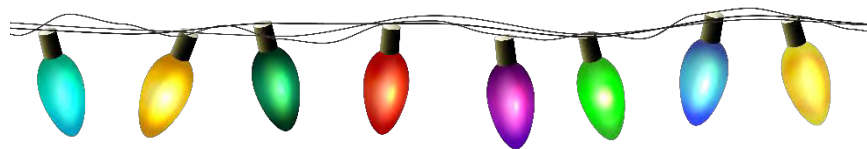
Preparing Plastics



CO-OP CORNER

To better prepare our students for future employment they have been practicing a variety of basic skills with the co-op department staff. Tasks include rolling silverware, portioning items, operating a dolly, sweeping and hanging shirts. In addition students have been working on their fine motor skills by practicing using scissors and hole punchers, and writing their names.

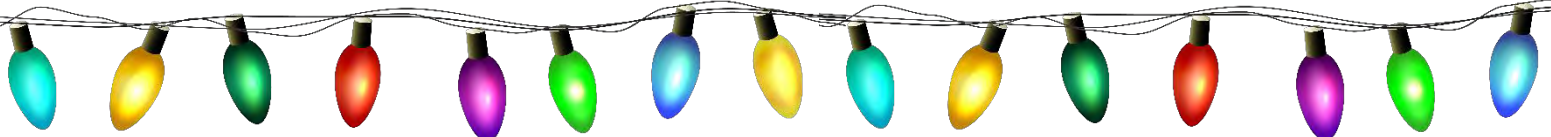
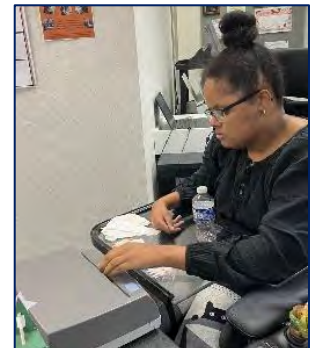
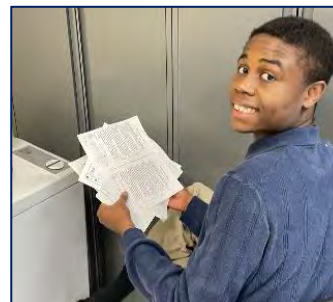
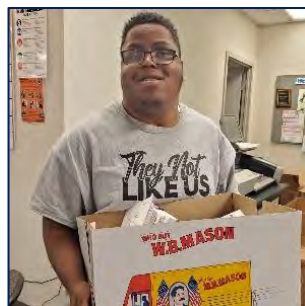
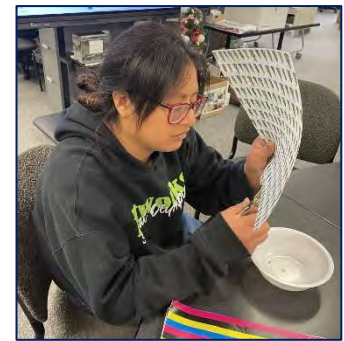
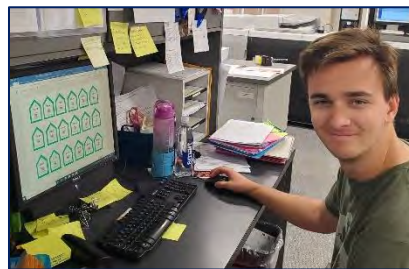
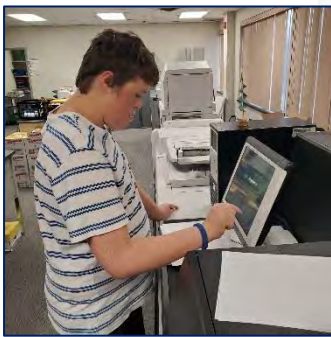




COPYworks is buzzing with production.

All students worked together this December to process many customer orders including notecards, flyers and forms, printing envelopes, and PBIS cards. The students also created and prepared many items for the Holiday Gift Shop.

Every day had a new task but the students persevered and met all deadlines!!





ETCH GETS READY FOR THE HOLIDAYS

ETCHWORKS HAS BEEN VERY BUSY GETTING READY FOR THE HOLIDAYS. WE HAVE CREATED CUTTING BOARDS, ORNAMENTS, GLASSES AND A WIDE VARIETY OF OTHER GIFTS FOR OUR CUSTOMERS. WE ALSO PREPARED PRODUCTS FOR THE HOLIDAY SHOP.



FABRICworks



Red is not just for the holidays, FABRICworks students have been seeing RED for weeks! We were proud to work on an order for GHS' wrestling team. Students had intense work ethic and stamina to complete the order. We wish the team Good Luck and know that they will look "fire" in their FABRICworks made attire. 😊





FLORALworks

Prepping for the Holiday Shop



Happy Holidays To All!
Here in FLORALworks we
have been busy making
Christmas ornaments,
wreaths and holiday floral
arrangements.
It has been a busy month and
we are all excited for what
the New Year will bring.
See you all in 2025!

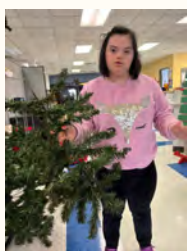


MERCHANTWORKS

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

It has been a busy time, getting ready for the holidays here at Networks. The students enjoyed putting the tree together and decorating as a group.

They also have been working hard creating unique gifts for all. These include hand-painted Grinch ornaments and several type of bracelets. Football and Basketball bracelets were a hit as well as bracelets that were PERSONALIZE too!



HAVE A WONDERFUL
HOLIDAY SEASON!





MUNCHworks

was very busy this month preparing special holiday orders for customers.

We dropped, rolled, baked, decorated and packaged hundreds of cookies,



and various other confections...and we enjoyed (almost) every minute of it!



We also made, packaged and gussied up some other food items to sell at the extended hours here at Networks' Holiday Gift Shop.



In the New Year, please consider MUNCHworks for all of your catering needs.

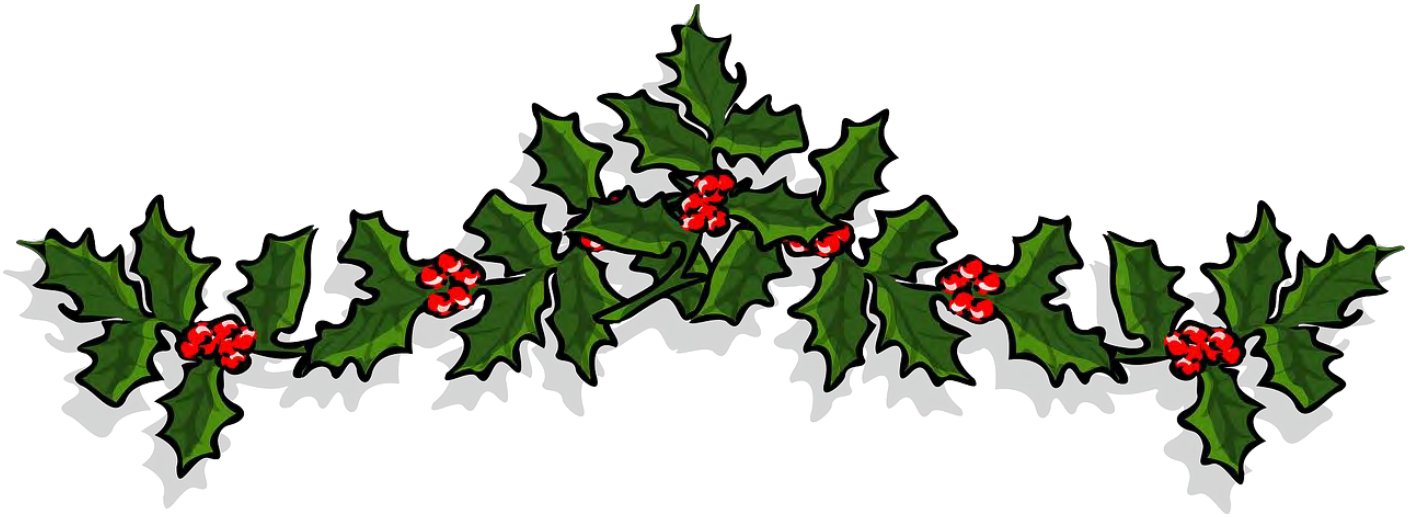
Wishing You and Yours the Happiest of Holidays!

TEAMworks

This month in TEAMworks we have been busy getting customer orders out before our winter break. In addition we have been preparing for our Winterfest shirts.



TRADEworks



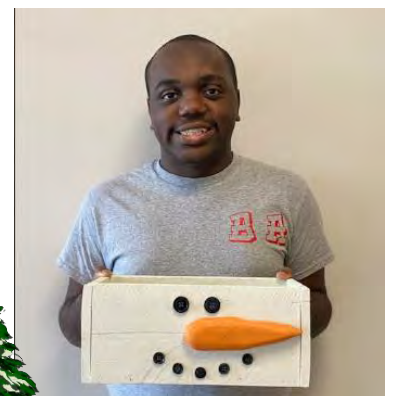
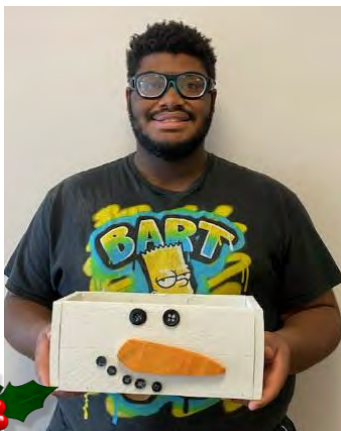
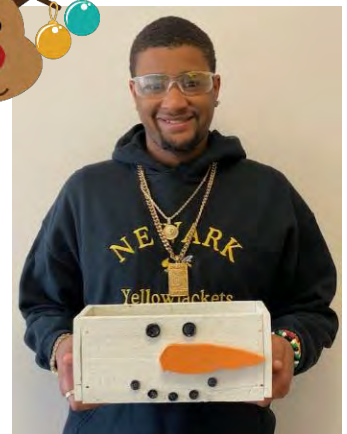
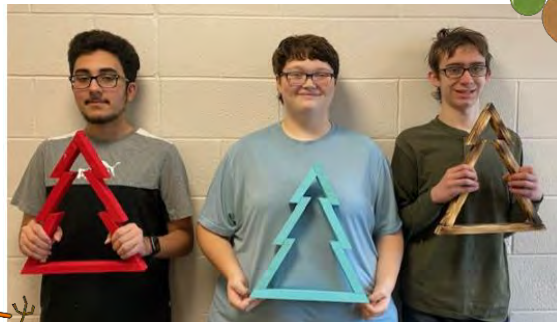
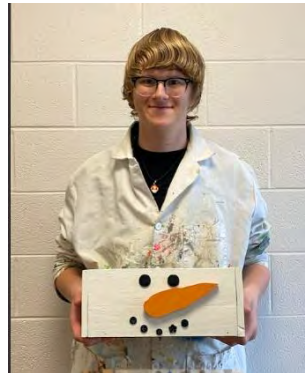
TRADEworks students have become very proficient at their various job sites and we are very proud of them. We continue to introduce new basic custodial and housekeeping tasks and skills into our daily routine. During classroom activities, we are focusing on independent living skills, including basic meal planning, living arrangements, personal hygiene and laundry.



Recycleworks / Woodworks

Students in Recycle and Wood have been working endlessly to complete our winter orders. We made many types of trees, snowman boxes, reindeer boxes, angels, and several types of ornaments.

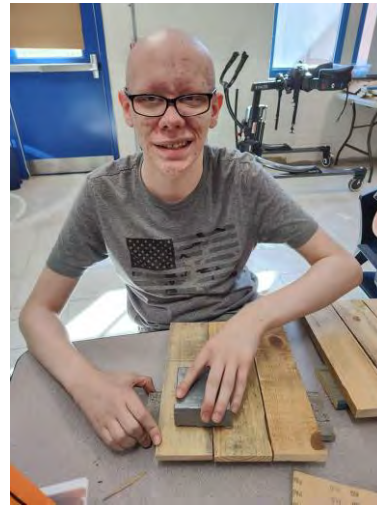
Students were able to make their own holiday projects. Along with their creativity, they used their woodworking, sanding, and painting skills to produce the final product. We are so proud of their independence, pace and teamwork!



Vocational Arts

Happy Holidays to everyone at Networks. While we still have school, our students are learning a variety of skills. One of them is how to do basic wood working. Pictured below are a few of our students practicing sanding. They are working on projects that were available to purchase from the Networks Holiday Shop!

We hope everyone enjoys their Winter Break and comes break ready for School in January!



How does the challenge work?

- Register on **NexTrex.com** to obtain access to the Trex Portal
- Determine a 12-month collection time period
- Collect a minimum of 1,000 lbs.
- Report recycling totals at **my.trex.com**
- Weigh, record and attached pictures
- Deliver the collected plastic film to a participating retailer (see list) for recycling

Stores prefer smaller and more frequent amounts in the provided bin. Please contact store ahead of time with larger amounts.

What does Trex provide?

- Up to three recycling bins
- Posters

What can I win?



Trex Bench

What can be recycled?

All plastic must be clean, dry and free of food residue.



Grocery bags



Bread bags



Bubble wrap



Dry cleaning bags



Newspaper sleeves



Ice bags



Plastic shipping envelopes



Ziploc & other reclosable food storage bags



Cereal bags



Case overwrap



Salt bags



Pallet wrap & stretch film



Wood pellet bags



Produce bags

Register on the website **NexTrex.com**



Winter Solstice

It starts on December 21, 2024

It lasts 1 day

Typical Greeting is Happy Solstice!

What is it all about?

The winter solstice, also known as the hibernal solstice, is the one day a year with the least amount of light as the earth's poles reaches the maximum tilt away from the sun. It is also known as Midwinter; the Shortest Day; the Longest Night; Halfway out of the Dark.

It is celebrated because it means the amount of daylight per day will no longer grow shorter but will start getting longer. The Winter Solstice is celebrated by some cultures by lighting bonfires. Families often decorate with green wreaths and a large dinner. Small gifts may be given to children and outdoor trees are decorated with edible treats.



MERRY CHRISTMAS

Christmas

It starts on December 25, 2024

It lasts 1 day

Typical Greeting is Merry Christmas!

What is it all about?

Christmas is a religious and cultural holiday. Christians observe Christmas as the birth of Jesus. The name Christmas comes from the Mass of Christ (or Jesus) Many individuals and families will also go to church.

Christmas is a celebration of gift-giving, family and social gatherings, symbolic decoration with lights, Christmas trees and ornaments. Families come together to enjoy special meals and feast.



Santa Claus is a legendary figure who is the traditional patron of Christmas in the United States and other countries. His popular image is based on traditions associated with Saint Nicholas and is usually dressed in red. Santa Clause is said to live at the North Pole with his wife Mrs. Claus and spends time making toys with the help of his elves. The night before Christmas, known as Christmas Eve, children will hang stockings by the fireplace for Santa Claus to fill with gifts brought on his sleigh and 8 reindeer. He often helps himself to cookies and milk that is left out by the household's children.



Hanukkah

It starts on December 25, 2024 at sunset

It lasts 8 days

Typical Greeting is Happy Hanukkah!

What is it all about?

Hanukkah is a religious and cultural holiday celebrated by Jewish People and may be known as the “festival of lights.” It reaffirms the ideals of Judaism and commemorates the rededication of the Second Temple of Jerusalem. During Hanukkah, each family member will light the menorah (a special candle holder with 9 candles) each night for 8 nights starting on the right side. Hanukkah commemorates the “miracle of the oil” from thousands of years ago when there was only enough oil to provide light for one night but it lasted for 8 nights. Families will often play a game called dreidel and will eat special food called latkes. Children receive one gift each night of Hanukkah. This holiday normally occurs between late November and December, although the exact date changes every year as it follows the Hebrew calendar.



Boxing Day

It starts on December 26, 2024

It lasts 1 day

Typical Greeting is Happy Boxing Day!

What is it all about?

Boxing Day began as the day when servants would receive a “Christmas Box” from their employers to thank them for their work all year and servants would be given the time off. It began when Queen Victoria was on the throne and the wealthy would box up items they no longer needed to give to the poor. Later, boxing day was once a day to donate gifts by all people to those in need. Boxing day has evolved to become part of Christmas festivities, with many people choosing to shop for deals.

Today, it is celebrated as a cultural holiday by families coming together and having a large meal. Each person is usually given a “cracker,” which is a small toy that will pop open when pulled to reveals small toy inside. Schools and stores are closed on Boxing Day in Britain, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and other Commonwealth countries where Boxing Day is celebrated.

Boxing day is not celebrated in the United States.



Kwanzaa

It starts on December 26, 2024

It lasts 1 week

Typical Greeting is Habari Gani? (This is Swahili for “What’s the news?” or “How are you?”)

What is it all about?

Kwanzaa is a non-religious and cultural holiday that honors the African-American culture. Each day of Kwanzaa is dedicated to one of the 7 principles:

Umoja (unity)

kujichagulia (self-determination)

ujima (collective work and responsibility)

ujamaa (cooperative economics)

nia (purpose)

kuumba (creativity)

imani (faith)

The mishumaa are 7 candles (3 red, 3 green, 1 black) that represent these principles. The “black” represents the people. The red is for blood spilled in the struggle for liberation. The green is for the future of Black liberation. Kwanzaa is celebrated with family, friends and the community. The fest culminates in a communal fest called Karamu usually on the sixth day. On the seventh night, gifts are exchanged. Homemade gifts are preferred and they should relate to the holiday’s principles. Children are usually the recipients and must always include a book and a “heritage symbol.”

Happy New Year

2025

New Year's Day

It starts on January 1, 2025

It lasts 1 day

Typical Greeting is Happy New Year!

What is it all about?

New Year's Day is a cultural holiday celebrating the first day of the new year. Celebrations start on December 31 and at midnight, there is typically a countdown and everyone celebrates the moment one year ends and the next year begins. Often times, families and friends gather together to share a meal and "ring in" the new year with a toast and a song. This moment is sometimes celebrated by:

- dropping balloons
- lighting sparklers
- throwing confetti
- banging pots and pans
- watching the ball drop in Times Square

Superstition dictates that you shouldn't:

- clean the house
- shed any tears
- wash any clothes

Gold is often considered a traditional choice for New Year's eve



NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS

Wake up and be Awesome

TRY, TRY, TRY

Dream Big

Relax

Choose Happy

Stay Weird

Do what you LOVE

BELIEVE YOU CAN!!!

Wishing you all a happy and healthy holiday break! Always remember to stay safe and make good choices! See you all in 2025!!!!