

THE
BUZZ

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Policies

As preservers of democracy, our schools shall protect, encourage, and enhance free speech and the exchange of ideas as a means of protecting our American way of life.

The Hornet's Buzz is the official student-produced medium of news and information published/produced by Journalism II: Multi-Media students.

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The Hornet's Buzz is and has been a forum for public discourse for student editors to inform and educate their readers as well as for the discussion of issues of concern to their audience, the student body of North Kansas City High School. Advisors may — and should — coach and discuss content during the writing process.

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The mission of The Hornet's Buzz is to inform and educate the student body of North Kansas City High School by increasing readership through presentation of quality information that is relevant to the lives of teenagers. Our purpose is to educate the members of our audience, the student body of North Kansas City High School, on matters of interest and importance to young people. The Buzz will offer opinions on certain issues identified by the staff as important in the form of unsigned editorials written by the editorial/opinion editor.

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The Hornet's Buzz editorial board reserves the right to withhold a letter, column or other submission and/OR return it for revision if it contains unprotected speech or grammatical errors that could hamper its meaning. Deadlines for letters and columns will be determined by each year's student staff, allowing sufficient time for verification of authorship prior to publication.

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NorthtownNews.com

Slippery Slopes

Ranking some of the best spots for sledding in the Northland

By: Liam Hoke
Social Media Editor

Northgate Middle

2117 NE 48th St, 64118

Eastgate 6th Grade Center

4700 NE Parvin Rd, 64117

We asked the Northtown student body where the best sledding spots are. Our survey amassed 43 total responses, some of which not very helpful. But there were a few notable spots that got mentioned more than others. Now onto the ranking — 3rd and 4th place are awarded to our 6th grade center and middle school, Eastgate and Northgate respectively, followed by our very own Briarcliff Elementary in 2nd place. In 1st place, our student body voted that Waterworks Park was the best sledding spot in North Kansas City!

Waterworks Park

3400 N. Oak Trafficway, 64116

Briarcliff Elementary

4100 Briarcliff Rd, 64116

Lady Hornets



Photo Credits: Link Weaver

By: Lillian Tsuglis & Grace Hankins
Writers

The girls' basketball team has dribbled into their new season with new coach Quinton Day leading them on this season. Senior Macey Willman is a third-year starter for the basketball team— as the season continues she focuses on the goals she set for this season.

“Winning conference again would be great and then trying to make it further in districts,” Willman said.

Having a new coach has made a more exciting environment.

“I feel like he’s going to push us a lot harder this year and give us the resources we need, and I’ve known him for a while, so it’s nice having a familiar face around,” Willman said.

Holly Barlow is the captain of the team, being a junior, some might think the pressure is on but Barlow doesn’t feel that way.

“No, there’s no added pressure, I think that it kind of will just emphasize my role and the traits that I need to put myself with to better help my teammates and support my coaches,” Barlow said.

Barlow looks forward to some of the most anticipated games for the season.

“Oak Park is always a super fun game, I think if we play Olathe North that will be super fun game as well,” Barlow said.

Being a new coach means a lot to Day.

“The thing that I’m most excited for is I’m able to go back to the girl’s side...It’s new so the biggest challenges is probably going to be getting

all my players to understand how I am, like when the season starts what kind of mentality I have, the type of way that I want you to work,” Day said.

As the season progresses, Day has some people in mind for who’s going to surprise him.

“I think Holly Barlow is going to surprise people because Holly is just now understanding her potential. She’s been in situations where she hasn’t been able to fully show her potential because she hadn’t had the right guidance or personnel that had her in position to be able to do that. Besides her, Imani Harlin...She’s a transfer student and it’s going to be a better position for her to be able to display her skill set,” Day said.

“The composition of what we’re made of, strong leadership, coachable attitudes, and a desire to get better, and when we have those three things you have a recipe for a team that can get better.”
– Spencer Warman, Coach

Photo Credits: Lillian Tsuglis





As basketball season picks up, the pressure is on. For Mikey Cruthird a sophomore and first year Northtown student he feels the difference in schools. "Some different things are the team culture, we feel more together, and I feel like the team is going to do some big things this year. Though I like my last school, this school feels more like a family," said Cruthird.

"I'm very confident in my ability to be a leader on the court, control the pace of the game, and handle pressure. It all starts with the one with the ball in their hands," said Cruthird.

Admir Jusic, a senior on the team, finds that the most important thing for great teamwork is one of the simplest of things. "Communication and just playing as hard as we can," said Jusic.

For Deng Deng, a senior, some of the most anticipated games this season are against Staley and Oak Park with both being tough teams to play against.

For Malik Minton the transition from sophomore year to junior has been a step up. "I picked up a couple pounds in weight, I grew mentally, and grew my confidence," said Minton.

Coach Fritz's expectations are high for this season, "It's going to take some time, so we'll have to figure out where everybody's at, we're all going to compete for playing time and it'll play out during practice," Fritz said.

"You know, always going very optimistic, I think we have a chance to win every game we play, we'd like to win our league and win districts," Fritz said.

"I'm excited for every conference game this year because one of our goals is to win conference. But if I had to pick one it would be those boys to the north."

– Admir Jusic, #20



NKC Hoops

Comm^{mat}ment

By: Zaina Hanon
Writer

Northtown’s wrestling season is opening a new chapter with a new girls wrestling coach: Tess Kinne. As coach, Kinne aims to see progress and accomplishment in the team this season.

“My hope for this season is to see tremendous growth and success from the entire team—both our beginners and our returning veterans,” s Kinne stated.

As the season progresses, Kinne hopes her impact remains on and off the mat.

“I want to see everyone develop, not only as wrestlers, but also as individuals,” Kinne said.

For returning members, new coaches can be a major change. Senior Julianna Tice, a fourth year varsity member, has assurance in Coach Kinne.

Tice’s achievements include being

a 3-time state qualifier, 1-time state placer, placing in two national folk style tournaments, finishing as first national finalist at Northtown, being a freestyle state runner-up in the off-season and first in Greco and being ranked at #9 in the nation at 100lbs, as well as recently earning her hundred win.

For Tice, her wrestling goals get bigger the more she wins.

“I’m very excited for my senior year and I’m planning on winning the state title,” Tice said. “Wrestling is important because it teaches life lessons that go far beyond the mat. At Northtown,

our women’s wrestling program emphasizes positivity, fun, and hard work—fueled by love and joy every day. It’s more than a sport; it’s a family and a foundation for lifelong success.”

“Coach Kinne is an uplifting factor, especially to our newer female wrestlers. She helps them learn how to be comfortable on the mat, not only as a wrestler—but as a female wrestler.”

– Juliana Tice, Senior Wrestler



Photo Credits: Link Weaver
Girls Wrestling Media Day, double heart



Girls Wrestling Media Day, guns out

What is Happening to MTSS and Is It Going to Work?

The Buzz editorial board weighs in on the proposed MTSS changes

By: Buzz Staff

We are seeing another attempt to change MTSS and all of its flaws beginning with a potential change to second semester's schedule. No matter what happens it seems neither administration nor students are happy with the way things are. Yes, there is a problem with people skipping during MTSS/Advisory into third block, but the problem should be solved by punishing the troublemaker's rather than the whole school.

MTSS has had multiple purposes that students use all the time. Some of the ways students use MTSS to help boost their learning is to catch up in classes that they may have fallen behind in. Students also use MTSS academically to finish projects they don't have time to do in class. For more fun/extracurricular uses, students attend monthly club and activity meetings that can be crucial for getting things done. Finally, it's sometimes nice to just get a breather from doing work—for teachers and students. That small gesture of being able to talk about something other than schoolwork can mean a lot for students who feel overwhelmed.

For students who are failing—or struggling in—classes, MTSS time is important. It gives them the opportunity to have another try at what has been holding them back. Taking away MTSS would be more harmful than helpful for students who want to do better.

IB students who have tight schedules need the extra time to accomplish whatever work is taking up their time. Eliminating MTSS would be like kicking down a support beam for these students that rely on those 50 minutes every day, leaving them just to rely on the block schedule for extra time, which allows for students to have a gap between A day and B day class work.

Administration seems to be eager to have students involved in clubs and activities to boost student engagement with the school. However, taking away MTSS takes away that opportunity; not everyone can be at after school meetings. People have outside of school commitments that are more important than others.

Eighty-minute class periods are way too long for anyone's attention span, especially people who've gotten used to quick, short-form entertainment. Students need to be able to let their thoughts settle so they can continue to go on with their school day. The claim made during the senior class meeting that the most people are in the halls and trouble happens between MTSS/advisory and third block seems obvious.

It's when the most travel would and should be happening; if students just need to drop something off or use the restroom, it would be most reasonable to do it during your free time. For the trouble happening, that just seems to be a problem that is out of anyone's control.

Some of the proposed fixes are adding 10-15 minutes per class or adding 50 minutes to each class one day per week: first block on Mondays, second block on Tuesdays, third block on Wednesdays. The extra time for fourth block would be on Thursdays but would take place earlier in the day. Fridays would have regular Advisory at its normal time.

Tacking on an extra 50 minutes to a class and expecting teachers to be able to hold students' attention that long is too big of an ask. Keeping kids in the classroom for 2 hours once a week and also keeping them off their phones is an unrealistic task for teachers. As instant satisfaction becomes more normalized, students' attention spans have shrunk. Two hours for students to focus on one subject is too much to ask. The 80-minute class periods are already pushing the limits for student attention spans. Teachers would have to become entertainers to make the 2-hour block interesting for all.

If MTSS were to go away completely, nobody would be happy. We should work together to find some sort of compromise, such as longer lunches or longer passing periods so students have more time to get to class and decompress. And there's no guarantee that adding more time wouldn't make it more likely people would wander the halls because of longer classes.

The solution that seems the most reasonable is to deal with the repeat offenders and leave the rest of the school out of it by giving those who abuse the current system strikes and sticking to it, no matter what the case is.

It could work something like this: for 1 strike students get an MTSS detention and get assigned to be in a room with fellow skippers for MTSS. Once a student has had 3 strikes (skipping 3 MTSS), ISS could be assigned for students. The students should turn their phone into the office as a requirement along with being in ISS, so sneaking around isn't possible. There also should be a no talking rule so it doesn't turn into a hang out spot. Additionally, skipping MTSS should be on their record as a truancy.

If behavior doesn't get better: ISS continues, calls are made home and meetings are set with parents. Once behavior has ended, students must be escorted to places for 2 weeks or more, depending on the case.

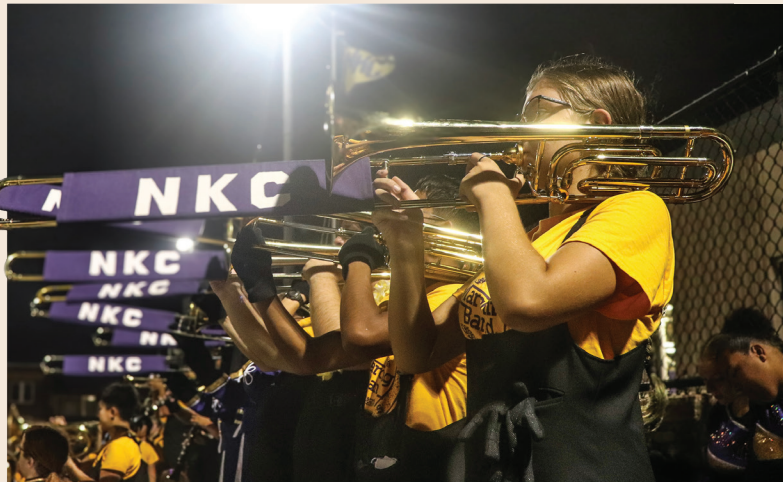
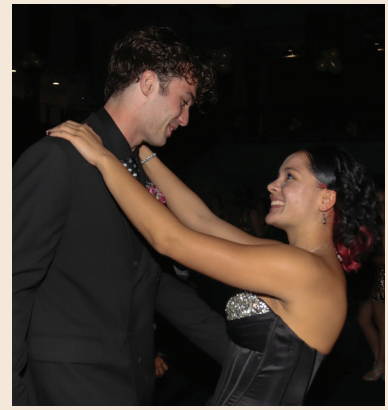
Keep MTSS the way it is. There are only a small number of people dragging down the school's morale by letting their poor choices affect all the students who are following the rules. The Buzz agrees that there are problems with MTSS, but it is too valuable to too many students as it currently exists.



FALL HIGHLIGHTS

Photo Credits: Olivia Farmer, Matilda Whitley and Adonis Quershi





Adventures in Journalism

Senior Editor Matilda Whitley reflects on attending three National High School Journalism Conventions.

Boston

Boston was the best one out of all three, and it was also my first convention.

The convention area was nice; the hotel was connected to the convention center by a mall filled with every store that isn't in Kansas City. At the actual convention I learned how to edit a story and how to find sessions that were actually worthwhile.

The best part of Boston was just roaming the mall. Looking back, me being a 15-year-old who didn't even have a permit, I should not have had that much free reign. Luckily, I didn't abuse it.

Some things I learned through experience in Boston; don't look at people on the subway, and don't draw too much attention to yourself. Also, the pigeons are very fat over there. Try foods you think you hate randomly because one day you might understand the hype.



Philadelphia

Philadelphia was pretty similar to Boston with them both holding a lot of American history. However, Philadelphia smelled of pee everywhere; it was ruining the experience of the city. In Philadelphia I got my first national honorable mention award for review writing, which was surprising considering how difficult my subject was to work around.

The best part of Philly was the sisterhood I developed with my roommates; we all became best friends overnight, and once the plane landed back in KC it was like it never happened. Truthfully nothing else will compare to the bond we all developed; even though we're not as close as we were for those 3 nights, it meant a lot for me to experience that.

If you ever go to Philadelphia just know these things: do not underestimate how badly it reeks of pee. The art museum stairs that are in "Rocky" are not hard to climb; it's harder to climb up to the third floor of main than it is to climb the Rocky steps. Finally, scammers, that was my first time dealing with street scammers, it's not as hard as it looks.

Nashville

At the convention itself I learned nothing new other than how to be a better editor, which I'm working on. I also got another honorable mention award for review writing.

Since Nashville is a little over eight hours away, we took a bus and honestly it wasn't that bad. The bathroom was the only thing that was concerning. Having to walk past the Oak Park and Winnetonka boys was a humiliation ritual.

The actual convention in Nashville was amazing, outside of the plantation themed architecture that was littered around town and the convention center and resort. The resort was not that bad, but it did make me discover my agoraphobia. A fear you learn you have the hard way.

Nashville, what not to do: get Nashville hot chicken if you have ever eaten at wing stop. Nashville hot chicken is some of the worst, over-hyped city staple food. It just tastes like chicken and a quarter cup of paprika. Another thing about Nashville: do not go to chain restaurants. Try something new. Finally, do not get agoraphobia, everything is big and open but also closed simultaneously.



7:27



ChatGPT, Generate Me a Headline

An evaluation of generative AI in the classroom

By: Audrey Schloss
Guest Writer

As the use of generative artificial intelligence slowly progresses into classrooms, many Northtown students have different opinions on the implications of using AI. From studying to translating, many students have started to utilize AI for schoolwork, but not all students can agree on how far AI should go towards educational purposes.

"I use it often. I'll use it for any general questions that I have from day-to-day," Levi Skaggs said.

In addition to Skaggs' regular use of generative AI, he doesn't believe that general AI use is harming creative thinking.

"I think it redefines how we see creativity. It's just like any other new technology in general. We've embraced using computers and we've embraced using technology to enhance our learning," Skaggs said.

"I think it is under the same grounds and that we should use it to help us and we should teach students how to use it properly," Skaggs said.

Skaggs is optimistic about what the future might hold regarding AI while Mai-Linh North suggests some potential risks.

"I think from a technical standpoint it could be useful. I do use it for organizational things but especially in academics I think it can be really harmful because we lose a lot of critical thinking," North said.

North also believes that AI can be used in schools but with some limitations. "It should be used solely for organizational skills and be used academically with integrity," North said.

Student Asher Kerley believes that AI should be used extremely limitedly or not at all given the potential dangers.

"I believe that AI kills creativity and skill, especially when it comes to education and art," Kerley said.

"AI should not be used in the classroom because it can isolate the student from the classroom. AI will get to a point where it hurts humans," Kerley said.

As AI becomes increasingly more common in our classrooms, students continue to debate about what the future might hold with this new form of technology.



How It's Made: Multicultural Festival

Photo Credits: Matilda Whitley

By: Brooklyn Spataro
Writer

The annual Multicultural assembly showcased many of the different cultures on Friday, Dec. 5. Members of Multicultural Club worked to ensure proper coordination and solid effort towards the festivities.

"We are planning it in a more organized way, we are basing things on popularity and need, we have overall better structure of the festival as a whole and are expecting to be better," Johan Cruz says.

Sponsor and science teacher Margarita Owens-Araiza helped with most of the preparations for the festival and employed the members of many of Northtown's clubs as well as her own leadership classes to bring all hands are on deck.

"I've been doing a lot of different things, I made the QR codes and everything involving signing up for booths and performances, helped make some different Canva posts for Multicultural Festival and then I've been emailing important people asking them to come to the festival," junior Lucy Reddin said.

Vital parts of preparation were already under way for the festival and for the assembly itself early in the semester. The assembly is the first major performance of the process, with members of clubs preparing to do their part to show to the school what they are a part of.

"My culture inspired me to take part in the Fan Dance and Hat Dance because they represent traditions I'm proud of. It's a fun way to share my culture with others and celebrate it through dances. I'm really proud of how everything is coming together. The dances are beautiful and full of meaning, and I can't wait for everyone to see them at the festival and also seeing other performances," junior Vivian Nguyen said.

This tradition is now in its fifth year—originally started by Class of 2024 graduate Reed Pierman—and has allowed students to share unique and individual cultures in their specialized ways.

Along with the festivities and celebrations, Northtown also had decorations that filled the school. Every club got their own hallway that they used to present themselves, which was then voted on by the student body.

"I'm really looking forward to the decorating. It's so fun to stay after school and get to decorate the halls with your friends with the anticipation of people showing up. We get to wear our merch and order food and it's just so much fun to be creative and make changes and work all together the day of," junior Abigail Kenney said.

Many students worked toward making the festival happen, along with support Owens-Araiza.

"Everyone is contributing to the festival in so many different ways," Kenney said.

That evening, the community was invited into the school in the evening to experience traditional foods, and to see another round of performances.



Holiday Movie Reviews

Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer

By: Gracie Hankins
Writer

Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer is a holiday classic. It's the perfect movie to put on with your family and it brings you that warm, cozy, Christmas feeling. Rudolph is an outcast and is picked on by the other reindeer because of his red glowing nose that makes him different. Rudolph runs away because he feels that he doesn't fit in. Then, Santa realizes that Rudolph's red nose would be perfect to light the way of his sleigh on Christmas eve. Rudolph then becomes loved by everyone and no longer feels like an outcast. This movie is not only a great movie for the holidays, but it is a movie that teaches the lesson that it can be good to be different. Overall, I really enjoyed this movie and recommend it to anyone who is interested in a classic movie with a bigger meaning behind it.



A Merry Friggin Christmas

A Merry Friggin' Christmas is a classic holiday movie. It was written by Tristram Shapeero and it stars Robin Williams, Lauren Graham, and Joel McHale. It's not the usual Christmas movie as the whole thing is not super joyful and happy. This movie dives deeper into feelings of sadness around the holidays. I based this review off overall holiday spirit and the deeper message the story has. The lead character Boyd never had a very happy Christmas, and his dad was an alcoholic throughout Boyd's childhood. It then flashes forward to Boyd as an adult with his own family. He does his best to give his children the best Christmas and to keep them believing in the holiday spirit and Santa as long as possible. His family goes to Boyd's dad's house for Christmas and when they arrive there Boyd realizes that he left all the presents at home. This sends Boyd and his father on a journey together to retrieve the presents and get to live the Christmas spirit together that he never got as a child. Overall, this movie is very good and has a good message. It's very fun seeing the character development and seeing the happy ending in this movie. I do recommend this movie, especially for anyone who likes a funny but yet moving holiday movie.

The Nightmare Before Christmas

By: Noon Elhiweej
Writer

The Nightmare Before Christmas is often considered controversial because viewers debate whether it should be classified as a Christmas movie or a Halloween movie. Personally, I think it's a wonderful film that can be enjoyed for both holidays because of its unique story. Jack Skellington, the main character, feels bored and restless after years of scaring people in Halloween Town. When he discovers Christmas Town, he's captivated by its joy and excitement and decides to take over Santa's role. One scene that always stands out to me is when Jack delivers presents but completely misunderstands the human world, causing chaos in the funniest and most unexpected ways. It's moments like that where everything is chaotic and funny that make the film so memorable and enjoyable.

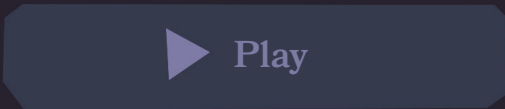
Home Alone

Home Alone is a well-known movie for its comedy and its Christmas setting. Personally, I would always recommend it. The setting is very interesting, and the film itself is charming. One scene that always makes me laugh is when Marv steps barefoot onto the ornaments Kevin leaves by the window. He sneaks inside thinking he's being quiet, only to let out a huge scream when he lands on the broken glass. It's moments like that where everything is chaotic and hilarious that makes the film so interesting.



A collection of holiday tunes picked out by The Buzz's staff

By: Buzz Staff



Play



Shuffle



Paul Aubrey
This Christmas
 Donny Hathaway



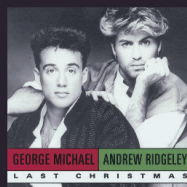
Zaina Hanon
Yule Shoot Your Eye Out
 Fall Out Boy



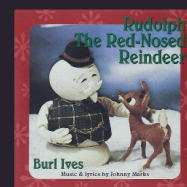
Lillian Tsuglis
Christmas Eve
 Justin Bieber



Matilda Whitley
Wonderful Christmase
 Paul McCartney



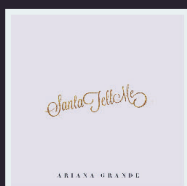
Toby Brown
Last Christmas
 Wham!



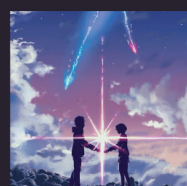
Ja'mia Preston
Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer
 Johnny Marks



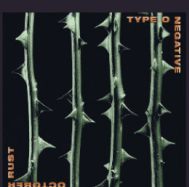
Adonis Qureshi
Let It Snow
 Dean Martin



Grace Hankins
Santa Tell Me
 Ariana Grande



Noon Elhiweej
Sparkle
 RADWIMPS



Liam Hoke
Red Water (Christmas Mourning)
 Type O Negative



Kassidy Poole-Morris
All I Want For Christmas is You
 Mariah Carey



Olivia Farmer
The Christmas Song (Cover)
 Anuc Atittawan

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Easy Recipes

For Winter Break

Ingredients:

Yeast dough
1 cup whole milk
1/2 cup granulated sugar
1 packet active dry yeast
3 large eggs
1/2 cup unsalted butter
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
4 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
1 teaspoon salt

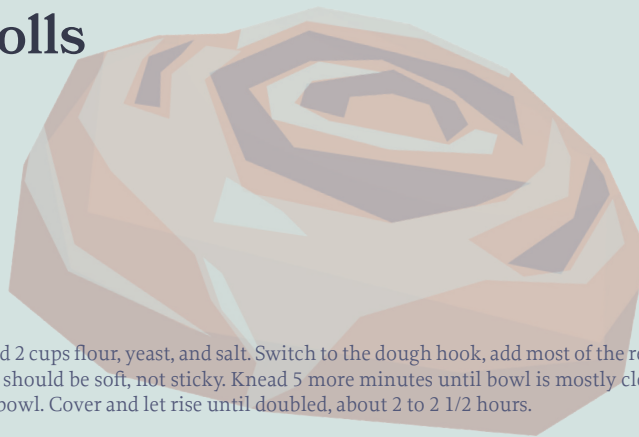
Icing

4 ounces cream cheese
1/4 cup unsalted butter
1 1/2 cups powdered sugar
1 tablespoon vanilla bean paste

Zubeck's Cinnamon Rolls

Filling

1/4 cup unsalted butter
1 cup packed brown sugar
2 tablespoons ground cinnamon
1/4 teaspoon salt



1. Make the dough
Whisk egg yolks, egg, sugar, butter, and buttermilk in a stand mixer. Add 2 cups flour, yeast, and salt. Switch to the dough hook, add most of the remaining flour, and knead for 5 minutes. Add a little more flour if needed – dough should be soft, not sticky. Knead 5 more minutes until bowl is mostly clean. Turn onto a lightly floured surface, knead briefly, then place in a lightly oiled bowl. Cover and let rise until doubled, about 2 to 2 1/2 hours.

2. Make the filling

Mix brown sugar, cinnamon, and salt. Set aside.

3. Shape the rolls

Butter a 9x13-inch baking dish. Roll dough into an 18x12-inch rectangle. Brush with melted butter, leaving a small border. Sprinkle filling evenly and press gently. Roll tightly from the long side and pinch to seal. Slice into twelve 1 1/2 - inch rolls and place in the dish. Cover and refrigerate overnight (up to 16 hours)

4. Second rise

Place rolls in a turned-off oven with a shallow pan of hot water underneath. Let rise until slightly puffy, about 30 minutes. Remove rolls and water.

5. Bake

Preheat oven to 350F. Bake rolls on the middle rack for about 30 minutes, until golden and centers reach 190F.

6. Make the icing

Beat cream cheese until smooth. Add milk, then sifted powdered sugar, whisking until creamy. Spread over warm rolls and serve.

Diebold's Christmas Cookie Cheesecake



Preheat oven to 350°F. Grease and line an 8x8 pan with parchment paper. Place the cookie dough into the prepared pan. Bake the dough for 9-12 minutes until the cookies are touching and edges look set. (Don't over bake)

Let it cool slightly.

Beat the cream cheese and sugar together until smooth. Add in sour cream, vanilla, and flour until combined. Mix in the egg gently on low speed or whisk by hand until combined.

Gently pour in the Christmas sprinkles (this is optional).

Pour the cheesecake batter over the cooled cookie crust.

Reduce the oven temp to 325°F and bake for 30-40 minutes until edges are set & center, it should jiggle just slightly.

Cool at room temp then chill for at least 3 hours or overnight.

Top with more Christmas sprinkles, whipped cream, and a Pillsbury cookie. (Bake the extra Pillsbury cookies according to the package instructions for topping)

Ingredients:

2 packs of Pillsbury Christmas sugar cookies

"I used 25 for the bottom of the pan and 9 for the top, and had some leftovers"

16 oz cream cheese, make sure its softened (block style, not spreadable)

1/2 cup granulated sugar

2 tablespoon sour cream

1 tsp vanilla extract

1 tbsp all-purpose flour

2 small eggs, room temp

2 tablespoon Christmas sprinkles + more for topping

Optional: Whipped cream for topping!