

"YOU HAVE THE MAGIC IN YOU!"

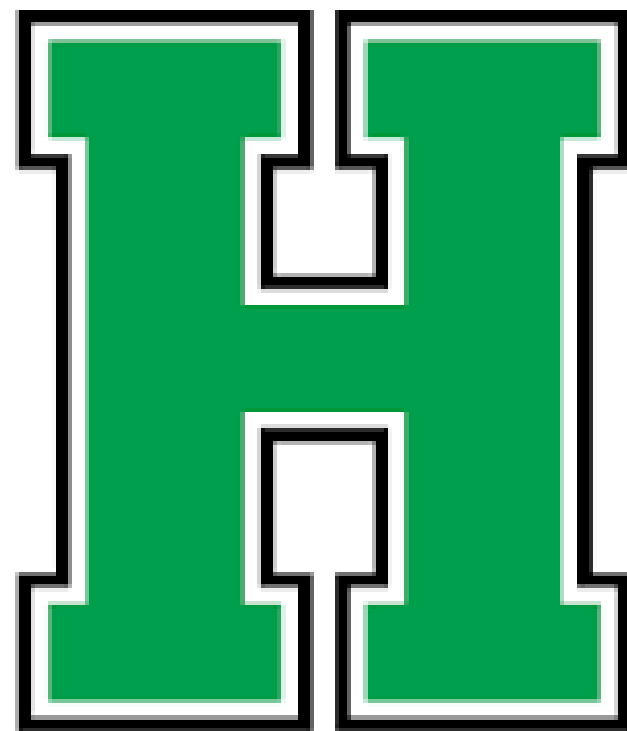
Magic Ink

SPECIAL THANKSGIVING AND CHRISTMAS EDITION!

VOLUME #2 • NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2024 • FREE

Magic Origin

By: Melinda Poplawski



Two years ago, members of the Herkimer staff came together to create something special: the acronym MAGIC. Standing for Mindset, Attitude, Grit, Integrity, and Choices, MAGIC reflects not just who we are as the Herkimer Magicians, but also the behavior and values we want to represent as a school.

The idea started as a way to highlight the pride we have in being Magicians—our identity and the way we carry ourselves. But as the committee, which included Mrs. Paul, Mr. Schneider, Ms. Klink, Mrs. Jory, and Mr. Valesak, discussed it more, they realized MAGIC could become so much more: a guide for our school culture.

Here's what the committee members had to say about how the project came to life and what it means for our school community.

"I've been working here for such a long time and with that comes a lot of spirit and I just thought it would be a great idea to spread some of that to our middle school and hopefully our high school as well."

- Mrs. Jory

"I thought it would be a great idea to do something positive for the school and really be a part of the whole team magic thing."

- Mr. Valesack

"We decided this should give us some sort of identity. Instead of it being, 'Hey we're the magicians, this is where we're from'. It should be more like 'This is the type of person that goes to this school'. I was especially interested in the mindset aspect of it because I have been promoting it to 7th graders since the class of 2026. Because, I know math is stressful so I wanted to introduce them to the American mindset and give them options and reasons."

- Mr. Schneider

"We started the committee. We wanted to find a more mature guide for how magicians should act. It took months, for a while it was just a bunch of us throwing out words trying to figure out one for each letter in "magic." The hope was that the whole school would act this way and know that magic is more than just a mascot. To find a common language, to know our values, lead us to be the magic team. As Mrs. Tomaso once said, 'All roads lead to Herkimer.'"

- Mrs Paul/ Ms. Klink

Unleash the MAGIC: Morning Groups Compete in Creative Word Design

Friendly Competition Encourages Creativity Across Campus

Herkimer's morning groups geared up for an exciting and creative challenge: designing the word "MAGIC" in a friendly competition during morning groups at the beginning of November. The activity promised to showcase imagination, teamwork, and artistic talent, culminating in a vote to determine which design best displayed mindset, attitude, grit integrity, and choices.

Step-by-Step Activity Recap:

- 1. Designing the Word "MAGIC:"** Each morning group worked together to design and decorate the word "MAGIC" on a piece of paper. Students displayed creativity and imagination, producing unique, eye-catching designs that represented the values of Herkimer.
- 2. Collaboration and Teamwork:** Groups began by brainstorming and sharing ideas. Team members collaborated, discussed their visions, and agreed on final concepts for their designs. This step emphasized teamwork and consensus-building.
- 3. Drafting the Final Design:** After agreeing on a concept, each group chose a student to draft the final version of the design, bringing the collective ideas to life.
- 4. Voting:** Votes were casted to determine the design that best reflected creativity and the Magician spirit!

The group with the **winning design** comes from Ms. Beardsley's morning group, with great effort and creativity shown by *LeAndra Castle, Addie Golicki, Raylana Griffin, Lily Kaszycki, and Madison Wymes*.



This activity brought students together, encouraged artistic expression, and showcased the incredible creativity within Herkimer's morning groups. Congratulations to all participants for their hard work and dedication!

Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD)

By: Alyse Cannon



As fall comes to a close and we enter into the winter months, many of us easily fall into the hands of SAD. The Seasonal Affective Disorder kind of sad. One of the main reasons people experience SAD is because of the change in daylight hours. Research suggests that sunlight helps sustain regular serotonin levels. So, a decrease in sun exposure can lead to a decline in serotonin. Symptoms of SAD are similar to symptoms of depression, but generally subside come spring. To help stop SAD before it starts, make time for yourself to do things you enjoy. You can get involved in a club or sport, bake your feelings into desserts, learn an instrument, or start a journal. Whether you know you suffer from SAD or not, make engaging in fun activities a priority this winter!



The Athlete Spotlight

Avrey Allen



“Avrey is a great player who leads by example and makes sure everyone feels included. She gives every ounce of her effort to help the team in any way she

can.” - Coach Garrett

Avrey Allen is currently competing in indoor track, and balances her intense extra curricular schedule with her commitment to academic excellence. When she's not sprinting on the track, she's showcasing her skills on the soccer field, where her speed and determination set her apart as a leader.

Her secret to success? “Fixing my mindset on and off the field and working hard. Mindset controls almost everything you do, from how you play to how you handle situations. Worrying about past mistakes doesn't bring progress,” Avrey shares. Whether she's leading her team to victory or acing a big exam, Avrey proves that hard work truly pays off.

Avrey reflected on her athletic journey with pride and purpose. “My proudest moment was scoring 2 goals in one game against LF,” she shares, highlighting her ability to rise to big occasions. This season, Avrey set a goal to help the new girls feel comfortable with each other and their team, creating a supportive environment. During tough practices, she stays motivated by focusing on the bigger picture: “Knowing that we're working towards a good outcome, that our hard work is going to pay off in game.” One standout memory for her was the last regular season game against ADK: “We were able to have fun and win our last home game. Girls who have never scored a goal were able to score, and almost everyone played new positions.” These moments reflect Avrey's leadership, determination, and love for her team.

Shane Maxon's athleticism shines year-round as he seamlessly transitions between sports seasons. On the soccer field, his speed and skill set him apart, while on the track, he consistently delivers record-breaking performances.

Shane stays motivated by setting personal goals while keeping a team-focused mentality stating, “I stay motivated during games and practices by keeping the goals the team and myself set for the season in mind.” A pivotal moment came during the away game at the Town of Webb, where the team rose to the occasion. “The team really stepped up and played amazing soccer. The boys and myself knew that was a game that needed to be won and we did just that,” he recalled. Shane attributes his success on the field to hard work and dedication. “My hard work and dedication to soccer plays a key role in my success on the field,” he added.

Shane reflected on a memorable season, highlighting a standout moment during the sectional match against Fabius Pompey, where he played exceptionally well. “My proudest moment of the season was playing very well against Fabius Pompey in sectionals,” he shared. The team set clear goals for the season, aiming to have a good record and to secure a spot in sectionals. Shane's personal objectives for next year include scoring a goal in every game and clinching the sectional title.

“Shane is a model student-athlete who leads by example and is willing to do anything the team needs from him in order to help the team accomplish it's goals.” - Coach Rose

Shane Maxon



Shoe Box and Stuff the Bus

To go along with the holidays, National Honor Society (NHS), Student Council, and National Junior Honor Society (NJHS) has kicked off their annual Holiday Shoe Box Project. Students must fill out a form to give a box to other students to make their holiday a little more special. The boxes often contain snacks, toys, and winter items for the cold season. Providing a perfect opportunity to support friends and students.

By: Johnny Xiao



December Dates to Remember

High School Winter Concert
Thursday, December 19th at 6:30

Winter Recess
December 23rd-January 5th



You all voted!

The best Christmas song according to the Herkimer Magicians is....



Last Christmas by Wham!

Full Court Press

1,000 Reasons to Celebrate: Madison

Marusic Joins Elite Scoring Club

For the first time in 23 years, a milestone achievement has been reached in our school's girls' basketball program. Senior Madison Marusic has officially joined the prestigious 1000-Point Club, becoming the first female player to accomplish the feat since Lisa Mason (2001). Madison's historic moment came during a home game on December 14th against Frankfort-Schuyler, sending the crowd into a roaring celebration.

"Hitting my 1000th point was a huge accomplishment that I've been working towards since 8th grade, so it feels really great," Madison said. "I feel proud of myself because it's something I worked hard for."

A varsity player since 8th grade, Madison reflected on her journey. "I remember my family asking if scoring 1000 points was my goal. At the time, I didn't think it was possible, but I knew I was going to work towards it. Reaching that long-term goal feels amazing."

Coach Cooper praised Madison's dedication: *"I'm so proud of Madison for hitting the milestone of scoring 1,000 points! It's such a tough achievement that only a few ever reach. From her first Varsity season in 8th grade, it was clear she was something special. She's one of the hardest-working and most dedicated players out there, and she deserves every bit of this recognition!"*

Madison, who fondly recalls winning the league title and reaching the Final 4 in the 2022-2023 season, offered advice to younger players: "Milestones like this don't come easy. You have to train hard and love the game. Don't put too much pressure on yourself—just play the sport you love."

After the game, Madison celebrated by attending the boys' basketball game and hanging out with friends.

Madison's historic achievement will forever be remembered in the halls of Herkimer High School!

Stay on top of game dates and times by checking Schedule Galaxy for up-to-date information on all upcoming events. Whether you're supporting your team or planning to attend, keep track of dates, times, and locations with ease! Don't miss out on history-making moments in Herkimer sports!



Cross Country Success

By: Roselyn Nietes

Several outstanding performances by Leah Bray starting with the CSC league championship on 10/26 at Westmoreland and finishing at the State meet on 11/16. First year XC runner, Leah Bray, returned from a broken collar bone late in the season to become a CSC All-Star at the CSC championship meet on 10/26. She then placed in the top 5 at the Section 3 meet at Mount Markham on 11/9 to become a Sectional champion. At the State meet at Queensbury on 11/16 she paced the Section 3 team to a State title by being 5th for the Section in the class D race. She also podiumed individually by placing 8th. An outstanding job and the best cross country performance by any individual cross country runner from Herkimer in the last 40 years.

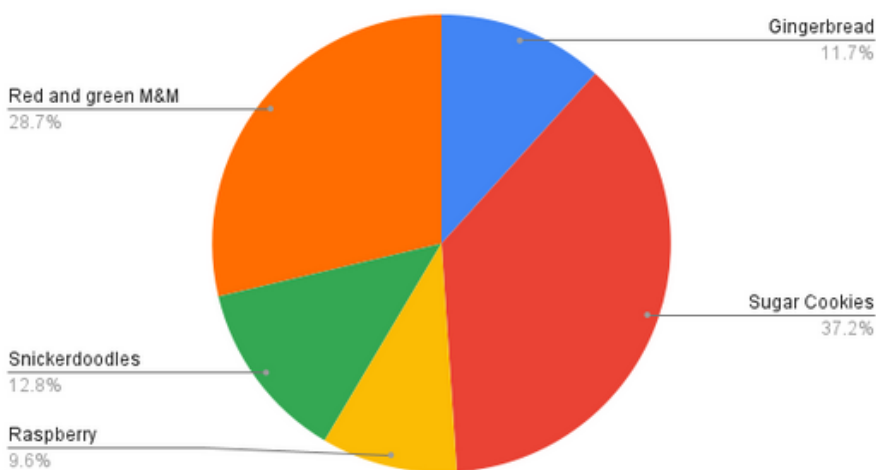
- Coach Clarke



Fun Page



Best Christmas Cookie



Mrs. Lampert's Chocolate Fudge

Ingredients:

- 3 cups of chocolate chips
- 2 cups mini marshmallows
- Can of sweetened condensed milk
- Pinch salt
- 1 teaspoon of vanilla

Directions:

- In a large pot over medium heat, stir together 3 cups of chocolate chips, 2 cups of mini marshmallow, one can of sweetened condensed milk. Stir constantly until the mixture is all melted together - this will take a few minutes.
- Take the mixture off the heat and stir in 1 teaspoon of vanilla and a pinch of salt.
- Pour into a foil-lined 8 x 8 or 9 x 9 pan and allow to cool completely. Don't refrigerate the fudge or it will dry out. Wrap tightly and store in an airtight container or ziplock bag.

Easy Gingerbread Cookies

Ingredients:

- $\frac{3}{4}$ cup unsalted butter softened
- 1 cup granulated sugar
- 1 large egg
- $\frac{1}{4}$ cup molasses unsulphured
- 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ cups all-purpose flour
- 2 tsp baking soda
- $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp salt
- 1 - 2 tsp of cinnamon
- $\frac{1}{2}$ - 2 tsp dried ground ginger

Directions:

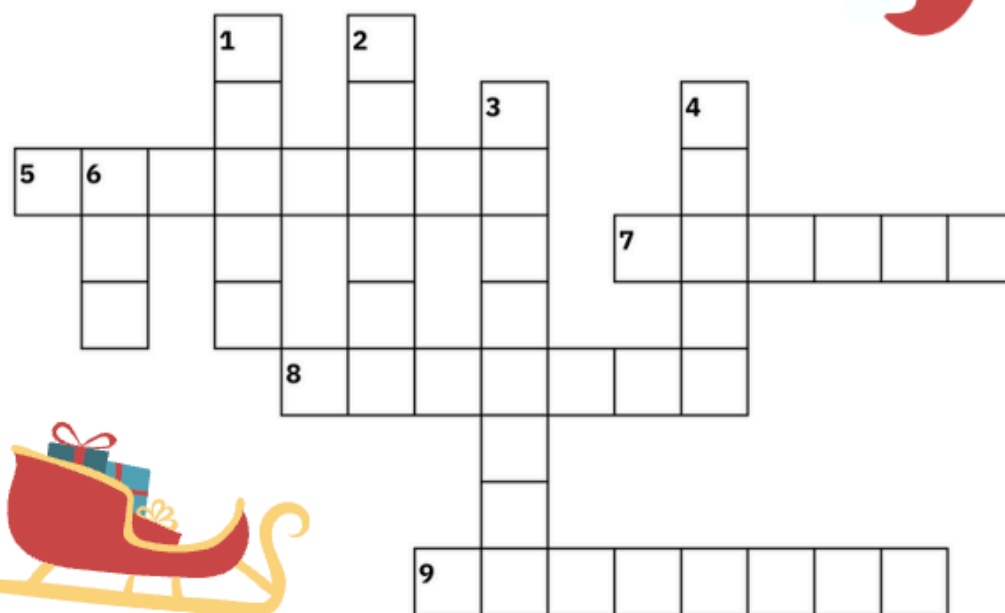
- Preheat oven to 350 degrees F.
- mix together butter and sugar until light and fluffy
- add egg and molasses and mix well.
- In a separate bowl combine flour, baking soda, salt, cinnamon and ginger, stirring to combine.
- Add dry ingredients to wet ingredients and mix until well combined.
- form cookies to desired shape
- bake for 10-12 minutes and allow to cool



Christmas Crossword



Read the clues and fill in the crossword grid.



Across

- 5.** a special animal with antlers that help Santa pull his sleigh at Christmas
- 7.** a special sled that Santa rides on while delivering presents
- 8.** a tall, narrow space in the house where Santa is said to come down to deliver presents
- 9.** a big sock that children hang by the fireplace for Santa to fill with gifts

Down

- 1.** a kind man who wears a red suit, has a white beard, and brings presents to children at Christmas
- 2.** a circle made of leaves or flowers, often hung on doors during Christmas
- 3.** a small, pretty decoration used to decorate the Christmas tree
- 4.** a plant with shiny green leaves and red berries, used for decorations at Christmas
- 6.** a magical tiny person who helps Santa make toys at the North Pole



Creative Writing Submissions



1 - School

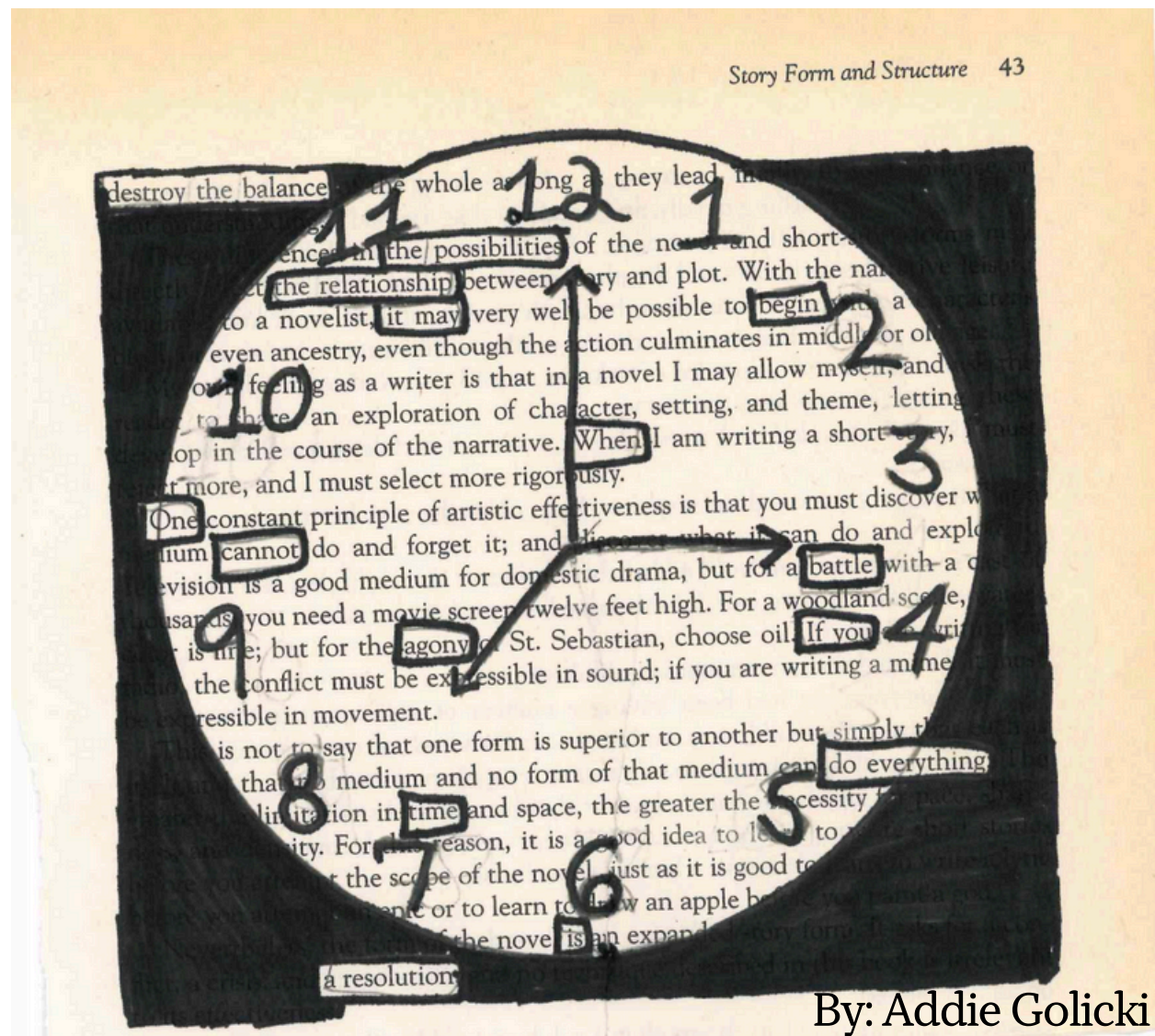
3 - full of mysteries

3 - good or bad

5 - some are not that good

0 - But the most common are never judged

By: Jonah Maiorano

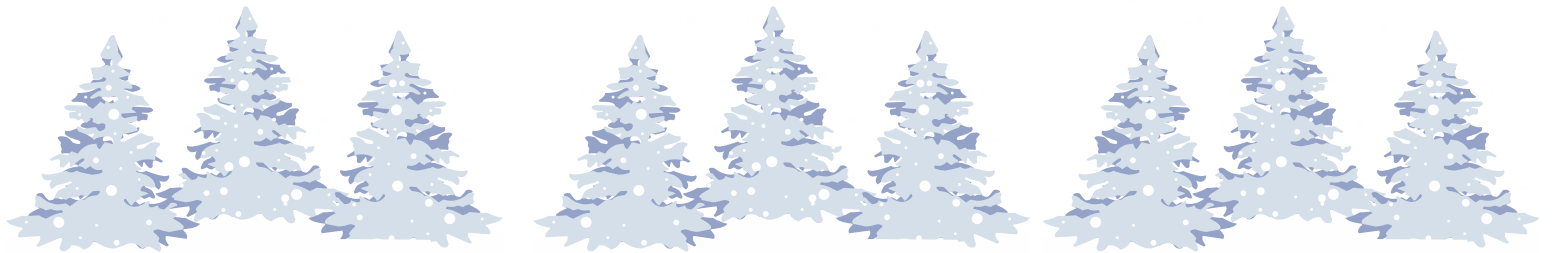


By: Addie Golicki



The Big Snow

It's snowing outside.



I think it's been like this for a month now, but at this point I've gotten so used to the blizzard I'm not even sure at this point. I call my manager, letting her know that I won't be able to come to work today.

"Katie, this is the third time this week, and there's not even a cloud in the sky. I have eyes you know! I'm so sick of your excuses. If you're not in on Tuesday, you're fired!" And she hangs up.

I look out the window and see a guy who looks to be in his early twenties. His tall figure with the face of a supermodel, freezing as he's laying on the snow. That's where he stops shivering. I have no idea why my manager can't see the snow, clearly it's not just me. But she doesn't, so I guess it's not snowing then.

Three hours later an ambulance arrives carrying his body, it's cold to the touch. This is when people start to cry. "How could this happen?" "Why?" "No, please, this can't be real." But I never hear people say, "Hey, you good there?" "Are you cold?" "You look like you need help, let me help you." Then again, no one complains about the snow either. I sit there as red and blue lights flashes, the smell of hot chocolate hits my face. I take a sip, but I can't enjoy it at all. Is it even the snow at this point? Or maybe it's just me. Do I even care? That's the part that scares me. I go back to sleep, trying to just stop thinking about it. Drifting away, I hope that maybe, just maybe, it will all go away. Yet, I find myself waking up saying...

- Anonymous