

## THE 24TH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BANQUET

— By Kayli Baker



It's Banquet time again! This year, EskDale High is hosting our 24th annual Christmas Banquet.

The banquet will be on the 14th and 15th of December.

The night starts off with all the Orchestra classes combined to play "Adeste Fideles" and "Hark the Herald Angels Sing". The Jr. Orchestra will leave and the high school group will play six songs and then proceed to play two numbers on hand bells called "Angel Carols" and "O Come, All Ye Faithful".

Then some of the students will do special numbers and the choir will sing seven songs. The

women's ensemble will sing "There's Still My Joy."

Finally, the drama class will perform "The Mayor who Banned Christmas." Jorge Saucedo plays the frustrated Mr. Robinson who decides to run against Mayor Holiday in the upcoming mayoral election. Mayor Holiday creates so many new holidays that everyone is too busy partying to work. Mr. Robinson wins the election and decides to ban Christmas. The town revolts and his wife and three kids have to find a way to keep him as mayor and keep Christmas.

A big thanks to Dean Hayward, Shauna Lewis and Jami Weight for setting up and running the lights and the sound. Thanks to John Paul Hayward for helping with the backup tracks for some of

our songs. We'd also like to thank Tabitha and Cheri Phillips for preparing the menu and the food this year. Not to mention all the volunteers who helped cook and helped students serve the food.

Thank you to Crystal Eldridge for creating the set and to Janene Eldridge for the costumes. Most of all, we'd like to thank Lois Faber for the countless things she does to make this banquet happen and to make the kids be the best they can be. And for making her delicious black licorice. Thank you, Lois!

Thank you to everyone that came to our banquet this year! We appreciate all of your constant support, and we hope you had an amazing time. Remember to come again next year! ♦

### KEEP UP WITH EHS ONLINE:

#### OFFICIAL WEBSITE:

<https://sites.google.com/a/millardk12.org/ehs-gss/>

#### EHS FACEBOOK:

[www.facebook.com/EskDaleHighSchool](http://www.facebook.com/EskDaleHighSchool)

#### EHS YOUTUBE:

[www.youtube.com/EskDaleHighSchoolUT](http://www.youtube.com/EskDaleHighSchoolUT)

## ELEMENTARY CHRISTMAS PROGRAMS

I love going to the Baker and Garrison Elementary School plays. I participated in the Baker plays myself in grades 4-6, and I'm excited to see them this year as a proud spectator.

It is always nice when you see the Kindergartners up on the stage for the first time and also see how much the older kids have learned from their past years of acting in the plays. I love how much effort and time is put in by students and teachers alike.

This year, I have two little brothers in the plays. My littlest brother Leelend is in Kindergarten

this year, and he is so excited for his very first play! Tayvin, my second youngest brother is sad to say it is his last year in Garrison Elementary. However, he is excited to move on to Baker Elementary and make new friends, have new classmates, and move on to new challenges.

The play that the Garrison Elementary (K- 2) is performing this year is named "Shopping in Oldenville: a blast from the past!" It was written and will be performed by Cecelia Phillips and her Garrison Elementary Class.

Baker Elementary (grades 3-6) will be performing the play "The

Great Big Holiday Bake Off!" written by Andy Beck and Brian Fisher, and directed by their wonderful teacher, Heather Yacapraro.

I am excited to go see the plays, and I hope many of you will also come to see them. Make sure to bring all the kids so they can meet Saint Nicholas at the end of the plays. Come have refreshments and sit on Santa's lap to get a goody bag! The Garrison and Baker Elementary plays will be held at Baker Hall on Tuesday, December 19th, beginning at 6:30 PST/ 7:30 MST. ♦

— By Rylee Elmer



This issue of *The Soldier's Sword* was written and produced by the Language Arts students of EskDale High School



# GIRLS' BASKETBALL

This year EskDale has a girls' basketball team! Go Lady Hawks! West Desert and EskDale High School have once again joined students together to create a basketball team, but for the first time for girls. Our players

this year are Morgan Smith, Kylah Smith, Ashly Terry, Fatima Villarreal, Tiauna Allred, Emer Murphy, Kayli Baker, Kara Conrad, and Haylie Reil. Morgan Smith, Kylah Smith, and Ashly Terry are seniors this year, and we'll



miss them next year.

The coaches this year are Kayla Christensen and Elizabeth Perea, who push us to perform our best.

This is EskDale's first girls' basketball team, and we are more than excited to be apart of and support the team. This is not West Desert's first girls basketball team, but it has

— *By Fatima Villarreal*

been a long time since they have had one. In fact, our coaches Kayla Christensen and Elizabeth Perea were part of the last girl's basketball team at West Desert.

One of the first problems we had to tackle was getting new uniforms. During the summer our basketball team participated in some fundraising activities to raise money to buy new uniforms.

Another challenge our team faces is the distance between the two schools. However, with a coach on each end, we've been doing four combined practices a week, two at each school (Monday and Tuesday at West Desert and Wednesday and Thursday at Baker Hall). Friday, we do separate practice on our own.

We've been working hard, and our basketball team is now ready to compete against other teams, work hard, play hard, and have good sportsmanship. We wish the best of luck to our Lady Hawks this season! ♦

# SNOW COLLEGE EXPERIENCE

It was August 23, 2017: EHS juniors Dallas Hayward, Melanie Heckethorn, Megan Baker, Dilzia Villarreal, Jami Weight, Jorge Saucedo, and the one Senior Ambre Moorhouse started their Snow College classes: American Government, Financial Literacy, and English 1010.

Everyone took American Government, but three people did not take Financial Literacy. Only Ambre took English 1010.

Everyone loved Professor Young who taught American Government. Everyone all thought he was really funny in his lectures. Some memorable moments with Professor Young was on one of his Wednesday lectures, he was wearing a pink shirt and he referred to Mean Girls and said, "On Wednesdays, we wear pink." Everyone who had seen Mean Girls started laughing when he said that.

Professor White who taught Financial Literacy was a really good professor. This was his first year teaching so it took a several weeks before everyone got into the flow of

things, where his workload became manageable and we were able to focus on the learning instead of just homework. Once everyone got the hang of how things worked, it was smooth sailing from there, and now the Snow College classes are over. Overall it was a great experience for everyone.

## Q: What class(es) did you take? What did you think of them?

**Melanie Heckethorn**—I took Financial Literacy and American Government. Umm, taking two college-level classes at a time was a lot of work, and I didn't like taking it hybrid. By the end though I was really glad I took them.

**Megan Baker**—I took Financial Literacy and American Government. They were a little stressful at first, but after a while they weren't too bad."

**Dilzia Villarreal**— I took American Government. Umm yeah, I thought it was a'ight.

— *By Jami Weight*

**Jami Weight**—I took American Government. I thought it was pretty good. I really liked the professor and the way he taught, so I felt like I learned a lot from it.

**Ambre Moorhouse**—I took English 1010 and American Government. I really liked English 1010 because I've always had an affinity for English. It also helped that English 1010 wasn't a hybrid class so I was able to sit in on the class and able to interact with my teacher. I'm glad it's over. I feel as though this has been a valuable experience for me.

**Dallas Hayward**—I took Financial literacy and American Government. American Government was easy and Financial Literacy was hard, but it will probably end up helping later in life.

**Jorge Saucedo**—I took Financial Literacy and American Government. Ummm, I would rather not say... Ha ha, no, ummm, I liked them. I liked how you don't have to pay much attention to the lectures just the assignments. ♦



# BACKSTAGE AT DELTA'S CINDERELLA

— By Kara Conrad

On November 18th a few students from EskDale High School went to Delta to watch the Delta High School's musical, Cinderella. Jami Weight, Melanie Heckethorn, Kayli and Megan Baker, and Kara and Jenna Conrad all went to watch the play in Delta High School's new theater.

But before the play started the kids were lucky enough to get a backstage tour, given by one of the co-directors. They looked at the stage layout, props, dressing rooms, and some of the actors. On the stage they got to see the pulley system and how props were lowered. They also looked at many curtains, backdrops, and props. After they looked on stage they went into the hall that connects to the stage. Off the hall were many dressing rooms for the actors. The kids got to go into the girls dressing room where they saw Cinderella and some of the other actors.

Then they went into the garage where

props are made. Inside there were art supplies, wood, and many other building supplies. After the backstage tour they went up to the balcony, where the lights and sound systems were located. They got to talk to the student light technician and play around with the lights and speakers.

Once the tour was over they were all very excited for the play to start. In 2016 EskDale High School had done this exact same musical, so the students knew the script. Cinderella was played by Lexi Callister and Prince Topher was played by track star, Dallin Draper. The Delta students were very good at acting and portrayed their parts well. They also did a great job singing together and on their solos. It was interesting for the EskDale students to



see what they did differently and what they did the same in their performance. The EHS students might have had a bit of stage envy however.

After the play ended they got to meet and take pictures with some of the actors. The EskDale kids had a great time and would love to go to another one of Delta's performances. ♦

# THE GREAT MAIL RACE

Near the end of September, the English Jr. class received a letter from a school in Wisconsin called Einstein Middle School. They were doing something called the Great Mail Race, where a student writes a letter to a school somewhere in the country, tells them about where they live, and then asks for a reply, in which the recipient tells the original sender about where they live.

The English Jr. class decided to get in on the act of this letter-writing relay. Daisy wrote the reply to the original school in

Wisconsin, and then wrote to Texas. The rest of us picked schools across the country to write to. Rylee wrote to Hawaii, Carlos wrote to Idaho, Danielle wrote to Alaska, Sam wrote to Washington D.C., Burklie wrote to Arizona, Jenna wrote to Montana, and Yudnelly wrote to New Mexico.

Then something unexpected happened. Burklie had written to a school in Arizona, and she got replies. Ninety of them, to be precise. It took three days to read them all. This was clearly too much for Burklie to reply

— By Sam Roberts

to on her own, so the rest of the class got drafted into helping her reply.

Daisy, unfortunately, happened to pick a school address that was no longer being used. Her letter got sent back with VACANT stamped on the front of the letter.

So, not, counting that, only Yudnelly has gotten a reply from her school, besides Burklie. The rest of the class is still waiting. ♦

# "HOW THE MAYOR STOLE CHRISTMAS" - BANQUET PLAY

As many people may know, EskDale High School puts a on a Christmas Banquet every year. A lot of people from around the area come and enjoy the students' performances in the choir, orchestra, and drama class productions. This year's banquet is going to be a good one.

The play takes place in the 1800s in England. It's about how the mayor of the town keeps making holidays and never gets

elected out of office. When another town resident finally challenges him in an election, the townspeople vote him in as their new mayor. Then the new mayor cancels all the official holidays that the former mayor declared, including Christmas! An entertaining time follows.

Over many weeks, the students in drama class have put intense work acting, memorizing lines, and practicing how to stay

— By Carlos Sancedo

in character in order to make this performance as perfect as it can be.

We all had a lot of fun and a lot of laughs while putting this together despite many mishaps and hilarious backstage goofs and crafting disasters.

We hope you enjoy it! ♦



## FEATURED TEACHER—LOIS FABER



Lois Faber teaches a myriad of subjects here at EskDale High School. She is the Driver's Ed, Drama, Choir, Orchestra, Guitar, and Junior Strings teacher. She even teaches beginning strings over at Baker Elementary School.

In past years she has also taught AP music theory, English, Math, and a multitude of other subjects. Lois is an invaluable pillar in our community and brings music and joy everywhere she goes.

Recently an interview was conducted with Lois:

**Q: How long have you been teaching?**

*A: I started teaching in 1976. I helped with Orchestra, gave private lessons, taught English, and some math. Then in '84 I took over the Montessori, and then again was*

*helping with Orchestra and teaching private lessons.*

**Q: Why did you become a teacher?**

*A: I became a teacher because I love kids and I love music, and I wanted to merge the two.*

**Q: When did you start playing the violin?**

*A: I started when I was eight at Crest View Elementary School in Salt Lake City. My teacher was Mr. Jacobson.*

**Q: When did you become the choir and orchestra teacher?**

*A: I became Choir teacher in 1990, and I took over Orchestra in 2001 after it became a public school. I had previously helped with Orchestra and had a beginning strings group, but I didn't fully take it over until it was a public school.*

**Q: What was your major in college?**

*A: Music Education.*

**Q: How do feel now that this is the 24th Christmas Banquet?**

*A: I never dreamed that it would be this big of a tradition, and I can't believe how much it has improved over the years.*

**Q: Why did you start the Christmas Banquet?**

*A: It was to fund our choir trip. We had no idea how we would fund \$300 per person. My brother Dean, and I came up with the idea of the Banquet.*

**Q: What is your favorite/least favorite**

— *By Melanie Heckethorn*

**Christmas song?**

*A: I've always liked "Ring Christmas Bells" because it always works in Choir or Orchestra. It's always fun. My least favorite Christmas song is Jingle Bell Rock. I hate that song.*

**Q: What is your favorite/ least favorite thing about teaching?**

*A: My favorite thing is helping students find their individual talents and encouraging them to develop them. I consider myself the Encouraging Fairy. My least favorite thing is the politics. I just want to teach my students and help them learn.*

**Q: Do you plan on retiring soon?**

*A: That's like asking me if I plan on dying soon. I plan on retiring when I am no longer effective while teaching.*

**Q: Is there anything you would like to say to your students?**

*A: Dream big and work hard. You can do whatever you set your mind to.*

In closing, the students of EskDale High School would like to thank Lois for all her efforts she puts in for us—from making licorice for endless hours into the night to sell for the banquet, to helping us all find our talents in music, which can be buried quite deep inside. We thank you from the bottom of our hearts. To quote Dumbledore from the beloved Harry Potter, "Music, a magic above all we do here." ♦

## HOLIDAY CARDS FOR THE TROOPS

— *By Yudnely Avelar*

This year, our school participated in Congressman Chris Stewart's "Holiday Card Drive." Together, we made a lot of Christmas cards, which will be combined with others from around the state and sent to Utah's National Guardsmen who are deployed in the Middle East.

It was sad to hear that the troops that we mailed the cards to can't go home for Christmas. They can't see their families for Christmas, but they are working and fighting hard for us and for their families in the Middle East. We are grateful.

All of the kids were happy to make cards and show their support for the troops. Some of the kids made trees and others made reindeer and elves on their cards. They were so adorable that you would love to see them for Christmas.

Some kids even asked their teacher Sharon Conrad if their family members could make cards at home and send



them with the school's cards, and she said yes. The kids had to give all their cards to Sharon before Thanksgiving break so she could mail them to the Congressman's office in time.

EskDale students were proud to do anything that might brighten the troops' Holidays overseas, and we are all so proud of the brave, hardworking men

of the military who fight and defend our great country. ♦



# THANKSGIVING BREAK

This year's Thanksgiving break (22-26 of November 2017) everyone did something to celebrate this Thanksgiving holiday. Many students traveled with family, some just gathered together in their homes and ate dinner, and others just stayed home and rested while being thankful for everything that is around them.

Many people have different traditions and events for Thanksgiving. Here are some samples of what the EHS students did for their vacation from school and how they celebrated the holiday.

**Andrea** - "Nothing, I just stayed home. It was nothing special."

**Dilzia** - "I went to Sandra's, we ate, and I spent the night. I was sick, and I puked. Then I ate food, thinking I was better, but I puked it out, too."

**Melanie**- "I rode my horse, went to Delta for Thanksgiving dinner with my fam, and then I worked."

**Fatima**- "I got an awful henna, and I went to work."

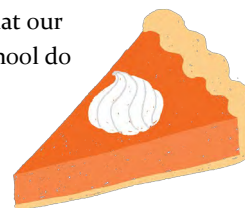
**Mollie**- "I don't know, not much, I made a cheesecake." Fatima interjected here to clarify for the record that Mollie had made a pumpkin cheesecake.

**Sam**- "I went to Seattle and we stayed with a friend of my parents from Morocco."

— *By Daisy Torres*

As you can see, these people have many different traditions and ways to celebrate this Thanksgiving. From eating out with family, doing nothing, and traveling away from home to visit other friends and family, it is always good to get away from school for a time and just be thankful for your family and everything else that surrounds you.

There are a lot more traditions and different ways to celebrate the holidays, but now you have some idea of what our students from our school do for theirs. ♦



— *By Dallas Hayward*

**Kayli**: I'm thankful for my Lebrons (shoes)

**Kara**: I'm thankful for everything, I don't know, cows?

**Fatima**: I'm thankful for friends, Andrea, and cheese. I'm very thankful for cheese! I love cheese.

**Andrea**: I'm thankful for everything but Fatima.

**Teresa**: I'm thankful for family, friends, hot coffee, and my students. ♦

# THANKFUL LIST

This year for Thanksgiving, we asked the students and faculty of EskDale High what they were thankful for. The following are some of their answers:

**Sam**: I'm thankful for pumpkin pie, family, and blacksmithing videos.

**Ambre**: I'm thankful for sleep, money, peace and quiet, and NOT Daisy most of the time.

**Melanie**: I'm thankful for my horse, music, family, my nephew McCoy and niece Kaisley, ramen noodles, my job (even though I complain about it), my ukulele, friends, my

Boo (Jami), where I go to school, my car which I have named Vicky, and Sharon.

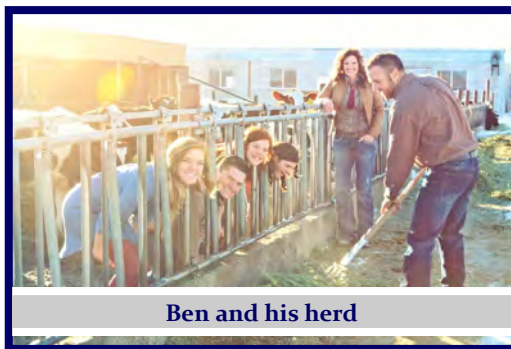
**Jorge**: I'm thankful for Trump and for pens.

**Sharon**: I'm thankful for my students (said with a wink).

**Jami**: I'm thankful for the military, my dog, food, family, and I'm very, very thankful for my neighbor, Dallas Hayward, because he helps me with my physics and math when I be "losted."

**Jenna**: I'm thankful for my family, my cat, my dog, food, and friends.

# EVERYBODY HAS A STORY—A PROFILE ON BEN CONRAD



Ben and his herd

Ben Conrad was born on September 10, 1975. He has lived in Snake Valley his entire life. Interestingly enough, Ben went to

(SVCH) Shiloah Valley Christian School which is what became our current EskDale High School.

He then went to college at Azusa, a college in California, Southern Utah University (SUU), which is located in Cedar City, Utah, and last, but not least Utah State University (USU), located in Logan, Utah. In total, Ben went to college for roughly six years. He graduated in 2000 with a major in Dairy Herds Management, and a minor in Physical Education and Exercise Science. Ben Currently works at the EskDale Dairy fulfilling his dairy management career.

— *By Jenna Conrad*

Ben has made many accomplishments in his life, but his most important one is his family of loving kids, with Jenna (the author of this article) being his favorite, and definitely the most important child.

**Q**: Ben, is Jenna really your favorite?

**A**: Yes, Jenna is my favorite baby goat!

Ben enjoys hobbies such as riding his bike in the valley, fixing bikes, playing basketball, and playing with his favorite son Kunz (A.K.A. the family dog). Another one of Ben's friends is the family cat MoMo, whom he so dearly loves. Ben is currently living a very nice life in Snake Valley. ♦



## LOCAL CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS

In our small valley, everyone celebrates Christmas in their own ways with traditions and customs unique to each family. While each family has their own individual traditions, there are many annual events where the valley comes together to celebrate. EskDale High School hosts the Banquet, and Baker and Garrison Schools hold their annual Christmas program with musical numbers and plays. The Border hosts a gingerbread house decorating party and also a Christmas Party on Christmas Eve. There is a Nativity Play at EskDale every Christmas Eve that is followed by a Candlelight Service and refreshments. These annual events bring valley residents together during the holiday season.

With all of the different ways that

people can celebrate Christmas and the holiday season, here are a few family traditions of classmates.

**Dilzia:** We spend time with a lot of family and then on Christmas Eve we stay up until midnight and then open presents. We eat a lot of tamales.

**Danielle:** We always watch *While You Were Sleeping* sometime around Christmas, and we also open all of our presents on Christmas Eve, so that we can sleep in before brunch the next day.

**Carson:** We try to go sledding on Christmas if there's snow outside and then we have a big Christmas dinner.

**Yudnely:** We make a huge feast for breakfast, open presents around noon, and then it's just a normal day.

— *By Megan Baker*

**Jami:** We always go to brunch and then open presents when we get home. Sometimes we'll decorate a random plant in the house instead of a tree and then play games together all Christmas afternoon.

**Jorge:** We do everything on Christmas Eve that you normally do on Christmas, because my mom says that Christmas is for sleeping.

Though Christmas is the most widely-known holiday in this season, many people celebrate Hanukkah or other holidays instead. Though there are many different ways to celebrate the holiday, spending time with family is the most common factor. So spend time with your family and enjoy your holiday season! ♦

## CHRISTMAS AROUND THE WORLD

All around the world Christmas and its many variations are celebrated differently. Some may sound familiar as many of the traditions we celebrate today came from these different places. Still others can be completely different than what we know.

**Sweden**—St. Lucida Day is a holiday celebrated in most Scandinavian countries, though it began in Sweden. It is considered as the beginning of the Christmas season and can be called "little Yule." The main theme of the holiday is light. This is because its name was derived from the Latin word for light, lux, and Lucida was the patron saint for the blind. It is traditional for the oldest daughter in each family to rise early to wake her family members. For the day she is called "Lussi" or "Lussibruden."

**Norway**—Most people have at least heard of a Yule log, which originates from Norway. It was used by ancient Norse in their celebration of the return of the sun during the winter solstice. Norse Yule logs are the reason the family fireplace has become such a central Christmas image. It is also responsible for the popularity of log shaped foods such as

cheese or cakes.

**Germany**—As part of their winter solstice celebrations, many German families would decorate evergreen trees. They were only named "Christmas trees" after the Christian holiday in the beginning of the seventeenth century.

**Mexico**—Poinsettias flowers have become a very prominent symbols for Christmas. This was after Joel R. Poinsett, the American minister to Mexico in 1828, brought the plant to America from Mexico. Not long after stores began selling them at Christmas. It is traditional for paper mache sculptures, pinatas, to be filled with candy so that children can take turns trying to break it open. When the pinatas break they race to pick up as much candy as they can.

**England**—Plum pudding is a popular English dish that dates back to the Middle Ages and is eaten primarily at Christmas time. The tradition of caroling also began in England where musicians would travel from town to town and perform in return for a hot meal or

— *By Mollie Eldridge*

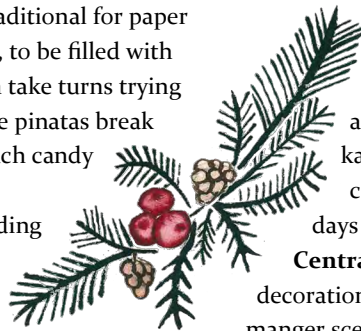
money. It is also where children began to hang stockings by their bedpost or a fireplace.

**Australia**—Christmas comes in the middle of the summer in Australia. Considering the season, beach time or outdoor barbecues are not uncommon for Christmas day celebrations.

**Ukraine**—Traditionally Ukrainian families prepare a twelve course meal for Christmas. The youngest child of the family watches out a window for the first evening star, which means the feast can begin.

**Greece**—In Greece gifts aren't exchanged until January first which is St. Basil's day. There are also people who believe in the kallikantzeri, which are goblins that cause mischief during the twelve days of Christmas.

**Central America**—The primary decoration in most of Central America is the manger scene. In 1224 the first living nativity scene was made by St. Francis of Assisi to help explain the birth of Jesus and his followers. ♦





## SINGING AT THE CARE CENTER

On December 20th, the EskDale High School choir will be heading into Delta to sing for the residents of the Millard Care and Rehabilitation center. This will be the first time in many years though hopefully not the last that we do this sort of performance.

Everybody is excited to sing for the senior citizens, and several students shared

positive remarks about the event. Daisy said, "I think it's cool; I think we're inspiring and are going to change the world someday." Dilzia said, "It warms my heart because we are giving back. It may seem like such a small gesture but, for the senior citizens, it will make them smile."

We will be performing many of the songs

that we have been rehearsing for the Christmas Banquet. There will also be a duet from Jami Wright and Fatima Villarreal and a solo by Dilzia Villarreal. The orchestra will also be performing a song done completely on bell bars.

This should be a great experience for everybody involved, and we are all excited! ♦

— By Jorge Sancedo

## CHRISTMAS "FIRE" BELLS— A CHRISTMAS MEMORY

A few years ago my family and I went to one of my brother's choral concerts at the University of Utah. Before we left to go to the concert, my brother John Paul told us that the building's fire alarms were having trouble. After he told us that, my natural reaction was to panic, but my family was as calm as ever!

We got to the concert hall a few minutes before the concert was going to start, and by then I was beginning to calm down.

During the middle of the concert, some blue lights started going off. My brother, Dallas and I thought they were part of the concert, until accompanying the blue lights was the overhead announcement, "The building is on fire! Please evacuate the building!"

My panic instantly returned and I started freaking out! Everybody in the concert hall calmly went out of the building... well, everybody except me. I went out too, but I

was panicking a lot! There was no actual fire: the fire alarms were broken, so the firemen came to fix them while the concert went on.

The fire alarms went off yet again, but this time we did not evacuate. Instead, the conductor of the concert said, "I guess it didn't like our music!" Everybody laughed at that, and it also lightened the mood. Finally the concert ended, and we all went home. ♦

— By Danielle Hayward

## LETTER TO SANTA

Dear Santa,

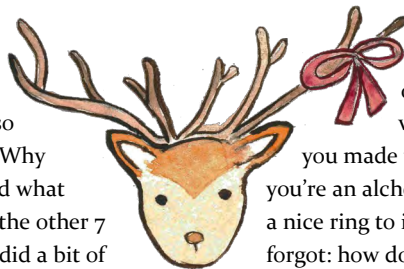
I have one extremely important question. I know for a fact that you've been in this whole gift-giving business for years—to be exact, you began in 280 A.D. When are you planning to retire? And when you do, who's taking over?

Alright I have some smaller questions that need answers, too. When do you start the whole gift assembly? There are so many children around the world, so it must take a very huge team of elves or you would never stop making gifts. Is it a year round job that never stops...?

Also, how do all eight reindeer lift that

heavy sleigh? Do you take more than one trip?

Are there various Santas and reindeer? \*GASP\* Also what's up with Rudolph? Why does his nose light up, and what happens when he and all the other 7 reindeer stop listening? I did a bit of research and I've learned that reindeer have a lifespan of, at most, 15 years! Do you replace the reindeer every 15 years or is there some potion of youth similar to Rapunzel's hair you have to give them? And if that exists, why



did you take it so late, old man? It took you that long to figure out this youth potion your entire village lives on apparently... ? If you made the potion, does that mean that you're an alchemist? Nicholas the Alchemist has a nice ring to it, doesn't it? My lordie! I almost forgot: how do you defy the laws of gravity? Enough of this "magic"— I want answers!

Sincerely,

A Very Curious Child

A.K.A. Dilzia Villarreal ♦

— By Dilzia Villarreal

## NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS

People make New Year's resolutions to try to improve their lives in some aspect in the next year. Some resolutions consist of people trying to make better health habits such as to quit smoking or to stop drinking soda. The ancient Babylonians were the first recorded people to celebrate the new year and make resolutions some 4000 years ago. During a massive 12-day religious festival known as Akitu, the Babylonians crowned a new king or reaffirmed their loyalty to the reigning king. They also made promises to the

gods to pay their debts and return any objects they had borrowed. These promises could be considered the forerunners of our New Year's resolutions.

A similar celebration happened in Rome when the emperor Julius Caesar modified the calendar and named January 1st the beginning of the new year. The first day of the new year became the traditional occasion for thinking about one's past mistakes and resolving to do and be better in the future in most early Christian religions.

In today's world, resolutions are mostly focused on self improvement. About 45 percent of Americans make resolutions but only about 8 percent actually keep them. At EskDale High, only a few people even care to make them, and some just gave a reason why they didn't want to make a resolution.

**My New Year's resolution:** to stay the same.

**Jorge:** "I don't make any; they disappoint me."

**Dilzia:** "to finish all my classes."

**Dallas:** "to stop making New Year's resolutions."

**Ambre:** "to get more sleep." ♦

— By Carson Wright



## CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

- \* **December 19, 2017**—Garrison and Baker Elementary Christmas Programs, Baker Hall, 7:30 MST / 6:30 PST.
- \* **December 20, 2017**—EskDale High School choir performs at Millard Care and Rehabilitation Center, Delta, 10:00 AM.
- \* **December 21, 2017**—January 3, 2018—Winter Break!
- \* **January 4, 2018**—School reconvenes after Winter Break
- \* **January 12, 2018**—End of 2nd Quarter
- \* **January 15, 2018**—No School! Martin Luther King, Jr. Day!
- \* **January 23, 2018**—Girls' Basketball away game @ Wendover
- \* **January 25, 2018**—Girls' Basketball away game @ Tintic
- \* **January 30, 2018**—Girl's Basketball home game vs. West Ridge
- \* **February 1, 2018**—Girl's Basketball home game vs. Milford
- \* **February 8, 2018**—Girl's Basketball home game vs. Wendover
- \* **February 13, 2018**—Girl's Basketball home game vs. Tintic
- \* **February 15, 2018**—Girls' Basketball away game @ West Ridge
- \* **February 19, 2018**—No School! Presidents' Day!
- \* **February 22, 2018**—Girls' Basketball away game @ Milford
- \* **March 2018**—EHS presents the musical *Thoroughly Modern Millie!*

### Winter

By Melanie Heckethorn

Winter, oh winter, you are so cold,  
With frosty white snow,  
And winds that are bold

However this year, you are quite mistaken,  
For it's been 70 degrees,  
And there's no precipitation

You see now winter, it is December,  
It's time for Santa and Jesus,  
Don't you remember?

So now Winter, if you would please,  
Get your act together,  
I want Christmas, you tease!

### What's Christmas to you?

By Dilzia Villarreal

Is it the snow, the tinsel, or perhaps the cocoa?  
Maybe the elves or the reindeer that travel through snow.  
Ooo, maybe the lights that twinkle all around town.

No, it's just fat, old santa coming downtown.

Downtown? What about uptown?

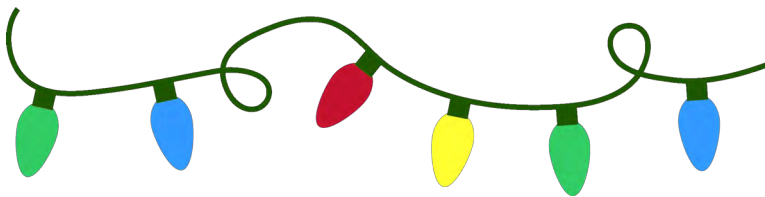
Timmy said with a frown.

Alright, alright uptown as well,

Here comes Mr. Santa ringing his bells

But it's not about Santa, but more about presents.

Actually no, it's about family and friends, including the peasants.



## SNOWFLAKE CRAFT TUTORIAL

By Burklie Wright

Coffee filter snowflakes are fun, and it's nearly impossible to make the exact same one twice. They are easy and cute, and for this reason, they have nearly taken over Sharon's classroom! It is really easy to get carried away and make a ton of them. You don't have to follow Steps 3-5 if you don't have water color or just don't want to use it. They'll be cool either way. Have fun!

### Materials Needed:

- Coffee filters
- Scissors
- Water color paint (optional)
- Paper towels

**Step 1-** Fold a coffee filter in 1/2, then in 1/4, then in 1/8.

**Step 2-** Cut out any designs you want.

**Step 3-** Keep Snowflake folded and dip it in water color paint.

**Step 4-** Lay on paper towel (still folded), cover it with the rest of the paper towel, and smush all the wet paint out of it.

**Step 5-** Unfold it, and if you used paint, lay it out to dry. Then, hang it up and enjoy!



### Christmas Time

By Danielle Hayward

The candles burn brightly as

The snow falls lightly.

You go out of the house all

Warm and cozy, waving as

Singers pass by.

You go by the town square

Breathing icicles in the air.

Singing a Christmas lullaby.