



THE THUNDER GAZETTE



Happy holiday's from the Thunder Gazette staff!



Favorite Christmas Memories

BY: AIDEN DELAURENTOS

(CONTINUED ON PG. 3)

Everyone loves Christmas. We all enjoy waking up on Christmas morning and going to the Christmas tree to see it filled with presents. Most people say that their favorite part of Christmas is unwrapping the presents but others favor just being with their family. Kids look forward to Christmas every year. It's the one time of year when you get what you've really wanted for a long time.

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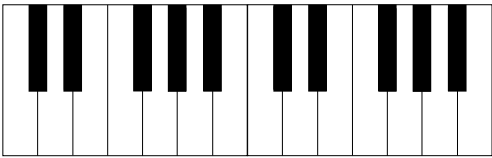
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THUNDER IDOL

Jackson Bird

Thunder Idol happened this week and we had a lot of talent this year. I interviewed 3 kids to see why they sing. Dakota Hunter who was in Thunder Idol says, "You can do anything if you put your mind to it." What Dakota said was very inspirational. Another contestant is Rylan, he loves singing and states that "Singing is my way to express my feelings and my escape from reality." Our last interview is Going to Shally and she said "I do music because I love to perform." Something that they all could relate to was that they all loved to sing and enjoyed it. That warps for today.



MISS-KNOW-IT-ALL

Q: "HOW DO I GET RID OF DEPRESSION?"

A: THERE IS NO CURE FOR DEPRESSION, BUT THERE ARE MANY DIFFERENT WAYS THAT YOU CAN COPE WITH IT. AS THE BIGGEST EXAMPLE, THERAPY IS AN OBVIOUS FACTOR. AS A SMALLER FACTOR IN CHANGING YOUR MINDSET, SETTING MORNING AND NIGHT ROUTINES CAN BE A QUALITY THAT CAN SET UP YOUR DAY OR CARRY DIFFERENT THOUGHTS TO SLEEP. YOGA, JOURNALING, AND MEDITATION HAVE BEEN PROVEN TO BRING MORE POSITIVE THOUGHTS AS YOU BEGIN YOUR DAY OR FINISH IT.

FAVORITE CHRISTMAS MEMORIES

By: Aiden Delaurentos

Everyone loves Christmas. We all enjoy waking up on Christmas morning and going to the Christmas tree to see it filled with presents. Most people say that their favorite part of Christmas is unwrapping the presents but others favor just being with their family. Kids look forward to Christmas every year. It's the one time of year when you get what you've really wanted for a long time.

What is your favorite Christmas memory? Let's find out. Multiple people have replied to this question and here are all their answers, "Waiting on the stairs for my mother to say Santa came or going to church on Christmas Eve." "Going to my friend's house and decorating the Christmas tree with him." "My brother got a Motorcycle because he was really happy and it was nice." "I went up to Montana and made cookies with my entire family."

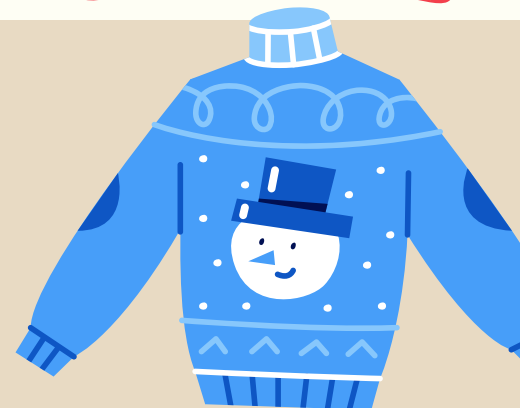
Everyone has their favorite Christmas memory that they will cherish forever. Christmas is a time for rejoicing and love throughout families as the children open their presents to see what they have. Christmas is a reminder that family and friends are important and are people you should cherish. You celebrate your friendship or your family by gifting presents. There are some unfortunate people who don't get the joy of Christmas because of money issues but foundations gather money from people donating or even people just helping out at the foundation just to make Christmas happen for the poor children. Christmas is about being together with the ones you love and cherishing the moments you have together.

This Christmas gather around the ones you love and show that you cherish them even if it's just a small thing like a hug or a high five. Christmas is a thing that makes life enjoyable for everyone. Don't be a Grinch and be sour that you didn't get what you want but be happy that that moment happened.

UGLY SWEATERS

by Emily Thacker

When the winter season comes around, some people put up their decorations. Others bake seasonal treats. And others put on ugly holiday sweaters. Ugly sweaters are a way to show Christmas cheer in what you wear. Ugly Christmas sweaters may have ugly in the name, but they can be pretty stylish. Their woolly stitches can also be very warm and comfy, perfect for the cold winter season. Ugly Sweaters also provide competition opportunities. Christmas sweater contests are fun challenges for Christmas parties and other celebrations. With the weather getting colder and the calendar rolling closer to Christmas, it's the perfect time to pull the red and green sweaters out of the closet to show some Christmas cheer.



NEW POPULAR MOVIES

BY AIDEN DELAURENTOS

MOVIES THAT CAME OUT ON THE SILVER SCREEN HAVE TAKEN OVER SOCIAL MEDIA, TAKING OVER FAMOUS SOCIAL MEDIA APPS SUCH AS TIKTOK, INSTAGRAM, ETC.

THE MOVIES THAT RECENTLY CAME OUT AROUND AUGUST AND JULY HAVE TAKEN OVER AS THE BRAND-NEW POPULAR MOVIES OF 2023.

BARBIE HAS BEEN THE MOST TALKED ABOUT MOVIE SO FAR IN 2023. IT CAME OUT JULY 21ST. THE MAIN ACTORS WHO ARE STARRING IN BARBIE ARE MARGOT ROBBIE AS BARBIE AND RYAN GOSLING AS KEN. PEOPLE ARE SAYING BARBIE IS THE BRAND-NEW FEMINIST MOVIE OF 2023.

A FEW PEOPLE ANONYMOUS PEOPLE SUBMITTED THEIR RESPONSES; "BARBIE FOR ME IS A 4/10 BECAUSE IT WASN'T MY TASTE IN MOVIES. I WATCHED IT BECAUSE MY FRIENDS INVITED ME TO GO WATCH IT WITH THEM."

ANOTHER PERSON SAID, "I RATE BARBIE AN 8/10. I WATCHED IT BECAUSE IT WAS RECOMMENDED TO ME BY FRIENDS. OVERALL THE MOVIE MADE ME HAPPY AND WAS GOOD."

THE OVERALL RATING OF THE BARBIE MOVIE IS 3.0 STARS AND ROTTEN TOMATOES IS 88% PEOPLE LOVE IT. "I WAS EXCITED TO WATCH IT BUT I HAVE TO ADMIT, I WAS A BIT UNDERWHELMED." AN ONLINE REVIEWER SAID.

BLUE BEETLE IS A FAMILY-FRIENDLY MOVIE THAT CAME OUT ON AUGUST 28, 2023. THE ACTORS STARRING IN BLUE BEETLE ARE, XOLO MARIDUEÑA AS BLUE BEETLE, BRUNA MARQUEZINE AS JENNY KORD, BECKY G AS KHAJI, GEORGE LOPEZ AS RUDY REYES, AND SUSAN SARANDON AS VICTORIA KORD.

BLUE BEETLE IS KNOWN AS A FAMILY-FRIENDLY MOVIE SINCE IT SHOWS THE POWER OF FAMILY AND WORKING TOGETHER. I INTERVIEWED A FEW PEOPLE AND ASKED THEM ABOUT THE BLUE BEETLE MOVIE AND THESE ARE THE REPLIES I GOT, "I RATE BLUE BEETLE A 9/10 BECAUSE THE CGI WAS THE BEST DC HAS DONE IN A WHILE. I WATCHED BLUE BEETLE BECAUSE I WAS RECOMMENDED TO WATCH IT BY MY FRIENDS. OVERALL BLUE BEETLE WAS AN AMAZING MOVIE." ANOTHER PERSON REPLIED WITH, "BLUE BEETLE IS A 10/10 BECAUSE OF THE GREAT COMEDY. I WATCHED BLUE BEETLE BECAUSE I WAS RECOMMENDED BY FRIENDS AND SOCIAL MEDIA. OVERALL IN MY EYES, IT WAS A FANTASTIC MOVIE."

REAL VS. FAKE CHRISTMAS TREES

Arabella Knowles

DOES YOUR FAMILY CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS? DO YOU DECORATE? WHAT ABOUT YOUR TREES? DOES YOUR FAMILY PREFER REAL CHRISTMAS TREES OR FAKE ONES? CURRENTLY EVERY YEAR, 25-30 MILLION ACTUAL, NATURAL TREES ARE SOLD; NEVERTHELESS, ARTIFICIAL TREES, OR TREES CULTIVATED IN FACTORIES AS OPPOSED TO ON THE LAND, ARE GROWING IN POPULARITY. OF THOSE SURVEYED, (24%) WILL PURCHASE A GENUINE TREE, WHILE THE MAJORITY (63%) WILL INSTALL AN ARTIFICIAL ONE. (10%) WILL ALSO CONTAIN SEVERAL TREES, BOTH REAL AND ARTIFICIAL. WHAT ARE YOUR THOUGHTS ON THIS? WHICH CHRISTMAS TREE IS BETTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT? ACCORDING TO STUDIES, REAL TREES NOT ONLY MITIGATE CLIMATE CHANGE BUT ALSO SUPPORT FORESTS—EVEN IF YOUR CHRISTMAS TREE IS TAKEN DOWN. ADDITIONALLY, EVERY SEASON ABOUT 10 MILLION ARTIFICIAL TREES ARE BOUGHT IN THE UNITED STATES. ABOUT (90%) OF THEM ARE EXPORTED FROM CHINA, WHICH INCREASES RESOURCE USE AND CARBON EMISSIONS. ADDITIONALLY, THE MAJORITY OF ARTIFICIAL TREES WIND UP IN MUNICIPAL LANDFILLS BECAUSE THE SUBSTANCE THEY ARE COMPOSED OF MAKES THEM NON-RECYCLABLE. FURTHERMORE, THE SCENT OF BRAND-NEW PLASTIC IS SIMPLY NOT AS NOSTALGIC AS THAT OF A CLEAN, RECENTLY FALLEN TREE. FIRST OF ALL, THE HEAVY CARBON EMISSIONS NEEDED TO MAKE AND TRANSPORT FAKE TREES ARE NOT PRESENT IN GENUINE TREES. YOU'RE ALSO ASSISTING FORESTS NEXT, THERE ARE MORE THAN 10 TIMES AS MANY NATURAL TREES LEFT STANDING AFTER THEY ARE HARVESTED FOR SALE! ONLY 30 MILLION OF THE 350-500 MILLION TREES THAT ARE GROWN ON TREE FARMS IN THE UNITED STATES ARE TAKEN DOWN FOR CHRISTMAS EACH YEAR. PURCHASING GENUINE TREES WILL SUPPORT TREE FARMS, ALLOWING THEM TO CONTINUE COVERING THEIR LANDS WITH THE HEALTHY FOREST HABITAT THAT IS ESSENTIAL TO THE SURVIVAL OF SPECIES. FURTHERMORE, THESE TREES CAN BE RECYCLED AND GIVEN A SECOND CHANCE AT LIFE AFTER THE CELEBRATIONS ARE OVER. THESE DONATED CHRISTMAS TREES ARE USED BY GROUPS IN THE MAJORITY OF STATES FOR LOCAL HABITAT AND CONSERVATION PROJECTS. ARTIFICIAL TREES, ON THE OTHER HAND, FREQUENTLY WIND UP IN OUR LANDFILLS SINCE THEY ARE TYPICALLY NOT RECYCLABLE. ULTIMATELY, HAVING A GENUINE CHRISTMAS TREE BENEFITS NOT ONLY YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD BUT ALSO THE ENVIRONMENT AND REDUCES THE AMOUNT OF WASTE GENERATED BY FAKE TREES.

STOCKING STUFFERS, POPULAR GIFTS, AND BUDGET

By: Samantha Spencer

Holiday spending adds up for families across the country. Budgets may vary based on different incomes and lifestyles. Many parents prepare all year for the spending to come in the holiday months. Deseret News says, "But most Utahns will spend at least \$100 per child on Christmas gifts this year." Many parents spend more depending on what their child wants

Different children want different things for Christmas each year. Depending on age and interests different kids want different gifts. According to the website, Verywell Family, "Toys can help do some of the work for you by providing kids with an outlet to be creative and active." Boys may want toy cars and action figures. While girls may want baby dolls and dress-ups.

Stocking Stuffers are a big tradition for most families. Depending on age most stockings hold some of the following; Gum, chapstick, candy, deodorant, perfume, and cologne. This list may differ depending on the family. Some children receive less in their stockings while others may have their stockings literally stuffed to the brim.



CHRISTMAS FAMILY TRADITIONS

Skylar Allred

CHRISTMAS IS A MAGICAL TIME OF THE YEAR THAT BRINGS FAMILIES TOGETHER, BRINGING WARMTH AND CREATING LASTING MEMORIES. ONE OF THE MOST CHERISHED ASPECTS OF THIS FESTIVE SEASON IS THE UNIQUE SET OF TRADITIONS THAT FAMILIES PASS DOWN THROUGH GENERATIONS.

THESE TRADITIONS NOT ONLY CREATE A SENSE OF LOVE BUT ALSO STRENGTHEN THE BOND BETWEEN FAMILY MEMBERS.

ONE COMMON CHRISTMAS TRADITION IN MANY FAMILIES IS THE DECORATING OF THE CHRISTMAS TREE. EACH YEAR, FAMILIES GATHER AROUND THE TREE WITH LOTS OF ORNAMENTS, LIGHTS, AND A SHINING STAR ON TOP. THIS RITUAL SYMBOLIZES THE JOY AND TOGETHERNESS THAT THE HOLIDAY SEASON REPRESENTS. AS FAMILY MEMBERS CAREFULLY HANG ORNAMENTS THAT HOLD SENTIMENTAL VALUE, THEY SHARE STORIES AND MEMORIES ASSOCIATED WITH EACH ONE, CREATING A MEANINGFUL CONNECTION BETWEEN PAST AND PRESENT.

ANOTHER CHERISHED TRADITION IS THE PREPARATION AND SHARING OF A SPECIAL CHRISTMAS MEAL. FAMILIES OFTEN COME TOGETHER IN THE KITCHEN TO COOK AND BAKE FESTIVE TREATS, SUCH AS GINGERBREAD COOKIES OR A TURKEY. THIS LOVING TRADITION NOT ONLY RESULTS IN A DELICIOUS FEAST BUT ALSO PROVIDES AN OPPORTUNITY FOR FAMILY MEMBERS TO WORK AS A TEAM, REINFORCING THE IMPORTANCE OF COOPERATION AND SHARED RESPONSIBILITIES

THE EXCHANGE OF THOUGHTFUL GIFTS IS A TRADITION THAT BRINGS IMMENSE JOY TO BOTH GIVERS AND RECEIVERS. FAMILIES ENGAGE IN THE EXCITEMENT OF CHOOSING THE PERFECT GIFTS FOR EACH OTHER, CAREFULLY WRAPPING THEM IN FESTIVE PAPER, AND PLACING THEM UNDER THE TREE. THE ANTICIPATION BUILDS AS FAMILY MEMBERS EXCHANGE GIFTS, AND THE JOY ON EACH PERSON'S FACE REFLECTS THE LOVE AND CONSIDERATION THAT WENT INTO SELECTING AND GIVING THE PRESENTS.

IN CONCLUSION, CHRISTMAS FAMILY TRADITIONS PLAY A HUGE ROLE IN CREATING A SENSE OF UNITY, LOVE, AND JOY DURING THE HOLIDAY SEASON. WHETHER IT'S DECORATING THE CHRISTMAS TREE, PREPARING A FESTIVE FEAST, OR EXCHANGING GIFTS, THESE TRADITIONS HELP FAMILIES BUILD LASTING BONDS AND CREATE CHERISHED MEMORIES THAT WILL BE PASSED DOWN THROUGH THE GENERATIONS. CHRISTMAS BECOMES A TIME NOT ONLY FOR CELEBRATING THE SEASON BUT ALSO FOR CELEBRATING THE UNIQUE AND BEAUTIFUL TAPESTRY OF FAMILY TRADITIONS THAT MAKE THIS TIME OF YEAR TRULY MAGICAL.

CHRISTMAS FUN FACTS

Jonah Saling

CHRISTMAS IS RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER AND THERE ARE A LOT OF SURPRISING FACTS AND STATISTICS ABOUT THE HOLIDAY. CHRISTMAS IS A TIME WHEN PEOPLE CELEBRATE AND HAVE FUN TOGETHER. IT'S ALL ABOUT GIVING AND GETTING PRESENTS AND SPENDING TIME WITH FRIENDS AND FAMILY. SOME FACTS BEING JOPLY AND POSITIVE TO BEING SURPRISING AND SAD, THESE FACTS ARE MIND-BLOWING. THE EVIDENCE OF THESE FACTS ARE IN THE BIBLIOGRAPHY.

- 550 SQUARE MILES ARE DEDICATED TO GROWING CHRISTMAS TREES IN THE U.S.
- THERE ARE FIFTEEN THOUSAND CHRISTMAS TREE FARMS
- 350 MILLION CHRISTMAS TREES ARE GROWING IN THE U.S.
- THE MOST FAMOUS CHRISTMAS SONG IS 'ALL I WANT FOR CHRISTMAS IS YOU' BY MARIAH CAREY
- RUDOLPH THE RED-NOSED REINDEER WAS MADE BY ROBERT MAY IN A BOOK THEY PUBLISHED IN 1939
- 1.6 BILLION CHRISTMAS CARDS ARE BOUGHT EVERY YEAR
- FROM 2016 TO 2020, THE NFPA RESPONDED TO AN AVERAGE OF ABOUT 160 HOUSE FIRES THAT STARTED FROM A CHRISTMAS TREE.
- 25 TO 30 MILLION CHRISTMAS TREES ARE SOLD YEARLY. IN THE U.S.

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TAYLOR SWIFT ON A DONATION STREAK?

Sadie Barrowes

TAYLOR SWIFT IS A WELL-KNOWN SINGER AND SONGWRITER, AND IS CURRENTLY ON HER WORLD TOUR, 'ERAS TOUR,' WHERE SHE SINGS ALL TEN OF HER ALBUMS, OR ALSO KNOWN AS "ERAS." THE ERAS TOUR HAS BEEN MAKING HISTORY ON HOW SUCCESSFUL IT IS, AS PREDICTED TO EARN A RECORD-BREAKING ONE BILLION DOLLARS. SWIFT HAS ALREADY BEEN SHARING THE MONEY TO MULTIPLE CAUSES, SUCH AS THE TRUCK DRIVERS WHO TRANSPORT HER COSTUMES. SHE HAS BEEN TIPPING THEM \$100,000 EACH IN CHECK. ALONG WITH PAYING THE TRUCK DRIVERS A GENEROUS AMOUNT OF MONEY, SHE HAS BEEN DOING THE SAME TO LOCAL FOOD BANKS. THE "SHAKE IT OFF" SINGER'S CREW WOULD CALL THE LOCAL FOOD BANKS WHILE IN THAT LOCATION FOR THE ERAS TOUR. AS SOON AS THE WORD GOT OUT, SMALL FOOD BANKS WERE GETTING MORE DONATIONS THAN EVER AND MORE PEOPLE WERE CONTRIBUTING TO HELP OTHERS HAVE FOOD ON THEIR PLATES.

WINTER SPORTS

Christian Patilano

CHRISTMAS IS COMING UP SOON AND THERE ARE MANY FUN ACTIVITIES THAT PEOPLE DO EVERY WINTER. MANY PLACES HAVE BEEN OPENING UP AND MORE OPPORTUNITIES EXIST TO DO DIFFERENT WINTER SPORTS. SOME FUN WINTER SPORTS INCLUDE SKIING, SNOWBOARDING, BOBSLEDDING, ICE HOCKEY, AND MORE. THESE SPORTS HAVE BEEN VERY POPULAR FOR MANY YEARS AND PEOPLE HAVE STRUGGLED TO FIND GREAT PLACES TO DO THESE. WINTER SPORTS ARE VERY EXCITING ESPECIALLY IN SOUTHERN UTAH BECAUSE WE DON'T GET SNOW OFTEN.

EAGLE POINT IS A VERY GREAT SKI RESORT AND IT HAS MANY GREAT PLACES TO EAT AND STAY. THERE ARE MANY RESTAURANTS AROUND THE RESORT AND CABINS THAT YOU CAN RENT ON THE SIDES OF THE RESORT. THE EAGLE POINT SKI RESORT HAS LESSONS AVAILABLE FOR BEGINNERS AND THEY CAN HELP YOU LEARN TO SKI OR SNOWBOARD. THEY HAVE A BIG SHOP WHERE YOU CAN RENT WINTER EQUIPMENT AND THEY HAVE A GREAT VIEW OF ALL OF THE MOUNTAINS WHEN YOU WALK AROUND. THERE ARE MANY PLACES TO HIKE AROUND THE SNOW AND THERE ARE ALSO MANY TRAILS YOU CAN FOLLOW.

BRIAN HEAD IS ANOTHER GREAT SKI RESORT IN UTAH AND IT HAS BECOME VERY POPULAR HERE. THE SKI RESORT IS SIMILAR TO EAGLE POINT AND THEY HAVE A LOT OF PLACES TO STAY AND THEY HAVE GREAT SOUVENIR STORES. THEY HAVE GREAT HILLS SO SKI OR SNOWBOARD ON, THE SNOW HAS A BEAUTIFUL WHITE COLOR AND MANY PEOPLE LOVE TO ENJOY THE VIEW FROM THE BUILDINGS. THE SKI RESORT HAS AN EXCELLENT TEACHING PROGRAM AND THEY DO ONE-ON-ONE LESSONS. THE SKI RESORT HAS A LOT OF HILLS TO SKI DOWN AND THERE ARE A BUNCH OF PLACES YOU CAN EXPLORE. ONCE YOU GO DOWN THE MOUNTAIN, BIG SKI LIFTS BRING YOU BACK TO THE TOP AND GIVE YOU A PERFECT VIEW OF ALL THE PEOPLE SKIING AND SNOWBOARDING DOWN THE MOUNTAIN. THESE ARE ALL VERY GOOD LOCATIONS TO GO VISIT DURING WINTER AND MAKE SURE YOU HAVE A GREAT TIME!



SHORT STORIES

CHRISTMAS WISH BY
NATALIE NEW

THE TIME HAS COME
IT'S NO LONGER NOVEMBER
I'VE BEEN WAITING ALL
YEAR
IT'S FINALLY DECEMBER
IF I COULD HAVE ONE WISH
THIS CHRISTMAS
I WOULD WISH FOR IT TO
SNOW
SO WHEN I WAKE ON
CHRISTMAS MORNING
I'D LOOK OUTSIDE
MY BIG WINDOW
AND SEE THE PERFECT
GLITTERING SNOW

WRITING PROMPT

**IF ALIENS LANDED ON EARTH
RIGHT NOW, WHAT WOULD YOU
DO?**

**HAVE A SHORT STORY, POEM, OR
BOOK SNIPPET YOU WANT TO
SHARE? SEND IT TO US AT
27THACKEMIM@WASHK12.ORG
AND
27CARLSAUD@WASHK12.ORG**

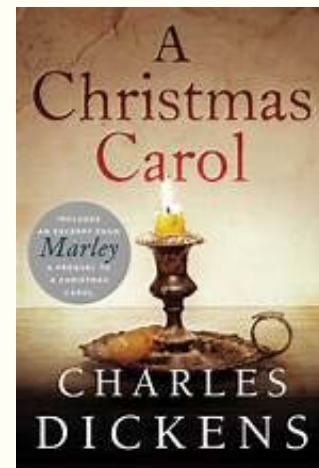
SNOW BY ANNONOMYS

EVERY SINGLE DECEMBER
A WISH, A WANT, A CRY, A PLEA
FOR A MAGICAL SENSATION
SNOW MAKES CHILDREN
HAPPY
THEY'LL LOOK OUT THEIR
WINDOW
AND WITH PLEASURE AND
SURPRISE,
SHOUT OUT WITH A SMILE,
"SNOW HAS ARRIVED!"
THEN THEY'LL HURRY AND
RUSH
WHILE PUTTING ON THEIR
COATS
BEFORE RUNNING OUTSIDE
RIGHT INTO THE COLD
AFTER HOURS AND HOURS OF
PLAY
RELUCTANTLY THEY RETURN
INDOORS
ONLY TO WATCH THE FLUFFY
WHITE
MELT AWAY IN THE STILL-HOT
SUN
YET THEY KNOW IT'LL COME
AGAIN,
AGAIN IT WILL SPRINKLE FROM
THE SKY
FOR THERE'LL ALWAYS BE
ANOTHER DECEMBER,
AND SNOW WILL ALWAYS
ARRIVE

THE BOOK BLOG

Written By: Kara Blakely

GOOD MORNING, GOOD AFTERNOON, OR GOOD EVENING, WHEREVER YOU ARE! MORE IMPORTANTLY, MERRY CHRISTMAS! IT'S DECEMBER ALREADY, AND I'VE GOT A GREAT BOOK TO GET YOU IN THE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT. THE BOOK I'VE CHOSEN TO READ AND REVIEW IS A CHRISTMAS CAROL, A WELL-KNOWN CHRISTMAS CLASSIC WRITTEN BY CHARLES DICKENS. THIS BOOK WAS FIRST PUBLISHED IN 1843, AND EVER SINCE THEN, IT HAS BEEN A BIG HIT THAT MANY PEOPLE ENJOY READING. A CHRISTMAS CAROL IS AN UPLIFTING TALE OF A MAN NAMED EBENEZER SCROOGE. FOR YEARS SCROOGE HAD BEEN A GRUMPY, SELFISH OLD MAN, AND ESPECIALLY HATED CHRISTMAS. THEN ON CHRISTMAS EVE, THREE GHOSTS VISIT HIM: THE GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PAST, CHRISTMAS PRESENT, AND CHRISTMASES YET TO COME. THE GHOSTS HAD AN IMPORTANT MISSION TO ATTEMPT TO TURN SCROOGE INTO A KIND, SELFLESS MAN BEFORE IT WAS TOO LATE. THIS WAS FOR SURE AN ENJOYABLE READ FOR ME. IT'S A SIMPLE AND QUITE THE SHORT BOOK, WITH LESS THAN 200 PAGES. DESPITE THAT, THE STORYLINE WAS INTERESTING AND THE CHARACTERS HAD INTRIGUING TRAITS. IF YOU'RE IN THE MOOD FOR A FEEL-GOOD CHRISTMAS STORY, COME GET A COPY AT THE LIBRARY AND START READING!



TAYLOR SWIFT THROUGH THE YEARS

By: Sibylla

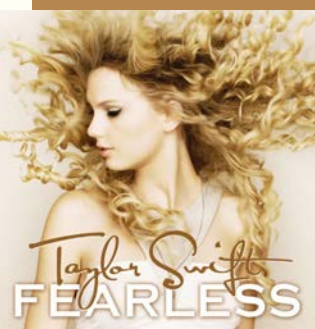
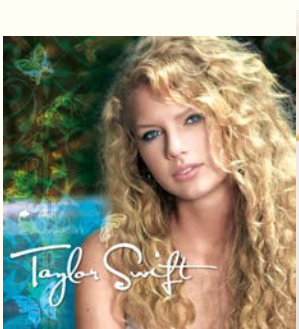
TAYLOR SWIFT: TAYLOR SWIFT'S FIRST ICONIC ALBUM WAS RELEASED IN 2006 WHEN SHE WAS ONLY 16 YEARS OLD. THIS ALBUM SHOWCASES TAYLOR'S TEENAGE YEARS, AND COUNTRY BEGINNINGS, AND IS RELATABLE FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS. THIS ALBUM HIT NUMBER 19 ON THE TOP 200 BILLBOARD AND CONTAINED HIT SONGS SUCH AS "TIM MCGRAW", "TEARDROPS ON MY GUITAR", AND "PICTURE TO BURN". MOST OF THESE SONGS FIRST CAME TO LIFE DURING HER MATH CLASS!

FEARLESS: THIS ERA TOOK OVER THE WORLD. FOR PEOPLE WHO DIDN'T KNOW OF TAYLOR SWIFT, YOU DO KNOW THAT THIS ALBUM IS FULL OF AWARD WINNERS LIKE "YOU BELONG WITH ME," "LOVE STORY," AND MUCH MORE! EVEN THOUGH TAYLOR'S ALBUM SHOWCASES LOVE AND LOSS THROUGH HER TEENAGE YEARS, THE STRONGER THEME THAT SHE IS SAYING IS GETTING BACK UP AND FIGHTING FOR WHAT YOU WANT OVER AND OVER AGAIN. THIS ERA WAS REVOLUTIONARY FOR ALL OF HER FANS; IT WAS THE FIRST ALBUM IN HISTORY TO WIN THE AMERICAN MUSIC AWARD, ACADEMY OF COUNTRY MUSIC AWARD, COUNTRY MUSIC ASSOCIATION AWARD, AND GRAMMY AWARD FOR ALBUM OF THE YEAR!

SPEAK NOW: THIS ALBUM, ALTHOUGH GREAT, CAME WITH ENORMOUS CONTROVERSY. THAT IS BECAUSE THIS IS TAYLOR'S FIRST ALBUM WHERE SHE STEPPED OUT OF THE COUNTRY AND INTO POP. HER DIE-HARD COUNTRY FANS WERE DISTRAUGHT, AND HER FAITHFUL FANS WERE ECSTATIC TO SEE THIS NEW SIDE OF HER. THIS IS ALSO TAYLOR'S FIRST ALBUM AS THE SOLE WRITER OF EVERY SONG. IT ALSO SHOWS US THAT SHE IS MOVING INTO ADULthood AND SELF-EMPOWERMENT. AND OUT OF HER TEENAGE HEARTTHROB YEARS. THE MAIN REASON WHY TAYLOR IS NOW DOING ALL OF THIS RE-RECORDING OF HER ALBUMS IS THAT SHE CLAIMED THAT SCOOTER BRAUN, HER OLD MANAGER, WAS A MANIPULATIVE BULLY, AND SHE NOW WANTS TO OWN ALL OF HER SONGS COMPLETELY.

RED: THIS IS TAYLOR'S MOST SUCCESSFUL ALBUM SO FAR. IT ENDED UP SELLING OVER 14,332,116 COPIES WORLDWIDE. TAYLOR STATES THAT THIS NOSTALGIC ALBUM IS ABOUT HEARTBREAK. SHE SAYS, "MUSICALLY AND LYRICALLY, RED RESEMBLES A HEARTBROKEN PERSON. IT WAS ALL OVER THE PLACE, A FRACTURED MOSAIC OF FEELINGS THAT SOMEHOW ALL FIT TOGETHER. HAPPY, EUPHORIC, WILD, AND TORTURED BY MEMORIES PAST" (SWIFT). THE MAIN REASON THIS ALBUM IS SO MASSIVE FOR ALL OF HER FANS IS THAT THIS IS HER FIRST ALBUM IN WHICH SHE COMBINES HER COUNTRY ROOTS AND MAINSTREAM POP. THIS ERA ALSO BEAUTIFULLY SHOWCASES ALL THE EMOTIONS THAT YOU EXPERIENCE WHEN YOU ARE IN YOUR EARLY 20S, FROM LOVE, ANGER, AND PASSION. THIS ERA PERFECTLY REPRESENTS A MATURE TAYLOR SWIFT.

1989: 1989 IS A VERY PERSONAL ALBUM FOR HER, AND DUE TO THAT, THIS ALBUM REPRESENTS SO MUCH. ONE OF THE MAIN THINGS IS HOW FAR SHE HAS GOTTEN AND ALL OF THE LESSONS SHE HAS LEARNED SO FAR IN LIFE; OTHERS ARE ROMANTIC LOVE AND LOSS. THIS IS ALSO HER FIRST ERA WHERE SHE HAS LEFT HER COUNTRY BEHIND AND IS NOW ALL POP. ONE OF HER MOST ICONIC SONGS IS SHAKE IT OFF. AS MUCH AS IT IS SO HUGE, IT WAS VERY CONTROVERSIAL FOR HER BECAUSE IT IS HER POPPIEST SONG YET. AND IT SPARKED THE ARGUMENT THAT "SHE HAS CHANGED TOO MUCH." BUT HER HARD FANS WERE ECSTATIC TO SEE THIS NEW SIDE OF HER. AS MUCH AS HER OTHERS, THIS ERA BROKE RECORDS FOR HOW MANY ALBUMS WERE SOLD WITHIN THE FIRST WEEK! IN 1989, IT SOLD AROUND 1.8 MILLION WITHIN THE FIRST WEEK AND BROKE RECORDS FOR OVER A DECADE.



REPUTATION: THIS ERA NOT ONLY SHOCKED AND WAS PRAISED BY HER FANS BUT ALSO BY CRITICS. THIS ALBUM SHOWCASED A WHOLE OTHER SIDE OF TAYLOR THAT WE HAVE NEVER SEEN BEFORE, A MORE DRAMATIC SIDE. IT WAS AWARDED THE AMERICAN MUSIC AWARD FOR FAVORITE POP/ROCK ALBUM. NOT ALL TOO SURPRISING IS THAT GAME OF THRONES INSPIRES THIS ERA! IT WAS ALSO REVOLUTIONARY FOR HER BECAUSE SHE FINALLY GOT THE COURAGE TO LEAVE HER GIRLIE, POP, AND YOUNG PERSONA BEHIND. ALSO, WHEN THIS ALBUM SKYROCKETED, SHE MADE NO PUBLIC APPEARANCES ASIDE FROM THE TIMES SHE WAS PERFORMING. SAYING SHE WANTED A NEW REPUTATION.

LOVER: THE LOVER IS THE ERA WHERE SHE SHOWCASES ALL SIDES OF LOVE, HAPPINESS, SORROW, AND LONELINESS. SHE ALSO WENT BACK AND TOLD OLD NARRATIVES FROM DIFFERENT VIEWS, AND HOW SHE HAS CHANGED AND GROWN SINCE TAYLOR STATES THAT "WHEN LISTENING TO THE ALBUM, IT IS ACCESSIBLE TO THE ALBUM YOU CAN SEE ALL OF THE SONGS THROUGH A ROMANTIC VIEW.

EVERMORE: UNLIKE MOST OF HER AWARD-WINNING ALBUMS, THIS ERA SHOWCASES ALL THE EMOTIONS AND COMPLEXES OF BEING A HUMAN, FROM TALES OF LOVE, MARRIAGE, INFIDELITY, AND GRIEF. WHILE MANY ALBUMS GIVE GPES OF HOW SHE HAD GROWN, IN THIS ONE, SHE FULLY LETS US DIVE INTO HER GROWTH SINCE SHE BLEW UP WHEN SHE WAS A 16-YEAR-OLD.

MIDNIGHTS: DURING THIS ERA, TAYLOR LET HER DEMONS OUT SHE STATES, "THIS COLLECTION OF MUSIC WRITTEN IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT, A JOURNEY THROUGH TERRORS AND SWEET DREAMS..." THE FLOORS WE PACE AND THE DEMONS WE FACE", THIS ERA WAS INSPIRED BY THE 13 SLEEPLESS NIGHTS SHE HAS HAD THROUGHOUT HER LIFE. ALSO OF SELF-LOATHING, FANTASIZING ABOUT REVENGE, WONDERING ABOUT WHAT COULD HAVE BEEN, FALLING IN LOVE, AND FALLING APART. WHICH IS SHOWCASED IN ONE OF HER MOST POPULAR SONGS FROM THE ALBUM "ANTI-HERO."



2023 ST. GEORGE Christmas Lights SPECTACULAR

SANTA LOVES NICE NOTES!

SHARE ON FACEBOOK & INSTAGRAM

Earn your share of \$1,000 in Holiday prizes!

10 lucky people will win \$100 gift cards! All you need to do is visit some of the homes on the Christmas Map, take a photo and write a nice note sharing what you loved about the display. Email your note to christmasmap@hedgehogelectric.com or share it on Facebook or to your Instagram account with [#STGeorgeChristmasMap](https://www.instagram.com/STGeorgeChristmasMap).

Increase your chances of winning by saying something nice about every home you visit!

LIGHTS

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. 71 East Bolob Circle, Topeville Utah 84774 | 8. 617 Sasaboga in Bloomington |
| 2. 226 / 216 West Mountain Charm Road
Topeville Utah 84774 | 9. 1311 Sandberry Drive St. George 84790 |
| 3. 225 North 100 West La Verda Utah | 10. 1718 Palate Rd, St. George Utah 84790 |
| 4. 2926 S Farmstead Drive, Washington 8148 84780 | 11. 881 S. Deller Way St. George Utah 84770 |
| 5. 108 E 1850 S Washington UT 84780 | 12. 150 S Crystal Lakes Dr 490, St. George, UT 84770 |
| 6. 2699 South 2000 East St. George, Utah 84790 | 13. 157 N 1100 West |
| 7. 2183 Harmony Place St. George Utah 84790 | 14. 158 N Stone Mountain Dr |
| | 15. 2453 Sierra Drive Santa Clara Utah |

■ Home-see Homes

LIGHTS & MUSIC

- 2652 Phantasia Dr, St. George, UT 84790
- 5361 E 3180 S, St. George, UT 84790
- 2884 E 3150 S St. George Utah
- 2887 Redwood Tree Circle, St. George Utah
- 555 South 100 East St. George Utah 84770
- 1387W 2490 S Hurricane, UT 84777
- 245 West 100 North La Verda Utah 84745

SCAN THIS QR CODE TO
CONNECT TO A DIGITAL
TURN-BY-TURN MAP





Christmas Service

Projects

Toys For Tots

Toys for Tots is an organization, that collects and donates toys for kids in need. Their mission is to collect new and un-wrapped toys and deliver these toys to the less fortunate children. All of the donations made, get delivered to local social welfare agencies, church groups, and other local agencies.

Ways you are able to help spread the joy of Christmas, is by donating toys, planning toy drives, volunteering to help wrap gifts, or help delivering the donations.

For more information on Toys For Tots, and ways to donate go to this website

st-george-ut.toysfortots.org

Utah Holiday Food and Fund Bank

Utah holiday food and fund bank is a food distributor that acts as a food storage and they distribute food free of charge to partner agencies.

"It takes a village to raise a child, and sometimes it takes a village to feed one"

Every Holiday season for 120 years, Utah's Holiday Food Bank has stayed true to their mission which is serving those in those in need throughout our state.

Last year during the holiday season, Utah Holiday Food and Fund bank was able to distribute more than 18,000 meals to more than 1,000 families. The holidays is a special time for everyone, no matter how you choose to celebrate.

For more information on Utah's Holiday Food and Fund Bank and ways to donate go to this website

<https://www.utahfoodbank.org/holiday/>

CHRISTMAS AROUND THE WORLD

By: Eliza F.

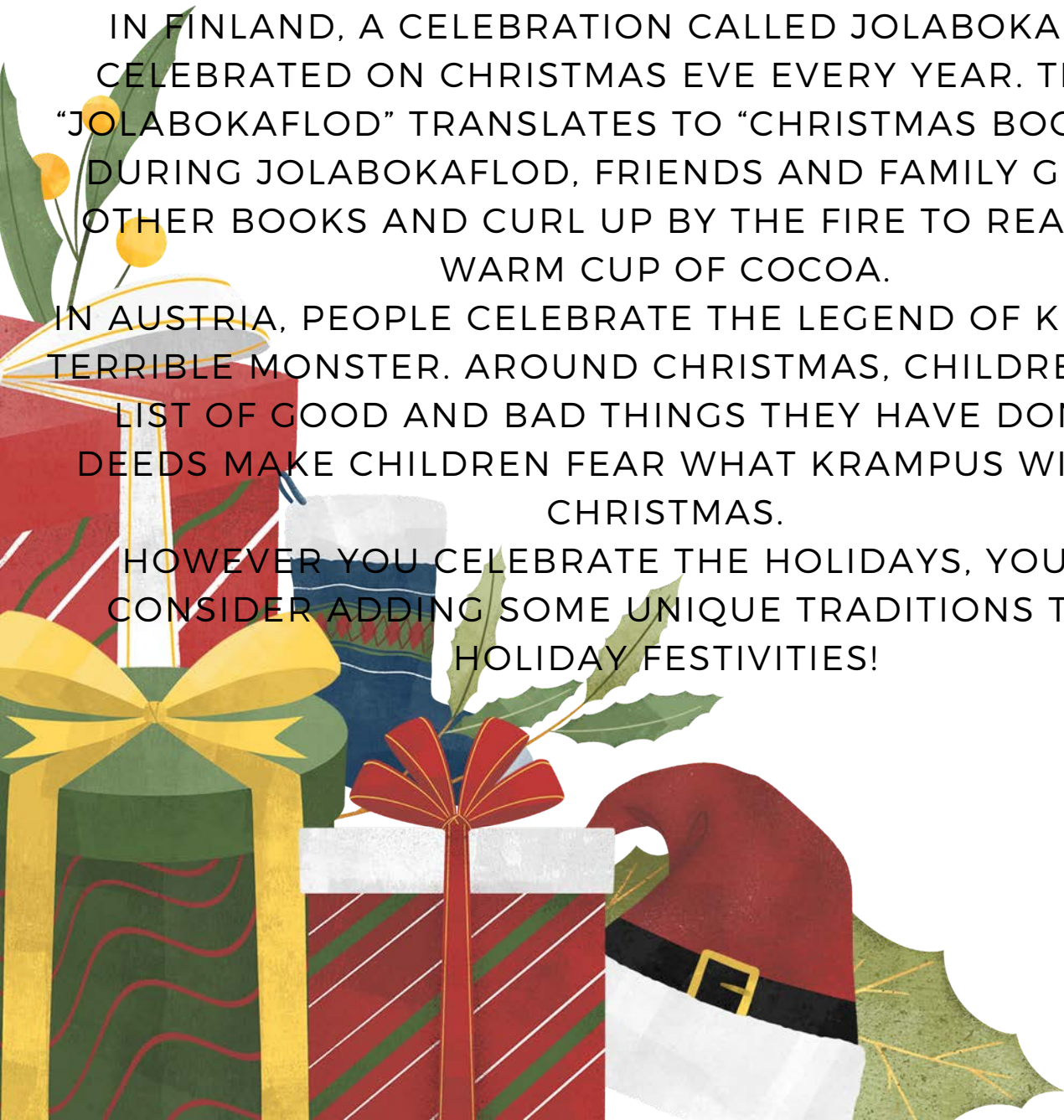
THE CHRISTMAS SEASON IS HERE! WITH LIGHTS, COOKIES, CHRISTMAS TREES, AND SHOPPING, THE SEASON IS FULL OF JOY. WHILE THESE TRADITIONS ARE CONSIDERED COMMON HERE IN AMERICA, OTHERS MAY FIND THE WAY WE CELEBRATE TO BE VERY DIFFERENT. ALL AROUND THE WORLD, CHRISTMAS IS CELEBRATED IN MANY UNIQUE WAYS. SOME OF THESE TRADITIONS INCLUDE FOOD, OBJECTS, OR FESTIVALS.

IN JAPAN, MANY FAMILIES EAT KFC TO CELEBRATE THE HOLIDAY. ALTHOUGH THE MAJORITY OF THE POPULATION IN JAPAN ARE NOT CHRISTIAN, THEY STILL FIND A FUN WAY TO CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS.

IN FINLAND, A CELEBRATION CALLED JOLABOKAFLOD, IS CELEBRATED ON CHRISTMAS EVE EVERY YEAR. THE TERM "JOLABOKAFLOD" TRANSLATES TO "CHRISTMAS BOOK FLOOD". DURING JOLABOKAFLOD, FRIENDS AND FAMILY GIVE EACH OTHER BOOKS AND CURL UP BY THE FIRE TO READ WITH A WARM CUP OF COCOA.

IN AUSTRIA, PEOPLE CELEBRATE THE LEGEND OF KRAMPUS, A TERRIBLE MONSTER. AROUND CHRISTMAS, CHILDREN WRITE A LIST OF GOOD AND BAD THINGS THEY HAVE DONE. BAD DEEDS MAKE CHILDREN FEAR WHAT KRAMPUS WILL DO ON CHRISTMAS.

HOWEVER YOU CELEBRATE THE HOLIDAYS, YOU MIGHT CONSIDER ADDING SOME UNIQUE TRADITIONS TO YOUR HOLIDAY FESTIVITIES!



CHRISTMAS VS. HALLOWEEN

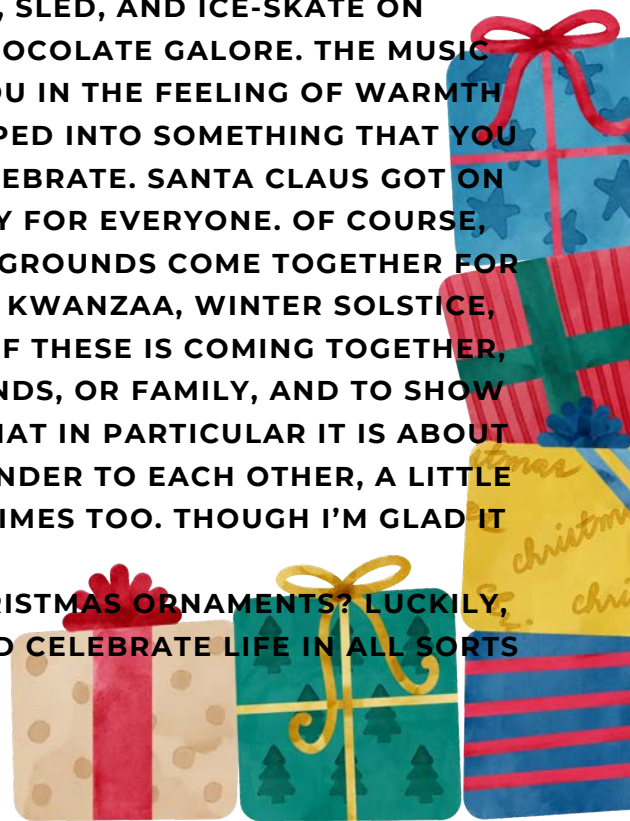
By: Andrea Angeles

THERE ARE PASSIONATE FANS FROM EVERY CORNER OF THE WORLD, SWIFTIES AND ARIANATORS, AND THOSE WHO THINK THE WALKING DEAD OR GAME OF THRONES IS THE BEST TV SHOW EVER MADE, BUT NO FANDOMS HAVE EVER GOTTEN INTO AS BIG A DEBATE AS THIS ONE. THE BIG QUESTION: IS CHRISTMAS OR HALLOWEEN BETTER?

BOTH OFFER DIFFERENT TRADITIONS AND MODES OF CELEBRATING, ALMOST OPPOSITES FOR BEING A MONTH APART. WITH THANKSGIVING IN BETWEEN OF COURSE, BUT HONESTLY, COLONIZERS AND TURKEY COULDN'T BEAT OUT EITHER OF THESE. BUT WHAT ASPECTS MAKE THEM SO HEATEDLY DEBATED AND DEFENDED? FOR ONE, THE LOVERS OF THESE HOLIDAYS ENJOY THEM FOR DIFFERENT REASONS. HALLOWEEN IS A SPOOKY TIME WHEN THE TEMPERATURES (FINALLY) DROP AND THE WIND BLOWS, EERIE AND WHISTLING. THE HOLIDAY GOES BACK HUNDREDS OF YEARS, STARTING AS SAMHAIN IN IRELAND, A GAELIC TRADITION THAT MEANS "SUMMER'S END" AND WAS A RITUAL FOR LETTING GO OF DEPARTED SOULS (SIMILAR TO HISPANIC COUNTRIES' DAY OF THE DEAD!). IT LATER WAS ADAPTED TO THE MORE COMMERCIALIZED HOLIDAY WE SEE TODAY, AND IS JUST AS FUN TO GO TO HALLOWEEN PARTIES AND DO FALL ACTIVITIES. PUTTING TOGETHER FALL OUTFITS AND HALLOWEEN COSTUMES, CARVING PUMPKINS, MAKING AUTUMNAL TREATS, AND BRAVING THE HAUNTED HOUSES (I RECOMMEND STAHOLI FARMS' 'FIELD OF SCREAMS' IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR A GOOD SCARE) IS FOR THE DARK-ACADEMIA OBSESSED. WHAT ELSE IS TO LOVE? THE HORROR MOVIES! ANOTHER ONE THAT IS REALLY UP TO PREFERENCE, BUT THOSE WHO LOVE THE SUSPENSE AND JUMP-SCARES (LIKE ME, ADMITTEDLY) HAVE THEIR TIME OF THE SEASON TO KICK BACK AND NOT RELAX (IN A FUN WAY, OF COURSE).

CHRISTMAS IS A WHOLE OTHER SHOW. ITS ROOTS ARE CELEBRATING THE BIRTH OF JESUS CHRIST, AND CHRISTIANS ARE STILL JINGLE-BELL ROCKING WITH THAT! QUALITY AND FUN TIME SPENT WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS AND A HEARTFELT GIFT EXCHANGE. CHRISTMAS TAKES PLACE IN THE COLDEST, SNOWIEST, MOST WONDERFUL TIME OF THE YEAR. YOU CAN SKI, SLED, AND ICE-SKATE ON VARIATIONS OF H2O. WINTER TREATS AND HOT CHOCOLATE GALORE. THE MUSIC THAT PLAYS IN STORES AND ON RADIOS WRAPS YOU IN THE FEELING OF WARMTH AND COZINESS. BUT CHRISTMAS HAS ALSO DEVELOPED INTO SOMETHING THAT YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE A PART OF RELIGIOUSLY TO CELEBRATE. SANTA CLAUS GOT ON THE SCENE AND THERE WAS THE WINTER HOLIDAY FOR EVERYONE. OF COURSE, PEOPLE OF OTHER RELIGIOUS AND CULTURAL BACKGROUNDS COME TOGETHER FOR THEIR OWN TRADITIONS LIKE HANUKKAH, DIWALI, KWANZAA, WINTER SOLSTICE, AND MORE! THE COMMON THREAD BETWEEN ALL OF THESE IS COMING TOGETHER, WHETHER IT BE AS A COMMUNITY, GROUP OF FRIENDS, OR FAMILY, AND TO SHOW THEM LOVE AND APPRECIATION. I DON'T KNOW WHAT IN PARTICULAR IT IS ABOUT CHRISTMAS THAT MAKES SOME PEOPLE A LITTLE KINDER TO EACH OTHER, A LITTLE MORE GIVING, AND A LITTLE MORE FORGIVING AT TIMES TOO. THOUGH I'M GLAD IT DOES.

WHAT'S YOUR PICK? GHOSTS AND GHOULS OR CHRISTMAS ORNAMENTS? LUCKILY, YOU DON'T HAVE TO. JUST GET OUT AND ABOUT AND CELEBRATE LIFE IN ALL SORTS OF EXCITING WAYS.



WINTER HOLIDAYS AROUND THE WORLD

Ella Gallagher

1) HANUKKAH

HANUKKAH IS A JEWISH HOLIDAY CELEBRATED FROM DECEMBER 7TH TO DECEMBER 15TH, LASTING 8 DAYS. IN HEBREW "HANUKKAH" MEANS "DEDICATION". THE HOLIDAY IS 8 DAYS LONG TO HONOR WHEN A JEWISH LEADER LIT A CANDLE THAT ONLY HAD ENOUGH OIL TO BURN FOR A DAY, BUT BECAUSE OF A MIRACLE, BURNED FOR EIGHT DAYS. IT IS CELEBRATED BY LIGHTING A CANDLE PER DAY, PLAYING DREIDEL GAMES, EATING FRIED FOODS, GIVING GIFTS, SINGING, AND SPENDING TIME WITH FAMILY.



2) SANTA LUCIA (SAINT LUCY'S DAY)

SANTA LUCIA IS ON DECEMBER 13TH, AND IS CELEBRATED IN SWEDEN, NORWAY, AND THE SWEDISH SPEAKING PARTS OF FINLAND. IT IS A CELEBRATION OF LIGHT DURING THE DARKNESS, AND ALSO HONORS WHEN SAINT LUCY GAVE FOOD TO CHRISTIANS HIDING IN ROMAN CATACOMBS TO ESCAPE PERSECUTION. THE HOLIDAY CAME FROM ITALY (WHERE THE SAINT CAME FROM), AND IS CALLED LA FESTA DI SANTA LUCIA.



3) YULE

YULE IS CELEBRATED ON THE WINTER SOLSTICE, DECEMBER 21ST. IT IS ONE OF THE OLDEST WINTER FESTIVALS IN THE WORLD. IT WAS ORIGINALLY A SCANDINAVIAN AND NORSE HOLIDAY, BUT IS NOW MORE WIDE-SPREAD. THE WORD "YULE" COMES FROM THE OLD NORSE WORD "JÓL" AND THE OLD ENGLISH WORD "GÉOHOL". TO CELEBRATE YULE PEOPLE OFTEN MAKE A CAKE THAT IS SHAPED LIKE A LOG AND PUT UP A TREE, USUALLY A PINE, FIR, CEDAR, JUNIPER, OR SPRUCE TREE.



4) KWANZAA

KWANZAA IS CELEBRATED FROM DECEMBER 26TH TO JANUARY 1ST. IT CELEBRATES AFRICAN-AMERICAN CULTURE, HISTORY, FAMILY, VALUES, AND COMMUNITY. EACH DAY A CANDLE IS LIT, A BLACK CANDLE IN THE CENTER SYMBOLIZING THE PEOPLE, THE THREE RED CANDLES REPRESENT THE STRUGGLE AND THE BLOOD SHED IN THE PAST, AND THE THREE GREEN CANDLES ON THE OPPOSITE SIDE STAND FOR THE EARTH AND THE POSSIBILITIES OF THE FUTURE. THE NAME "KWANZAA" COMES FROM A SWAHILI PHRASE, "MATUNDA YA KWANZA", WHICH MEANS FIRST FRUITS OF THE HARVEST.



5) CHINESE NEW YEAR (LUNAR NEW YEAR)

THE CHINESE NEW YEAR'S DATE CHANGES EVERY YEAR, BECAUSE IT FOLLOWS THE LUNAR CALENDAR, SO IT IS CELEBRATED SOMEWHERE BETWEEN JANUARY 21ST TO FEBRUARY 20TH. IT CELEBRATES THE BEGINNING OF A NEW YEAR, THE COMING OF SPRING AND THE END OF WINTER. IT HAS BEEN CELEBRATED FOR THOUSANDS OF YEARS, AND IS VERY IMPORTANT. IT IS SPENT BY HAVING TRADITIONALLY LUCKY FOOD LIKE DUMPLINGS, BEING WITH FAMILY, PUTTING UP LANTERNS, LIGHTING FIREWORKS, AND WATCHING DRAGON AND LION DANCES.



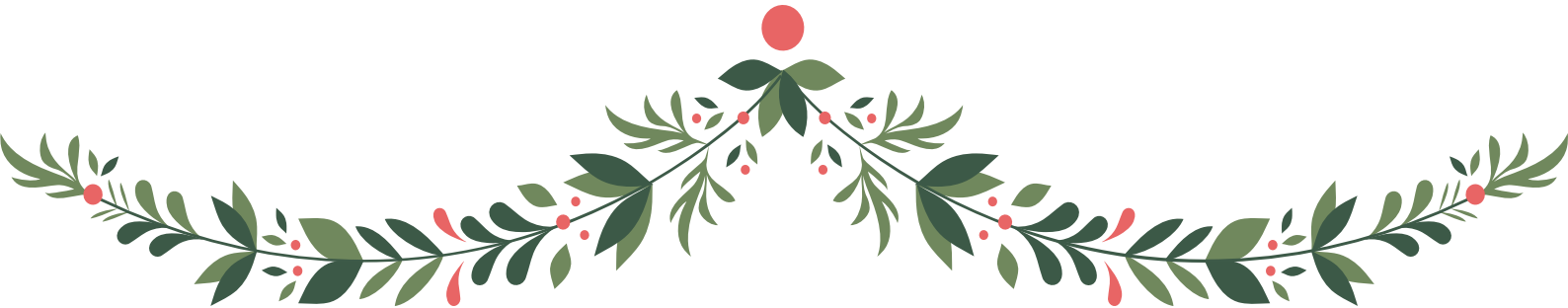
6) BODHI DAY

BODHI DAY IS A BUDDHIST HOLIDAY THAT IS CELEBRATED ON DECEMBER 8TH, BUT IN SOME PLACES THE LUNAR CALENDAR IS USED, SO IT IS ON THE 8TH DAY OF THE 12TH MOON, THE DATE CHANGING EVERY YEAR. IT IS THE CELEBRATION OF THE ENLIGHTENMENT OF GAUTAMA BUDDHA (A.K.A. SHAKYAMUNI). OTHER HOLIDAYS CELEBRATING THE ENLIGHTENMENT OF SHAKYAMUNI ARE RÔHATSU, LABA, AND VESAK DAY.



7) SAINT NICHOLAS DAY

SAINT NICHOLAS DAY IS CELEBRATED ON THE 6TH OF DECEMBER, BUT SOME CELEBRATE IT ON THE 19TH. IT CELEBRATES SAINT NICHOLAS, A SAINT THAT LIVED DURING THE 4TH CENTURY AD. HE LIKED TO GIVE GIFTS TO CHILDREN, OFTEN WITHOUT THEM KNOWING WHO IT WAS, LIKE SANTA CLAUS, WHO IS BASED ON SAINT NICHOLAS. IT IS CELEBRATED BY GIVING GIFTS, CANDY, AND SPECIAL COOKIES TO CHILDREN. IN SOME PLACES CHILDREN WRITE LETTERS FOR SAINT NICHOLAS, AND LEAVE GRASS OR CARROTS FOR HIS HORSE OR DONKEY.



THINGS TO DO IN ST. GEORGE

LEXI E.

THERE ARE MANY THINGS TO DO TO CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS IN ST GEORGE. HERE ARE JUST A FEW:

TUACAHN'S CHRISTMAS IN THE CANYON.

THIS EVENT TAKES PLACE FROM NOVEMBER 25-DECEMBER 23. SOME ACTIVITIES YOU CAN DO HERE INCLUDE PHOTOS WITH SANTA, A TRAIN RIDE, AND LIGHT DISPLAYS. THERE WILL ALSO BE AN INDOOR/OUTDOOR LIVE THEATER VENUE.

DICKENS CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL

THIS EVENT TAKES PLACE FROM NOVEMBER 30-DECEMBER 3. THERE WILL BE HOLIDAY SHOPPING, FORTUNE TELLERS, AND POP-UP SHOPS WITH SWEETS, JEWELRY, ATTIRE, AND MORE.

JUBILEE OF TREES

TAKING PLACE FROM NOVEMBER 20-22, THIS EVENT WILL HAVE MANY DIFFERENT ACTIVITIES FOR ALL AGES. THERE WILL BE BEAUTIFULLY DECORATED CHRISTMAS TREES TO WALK AROUND AND LOOK AT. THE PURPOSE IS NOT ONLY TO CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS BUT TO RAISE FUNDS FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF MEDICAL SERVICES AS WELL. THE MONEY RAISED WILL GO TO ADVANCING MEDICAL CARE FOR MENTAL AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH IN CHILDREN.

THE CHRISTMAS VILLAGE AT RED CLIFFS

THIS EVENT WILL BE TAKING PLACE FROM NOVEMBER 25-DECEMBER 31. THEY WILL HAVE ICE SKATING, A GINGERBREAD HOUSE-BUILDING COMPETITION, A 90-FOOT ICE SLIDE, AND LOTS OF PARADES. THERE WILL ALSO BE COOKIE DECORATING WITH MRS. CLAUSE.

**[HTTPS://WWW.STGEORGEUTAHVACATIONRENTALS.COM/BLOG
/THINGS-DO-ST-GEORGE-UTAH-HOLIDAYS/](https://www.stgeorgeutahvacationrentals.com/blog/things-do-st-george-utah-holidays/)**



ELF 20TH YEAR ANNIVERSARY

By: Giovana F

ELF IS KNOWN AS ONE OF THE MOST ICONIC CHRISTMAS MOVIES AND IT HAS BEEN OUT FOR A TOTAL OF 20 YEARS. THE MOVIE HAS OVER 600,000 REWATCHES PER MONTH AND HAS 85 PERCENT ROTTEN TOMATOES. AS GOOD AS THIS MOVIE IS THERE ARE SOME VERY STRANGE FACTS NOT MANY PEOPLE KNOW INCLUDING HOW JIM CARREY WAS SUPPOSED TO PLAY BUDDY AND NOT WILL FERREL. OR WILL WAS GETTING HEADACHES THE ENTIRE TIME WHILE SHOOTING BECAUSE OF ALL THE SUGAR HE HAD INGESTED. ANOTHER THING THAT NOT MANY PEOPLE KNOW ABOUT IS HOW THE MOVIE CAUSED MINOR CAR ACCIDENTS FROM SEEING WILL IN HIS ELF COSTUME. MANY INTERESTING THINGS HAPPENED DURING THE PRODUCTION TO CREATE THE FUNNY AND HEARTWARMING MOVIE WE ALL LOVE TODAY.

ELF ONLY HAD A BUDGET OF 33 MILLION DOLLARS. WHILE THIS MAY SEEM LIKE A LOT OF MONEY IT DOESN'T EVEN COMPARE TO SOME MOVIES. SUCH AS MISSION IMPOSSIBLE WITH A BUDGET OF ALMOST 300 MILLION DOLLARS. ELF MADE 220 MILLION DOLLARS WORLDWIDE, AND WILL FERREL GOT 2.5 MILLION DOLLARS FROM PLAYING BUDDY. THE POPULARITY OF THIS MOVIE SHOWS AS WELL WITH A POLL OF HOME ALONE WITH 15 VOTES AND ELF WITH 18 VOTES. OLDER MOVIES ARE HARDER TO FIND LIKE, "A NIGHTMARE BEFORE CHRISTMAS" WITH ONLY SIX VIEWING PLATFORMS. ELF HAS SEVEN DIFFERENT PLATFORMS, SOME OF WHICH ARE MAX, PRIME, AND YOUTUBE. THE BEST THINGS IN LIFE MIGHT BE HARDER TO FIND. ELF IS ONE OF THE BEST CHRISTMAS MOVIES TO EVER COME OUT.

THE 20-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THIS SHOW IS A BIG DEAL FOR EVERYONE WHO LOVES CHRISTMAS. IN HONOR OF THIS CERTAIN MOVIE THEATERS HAVE BEEN ALLOWED TO STREAM ELF. A COUPLE OF THE THEATERS ARE FANDANGO AND AMC. ELF WAS WELCOMED BACK ON NOVEMBER 17 AND STREAMS NOVEMBER 24-30 IT ALSO HAS AN EXTRA DAY ON DECEMBER 9TH. THIS AMAZING MOVIE CAME OUT IN 2000, FOR THE PEOPLE WHO WEREN'T AS LUCKY TO SEE THIS IN THEATERS NOW IS THE CHANCE TO GET A MEMORIZING CHRISTMAS MOVIE.



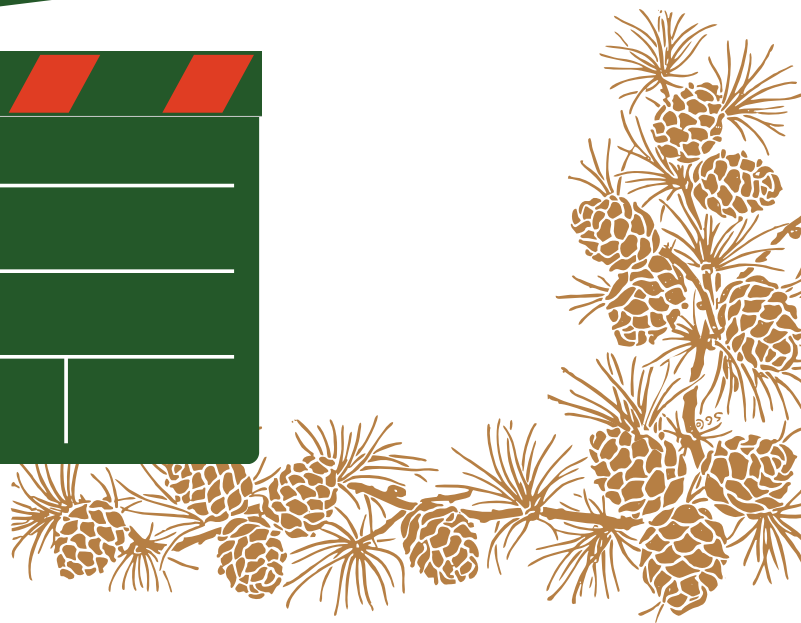
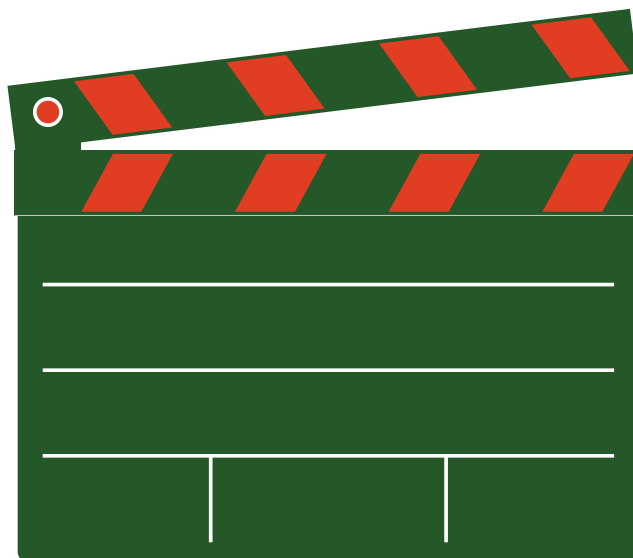


POPULAR CHRISTMAS MOVIES

By: Izzy Miller

CHRISTMAS MOVIES ARE A GREAT WAY TO GET INTO THE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT. TWO OF THE MOST POPULAR MOVIES ARE, ELF AND HOME ALONE. ELF IS ABOUT BUDDY WHO WAS ACCIDENTALLY TRANSPORTED TO THE NORTH POLE AS A TODDLER AND RAISED TO ADULthood AMONG SANTA'S ELVES. UNABLE TO SHAKE THE FEELING THAT HE DOESN'T FIT IN, THE ADULT BUDDY TRAVELS TO NEW YORK, IN FULL ELF UNIFORM, IN SEARCH OF HIS REAL FATHER. AS IT HAPPENS, THIS IS WALTER HOBBS, A CYNICAL BUSINESSMAN. AFTER A DNA TEST PROVES THIS, WALTER RELUCTANTLY ATTEMPTS TO START A RELATIONSHIP WITH THE CHILDLIKE BUDDY WITH INCREASINGLY CHAOTIC RESULTS. HOME ALONE IS ABOUT WHEN BRATTY 8-YEAR-OLD KEVIN MCCALLISTER ACTS OUT THE NIGHT BEFORE A FAMILY TRIP TO PARIS, HIS MOTHER MAKES HIM SLEEP IN THE ATTIC. AFTER THE MCCALLISTERS MISTAKENLY LEAVE FOR THE AIRPORT WITHOUT KEVIN, HE AWAKENS TO AN EMPTY HOUSE AND ASSUMES HIS WISH TO HAVE NO FAMILY HAS COME TRUE. BUT HIS EXCITEMENT SOURS WHEN HE REALIZES THAT TWO ROBBERS PLAN TO ROB THE MCCALLISTER RESIDENCE, AND THAT HE ALONE MUST PROTECT THE FAMILY HOME. THESE TWO MOVIES ARE GREAT FOR CHILDREN AND ADULTS, THAT'S WHY THEY ARE SUCH GREAT FAMILY MOVIES. SOME OTHER GREAT MOVIES CONSIST OF: THE GRINCH, WHITE CHRISTMAS, POLAR EXPRESS, FROSTY THE SNOWMAN, CHARLIE BROWN CHRISTMAS, CHRISTMAS CHRONICLES, THE CHRISTMAS STORY, DIE HARD, AND CHRISTMAS VACATION.

ALONG WITH CHRISTMAS MOVIES, CHRISTMAS LIGHTS IN THE CITY ARE PERFECT FOR GETTING IN THE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT. GOING ON A WALK WITH YOUR FAMILY THROUGH THE LIGHTS CAN CREATE GREAT CONVERSATION. GO CHECK OUT THE MAP OF THE CITY TO EXPLORE THE ST. GEORGE CHRISTMAS LIGHTS.



CHRISTMAS SONGS

By: Chloe Christensen

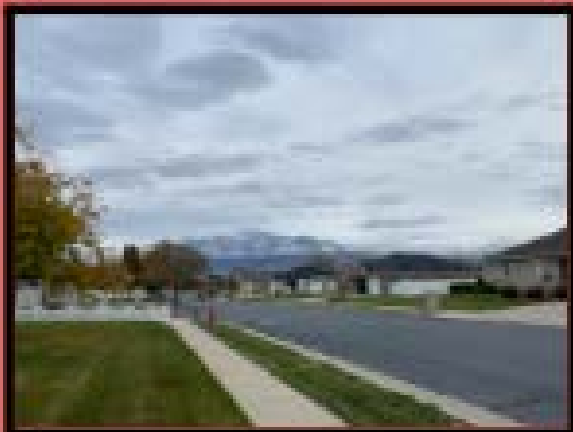
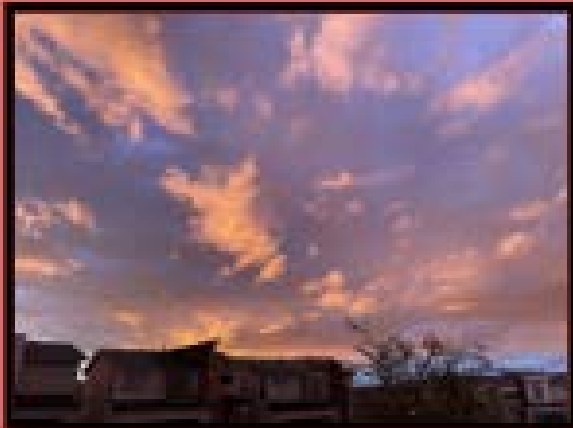
CHRISTMAS IS A SPECIAL TIME AND PLACE FOR MANY FAMILIES AROUND THE WORLD! THERE ARE MANY POPULAR AND FAVORITE CHRISTMAS SONGS! SOME ARE: "JINGLE BELL ROCK, SANTA BABY, BABY IT'S COLD OUTSIDE, DECK THE HALLS, WHITE CHRISTMAS, ALL I WANT FOR CHRISTMAS IS YOU, SANTA CLAUS IS COMING TO TOWN, LAST CHRISTMAS", AND SO MANY OTHER GREAT CHRISTMAS SONGS! HOWEVER, DO PEOPLE KNOW THE HISTORY OF HOW SOME OF THESE CHRISTMAS CAROLS WERE MADE?

CHRISTMAS CAROLS ARE FROM EUROPE THOUSANDS OF YEARS AGO, BUT AT THE TIME THEY CALLED THEM PRE-CHRISTIAN/PAGAN SONGS SUNG IN WINTER CELEBRATIONS THEY HAD. THE WINTER SOLSTICE CELEBRATION IS WHEN THEY WERE SUNG AND IT WAS THE SHORTEST DAY IN THE WORLD, DECEMBER 22ND. THESE CAROLS WERE WRITTEN IN THE SEASON AT ANY TIME OF YEAR BUT THE TRADITION ONLY STANDS AT CHRISTMAS. OVER TIME THEY STARTED SINGING CHRISTIAN SONGS INSTEAD OF PRE-CHRISTIAN/ PAGAN SONGS. HOWEVER MANY PEOPLE LIKED THE OLD WAY OF THE SONGS, THE WAY THEY WERE WRITTEN AND SUNG IN LATIN, SO THAT OTHERS COULDN'T UNDERSTAND. THE NEW CAROLS WERE NOT IN LATIN BUT SOMETIMES THE CHORUS WOULD BE BUT ON THE REST OF THE SONGS OTHERS COULD UNDERSTAND AND JOIN IN! THE NEW CAROLS SPREAD AROUND THE WORLD LIKE FRANCE, SPAIN, GERMANY, AND OTHER EUROPEAN COUNTRIES. THEN IN ENGLAND, THEY COULDN'T SING THEIR CAROLS BUT PEOPLE STILL SANG THEM IN SECRET BECAUSE THEY HAD SUCH A LOVE FOR THE CAROLS. CAROLS WEREN'T SUNG FOR THE MOST PART UNTIL VICTORIAN TIMES. TWO MEN COLLECTED MANY OLD CHRISTMAS SONGS FROM TOWNS IN ENGLAND. THEN AGAIN THE SONGS WERE SUNG, NOT ALL THOUGHT IT WAS RIGHT THOUGH BUT IT CONTINUED. ALSO, THERE WERE "WAITS" WHO WERE OFFICIAL CAROL SINGERS. THE "WAITS" ARE SUNG AROUND CHRISTMAS TIME. ANOTHER EVENT THAT HAPPENED IN THE VICTORIAN PERIOD WAS THAT MANY CHOIRS AND ORCHESTRAS STARTED SETTING UP IN CITIES IN ENGLAND TO SING THE CHRISTMAS CAROLS, AND ONCE AGAIN THE CAROLS BECAME VERY POPULAR AND MANY NEW CAROLS AS WELL. CHRISTMAS SONGS ARE STILL POPULAR TODAY! SO THAT IS THE JOURNEY OF HOW THE CHRISTMAS CAROLS BECAME.

IN OUR SCHOOL, I HAVE ASKED A FEW PEOPLE WHAT THEIR FAVORITE CHRISTMAS SONG AND HERE IS WHAT THEY HAVE SAID! MAYLEE GARNER HAS SAID "MY FAVORITE CHRISTMAS SONG IS "ALL I WANT FOR CHRISTMAS IS YOU" BECAUSE IT'S THE ONLY ONE I CAN GET MY MOM TO LISTEN TO WITH ME!" QUINCI MILES HAS STATED, "MY FAVORITE CHRISTMAS SONG IS "CHRISTMAS BY JONAS BROTHERS" MY FRIENDS AND I DRIVE AROUND IN A GOLF CART AND WE LISTEN TO MUSIC. IT MIXES THE HAPPINESS OF CHRISTMAS WITH A TEENAGE DREAM KIND OF VIBE. IT'S THE MOST RELATABLE CHRISTMAS SONG IN MY OPINION "JINGLE BELL ROCK IS MY FAVORITE CHRISTMAS BECAUSE IT'S FROM MEAN GIRLS AND IT'S JUST THE EASIEST TO REMEMBER" VICTORIA GOURLY SAID. ARABELLA KNOWLES SAYS, "MY FAVORITE SONG IS LAST CHRISTMAS. THIS IS MY FAVORITE SONG BECAUSE IT HAS A REALLY NICE BEAT TO IT. I LOVE THE LYRICS AND IT'S A VERY POPULAR CHRISTMAS SONG PLAYED EVERY SINGLE SEASON WITH OUR FAMILY."

Thunder submitted a photo section

These are photos that are normally submitted by students or people around our school. Anyone is welcome to email pictures to me via the email below!
Christmas edition!



Happy Holidays!

Created by Caitlin Duen
Please email pictures to Whinnycat@westhill.org
to be featured in next issue!

Ghosts by Audrey C.

