

GRAPEVINE

DECEMBER 23 SCHOOL DISMISSAL TIME

Acton District High School – Last period ends at 12:25 p.m. followed by a talent show. Dismissal at 1:50 p.m.
Brookville Public School – Dismissal at 1:10 p.m.
École Harris Mill Public School – Dismissal regular time.
Limehouse Public School – Early Dismissal 1:30 p.m.
McKenzie-Smith Bennett Public School – Dismissal at 2:15 p.m.
Robert Little Public School – Dismissal at 2:05 p.m.
Rockwood Centennial Public School – Dismissal Regular time.
St. Joseph Catholic Elementary School – Dismissal at 2 p.m.
 Classes resume January 9, 2017.

COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS DINNER

Looking for something to do on Christmas Day? Why not attend the Acton Community Christmas Dinner and enjoy a free turkey dinner with all the trimmings? Hosted by volunteer members from the community on Sunday December 25 at the Acton Town Hall Centre at 19 Willow St. North, doors open at 12 p.m. and dinner will be served at 12:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome! To request transportation to the dinner, or to make arrangements for take-out or to have your dinner to be delivered to your home, please contact Ann at 519-853-3687 or by email at petered@sympatico.ca.

NEW PARKING REGULATIONS AS OF JANUARY 1, 2017

Please be advised Parking Control Officers will no longer issue first time infraction warnings to vehicle owners that have committed an offence.
 Residents of the Town of Halton Hills are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the Uniform Traffic Control By-law No. 84-1 and Off-Street Parking By-law No. 2005-0117 to avoid receiving a parking ticket. Information regarding these By-laws can be found on the Town website at www.haltonhills.ca/parking. Parking Inquiries 905-873-2601 ext. 2330.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Acton BIA is look for volunteers to help out at this year's Winter Carnival. Organizers are looking for help with the set up and tear down as well as someone with a truck who would be willing to help load up all the games and supplies. Winter Carnival will be on January 29 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Anyone interested in helping out can email the BIA office at ActonBIA@cogeco.net before January 26 .



LETTERS

The views expressed in these published letters are those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of The New Tanner Publishing Ltd.



Support of Youth Theatre

To the Editor;
 I just wanted to take time to thank the local community for the fantastic support our youth theatre company, Mediaeval Productions, received for our 2016 production of "Scrooge, A Christmas Carol." Despite

poor weather and threat of a storm, there was an excellent turnout. Thank you everyone!
 We'd also like to thank McDonalds, the Georgetown Little Theatre, Acton High School Drama Department, Acton Community Dinner,

the Acton Town Hall Centre, Lloyd McIntyre and Jon Hurst for their help.
 For more information on future productions, please email andrewhilson@yahoo.ca
 Thank you,
 Andrew Hilson

Kindness appreciated

To the Editor;
 I would like to send a huge shout out "Thank you!" to a lovely lady and a wonderful couple who stopped last

Wednesday and Thursday to give me a hot chocolate. I am a crossing guard and so appreciated their kindness on such cold, windy days. Acton...

what a great place to live!
 Thank you!
 Barb
 the crossing guard at Tanners and Churchill Road N.

JUST A THOUGHT

Childhood's Light Flickers Once More

With mere days until the big man squeezes his way down our chimneys, we find ourselves again contemplating that age-old question: is there truly a Santa Claus?

Recently, a group of researchers actually wrote a very poignant and well-published piece in *Lancet Psychiatry* about how damaging lies can be to children. Apparently, telling "the lie that Santa is real" ruins relationships and sets children up to mistrust adults and truth alike. To paraphrase: it upheaves their value system, misplaces worth in the ideals of being good and bad, and leaves them with a disconnect between what is true and what is said. Moreover, besides the negative effects to children, the authors maintain that adults actually "lie about Santa" only to "selfishly" relive the magic of their childhoods. Basically, these "selfish" parents give all the Christmas credit to a fictional fellow while trying to salvage magic once their own. How inconceivable to think that one oversized geriatric (and perhaps now diabetic) man would be capable and willing to accomplish such miracles for the joy in others? And, in only one night: the insanity! It must be a lie!

Yet, according to another



By
Trish Bell

not so-well-known article, science can actually lend a little plausibility to this time-tested tale. University of Exeter Physicist Katy Sheen claims that Albert Einstein's theory of relativity actually explains a lot of it. In laymen's terms: Santa goes so fast that he breaks the sound barrier, disappears from the human eye (Doppler effect), becomes inaudible to the human ear and get's squished in shape so that he can fit into various tight spaces. In addition, time dilation would slow time for him while it appears consistent to us, making him age much slower than the rest of us. Does this theory constitute proof? Of course not, but Santa Claus is not a matter for proof. He will never be about proof. That is the point missed by so many in today's "show me" world. He is the ultimate symbol of honest, whole-hearted belief without proof. Father Christmas, Kris Kringle, Pere Noel, Sinterklaas...no matter the name, the myth can never be a lie. There was, and continues to be, a Santa Claus. He is in the

feeling in your heart, the excitement in your step and the smile on your face. He is and will always be magic. True, we can't see him, but Christians do not question God, nor Muslims Allah, while they remain unseen. In fact, we all believe tomorrow will come, regardless of the fact, we never have proof it will. Skepticism is the antithesis of Santa Claus, and in a world so in need of conviction, it seems so sad that we remain happy to misjudge it.
 So, is there a Santa Claus? Well, I believe the 1897 editor of the *New York Sun* said it best: "All minds, whether they be men's or children's, are little. In this great universe of ours, man is a mere insect, as measured by the intelligence capable of grasping the whole of truth and knowledge. Nobody can conceive or imagine all the wonders there are unseen and unseeable in the world. Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus! He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist. Alas! How dreary would be the world if there were no Santa Claus! There would be no childlike faith then, no poetry, no romance to make tolerable this existence. May he continue to make glad the heart of childhood."