St. Urho’s Day
The St. Patrick’s Day Alternative

Most people have heard about the Irish holiday, St. Patrick’s Day, celebrated on March 17. It is a chance for the people of Ireland to celebrate their heritage and an excuse for everyone else to have some fun. I was able to stay with my aunt and uncle in Finland for a month last summer. I was so inspired by the Finnish culture that I have decided to share the story of St. Urho’s Day, Finland’s version of St. Patrick’s Day, which just happens to be celebrated on March 16.

St. Urho was said to be the holy man who drove away the droves of grasshoppers from Finland using the incantation, ”Heinäsirkka, Heinäsirkka, mene tälä hiiteen!” (“Grasshopper, grasshopper, go from hence to hell!”), saving the Finnish grape crops. His holiday honors his leadership in a time of crisis.

Unfortunately, I discovered that no legend of a ”St. Urho” exists in Finnish mythology. The holiday originated as a joke copied from the St. Patrick’s Day tradition to give Finns their own version of the holiday. It was originally created by a Minnesota department store owner and is primarily celebrated in the U.S. If you feel like showing St. Urho’s Day pride, wear purple and green on March 16.

~Barbara Kerkove
51 Ways to Enjoy the Weather That You Can’t Escape

So it’s here; the dead of winter. This is when two different types of people come forward at NMU. The first type is the person who would live inside a snow globe if they had the means to do so, and the second type is the person who would live in a tiki-hut near the Equator if they had the can money to buy a one-way ticket to an island.

Here are a few things you can do to learn to love the snow and enjoy the weather that is impossible to escape from in the U.P.:

1. Try snow sculpting
2. Go to an ice sculpting display
3. Do the polar plunge
4. Make snow people
5. Go skiing
6. Go Cross-coutry skiing
7. Go sledding
8. Make a fort
9. Have a snowball fight
10. Make a big snowball
11. Go ice skating
12. Go Snowboarding
13. Throw a Hawaiian beach party
14. Write in the snow with your finger
15. Shovel snow—COMMUNITY SERVICE!
16. Snowmobile
17. Take pictures of the snow
18. Catch snowflakes on your tongue
19. Learn to figure skate
20. Bobsledding
21. Ice hockey
22. Watch dog sledding
23. Go lugging
24. Eat snow cones with fresh snow and cool-aid
25. Go toboggening
26. Blow snow away with a snow blower
27. If in Hawaii, use a boogie-board instead of a sled to go down snow- covered hills
28. Make snow cream
29. Make a snow angel
30. Eat icicles
31. Balance an icicle on your nose (this is possible)
32. Plow snow
33. Take a walk in the snow
34. Shake snow off the trees
35. Eat snow (but not the yellow snow)
36. Make snow cones with friends
37. Go snowshoeing
38. Take pictures of the snow-covered scenery
39. Identify different types of snowflakes
40. Go to Krook’s Run
41. Write in snow with an icicle
42. Visit the Eden Ice Caves
43. Make snow soup
44. Enjoy the scenery
45. Learn to speed skate
46. Snow-tubing
47. Visit someplace warm
48. Park in lots that you don’t have passes for, the snow will cover up the windshield
49. Go ice fishing
50. Play broomball
51. Attend winter festivals

Or if all else fails—just go shopping. :)  

~Julie Rueden

MENTOR AND MENTEE IN ACTION!

Featuring Sara Moyle and Alex Marshall
Last semester, Mint Block Alex Marshall, was involved with a comic book project with her Mentor, Sara Moyle, a teacher at Marquette’s Bothwell Middle School. Sara had written and received a grant allowing her sixth-grade students to create their own comic books. Alex helped the kids with ideas for their comics and also with grammar and spelling. Alex says, “I thoroughly enjoyed working with the sixth graders on this project. I was able to spend time with them in the classroom as well as at lunch. I helped them develop ideas for the comic books, and I spent time with them. It was an experience I would not have had if I was not involved in the SLFP and my Mentor. I am thankful that I had the opportunity to work with them.”
Rachel's Reflections

WHAT TEACHERS MAKE

The dinner guests were sitting around the table discussing life. One man, a CEO, decided to explain the problem with education. He argued, "What's a kid going to learn from someone who decided his best option in life was to become a teacher?"

He reminded the other dinner guests what they say about teachers: "Those who can, do. Those who can't, teach."

To stress his point he said to another guest: "You're a teacher, Bonnie. Be honest. What do you make?"

Bonnie, who had a reputation for honesty and frankness replied, "You want to know what I make?" (She paused for a second, then began.) "Well, I make kids work harder than they ever thought they could. I make a C+ feel like the Congressional Medal of Honor. I make kids sit through 40 minutes of class time when their parents can't make them sit for 5 without an iPod, Game Cube or movie rental. You want to know what I make?" (She paused again and looked at each and every person at the table.)

"I make kids wonder.
I make them question.
I make them criticize.
I make them apologize and mean it.
I make them have respect and take responsibility for their actions.
I teach them to write and then I make them write.
I make them read, read, read.
I make them show all their work in math.
I make my students from other countries learn everything they need to know in English while preserving their unique cultural identity.
I make my classroom a place where all my students feel safe.
I make my students stand to say the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag because we live in the United States of America. Finally, I make them understand that if they use the gifts they were given, work hard, and follow their hearts, they can succeed in life."

(Bonnie paused one last time and then continued.) "Then, when people try to judge me by what I make, I can hold my head up high and pay no attention because they are ignorant. You want to know what I make? I MAKE A DIFFERENCE. What do you make?"

Yuriy’s yapping

Special Occasion with Dr. Simten Haticte Cosar

Dr. Simten Haticte Cosar spoke about her past, her native Turkey, and the future of Islamic culture at the Special Occasion on Monday, February 19.

Dr. Cosar is an Assistant Professor of government policy at the University of Bashkent, Ankara, Turkey, as well as a human rights activist, especially women's rights in Turkey. She recalled some of the challenges she experienced growing up in the male-dominated, predominantly Muslim nation of Turkey. Women in Turkey, she said, are often viewed as inferior to men. Dr. Cosar stated that women have a harder time than men getting an education because a woman's traditional role is to tend to her husband and family.

However, growing up in a household where scholarly pursuits were encouraged, Dr. Cosar said she had an advantage when pursuing her higher education. In fact, she attained a Ph.D.

Dr. Cosar discussed her biggest accomplishment was getting her students involved with human rights. As part of her class, she required her students to join an outside human rights group. Her students, for the most part, took to the assignment full-heartedly joining groups ranging from Amnesty International to gay rights and everything in between.

She agreed that the media has an affect in the sometimes negative portrayal of Muslim nations. Moreover, Dr. Cosar stated that Turkey is better off than many other Muslim nations such as Saudi Arabia, for instance, when it comes to human rights and women's rights. However, in defending women's rights, she claimed the religion of Islam does not portray the male as dominant, sighting no such passages in the holy book. Nevertheless, this statement is a little contradictory. At least one passage seems to support ill treatment of women in the Muslim book (Surah 4:34). As an activist and not just a professor, Dr. Cosar works to change the traditional way of thinking and promote equality among the genders. She says things are changing gradually; women are starting to get rights they did not have before in Turkey and other Muslim countries.

~ Yuriy Drubinskiy
**SLFP Birthdays**

**March**
- 10 Seth Hill-Kennedy
- 14 Dayna Haddock
- 18 Jenny Miller
- 24 Darcie Cook
- 26 Angela Neumann

**April**
- 4 Sarah Poggi
- 6 Sara Kiker
- 6 Danielle Luce
- 10 Shea Belanger
- 14 Erica Ehardt
- 16 Liz Jeplawy
- 21 Andrea Bianco
- 27 Klamesha Richards

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**Bean Dip Recipe**

This is a quick and easy recipe that is always a hit!

**Ingredients:**
- 1 package of cream cheese (8 oz.)
- 1 can of bean dip (usually located in chips and salsa aisle in grocery store, about 9 oz.)
- 1 package of shredded cheese (preferably Mexican blend)

**Directions:**
- Mix cream cheese and bean dip until smooth consistency
- Spread onto plate/platter
- Sprinkle desired amount of shredded cheese on top
- Microwave until warm
- Serve with tortilla or potato chips