



THE HIGH DESERT HERALD

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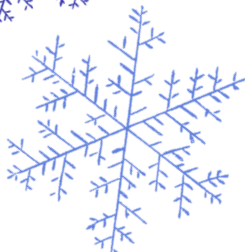
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This issue of The High Desert Herald was written and produced by the Language Arts students of EskDale High School.



THE CHRISTMAS BANQUET

This year has been a very odd year for doing the banquet. Masks and social distancing have made it harder than usual to pull off the annual program. The social distancing has made it extremely difficult to choreograph and arrange. Masks have made it hard to sing, and practicing is harder than usual to do all the things needed for the banquet. However, all the extra work and creative alterations have been worth it.

Behind the scenes, we have been working hard to make the banquet the best that it can be. We've been working on singing, lines, stage movement, and acting. Because of the Coronavirus, we are trying to keep props to a minimum. This

means that we have much fewer props than last year.

As for food at the banquet, this year we're having no dishes that could help the spread of the coronavirus. This means that all dishes are going to be non-reusables, meaning we won't have the usual fine china or glassware. All utensils, plates, and cups will be made out of plastic or some other disposable material.

To minimize contact in the kitchen and dining room, there will be no parent volunteers helping this year. The servers will be the 8th graders, Adolfo, and Carlos. There also will not be more than one course.

If it weren't for so many wonderful people in the community, we wouldn't have been able to put on the banquet. We want to offer a massive thanks to all these people: Jessica, who arranged all the details and made sure that everything was up to code Covid-wise; Crystal and Dean who put together the stage backdrop; Dean, who does all the lights and sound; Crystal who made and/arranged the costumes; Tabitha and Cheri for doing the cooking; Chandra and Sharon for helping serve; and of course, Lois, who has done so much and put so much work into so many aspects of the banquet. Without these people, we wouldn't be able to do this, and we thank them for all they have done. ◇

BY MATTHEW BAKER & ERNESTO AVELAR

PHYSICS EGG DROP

On Monday the 7th of December, EskDale's Physics class did the classic egg drop activity. This activity is where the students build something that can hold an egg, and they drop it from a high place to see if the egg breaks or not. The goal is to not have the egg break.

The Physics class of 2020 only has two kids in it: Sam Roberts and myself, Danielle Hayward. Our teacher, Teresa, gave us a worksheet that had some instructions on how to do the project. Sam and I went to work on our projects, and about a week and a half later, we went to the Center's balcony to drop our eggs.

Neither were sure that our eggs wouldn't break. We were both nervous but for no reason. Neither of our eggs broke! Overall, it was a fun experience and I hope we get to do more activities like it. ◇

BY DANIELLE HAYWARD

COAT OF ARMS PROJECTS

During this quarter of school, EskDale High School's 9th and 10th grade World History class has been making personal coat of arms while they study medieval times. The World History students, Yudnelly Avelar, Burkle Wright, Adolfo Iverson, and Diego Huerta are all making personalized coats of arms to show what is special to them or to their family.

A coat of arms is a shield with symbols on it to represent the things that are meaningful to you or your family. Each student's coat of arms is slightly different due to

different likes and traditions.

There are certain requirements for the coat of arms since it is a class project. Each coat of arms has to have at least four symbols within or on the shield somewhere. It has to have at least four colors, and two charges (usually animals) outside of the shield. Everyone's shields are slightly different in design and meaning, but they all represent things that are important to the person.

All of the students have worked hard on their coat of arms and will



probably remember and possibly even keep them for many years to come. ◇

BY BURKLE WRIGHT

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: DANIELLE HAYWARD



Danielle Hayward is a student here at EskDale High School. She lives in the beautiful EskDale Community, and she is

now in 11th grade along with three other students. I had the opportunity to ask her some questions about her life and her time here at EskDale High School.

Q—How long have you lived in EskDale?

A—I've lived here my whole life. So, 16 years, soon to be 17!

Q—What was your life like before coming to EskDale High School?

A—I didn't actually come to EskDale Jr. High and High School until I was in 8th grade. I was homeschooled from Kindergarten up to 7th grade. I loved being homeschooled, but it did get a little lonely sometimes. I was very scared when I finally did start going to public school, but I enjoy it now.

Q—What is your favorite school subject?

A—English. From the very beginning, my favorite subject has been English. I love to write stories.

Q—Do you have a favorite school memory?

A—A favorite school memory? In all honesty, I have a lot of favorite school memories. One memory that stands out to me is one that happened a few years ago at the Christmas Banquet. It was the rehearsal

night of the banquet, and the play was going on. Being the rehearsal night, there were some memory slips and messed up actions. The bloopers that night were just so funny! I've never laughed so hard on stage in my life!

Q—What are your struggles this year?

A—Physics. Physics is definitely one of my struggles.

Q—What are your accomplishments?

A—An accomplishment I have achieved is going to state and solo and ensemble. I dunno, I don't really keep track of things that I do well.

Q—Do you have advice for the other students?

A—School is only as hard as you make it. Don't give up, and always try your hardest. Your school experience will only be terrible if you let it be terrible. On the other hand, it can be just as much fun as you want it to be.

We are all glad to have Danielle Hayward as a student here at EskDale High School. She is a very talented and wonderful student and person. ♦

BY BURKLIE WRIGHT

TEACHER FEATURE: KATHLEEN HAYWARD

For this quarter's Teacher Feature, I have decided to interview Kathleen Hayward. Kathleen has been here at the school for a couple of years now, but there are still some questions that I would like to ask her. Here we go!

1. What made you want to become a teacher?

"When I was in the 8th grade, we had a private school (grades Montessori through 12th) here in EskDale. The teacher for the 1st through 4th grades got really sick for several weeks, and because they had no substitute teachers, they paired up some of us who were in the 8th grade and had us go into that classroom to teach those younger grades. It was during this experience that I fell in love with helping students learn."

2. Have you ever had a favorite student?

"That's a tough question. In thinking about it though, I would have to say, no. I find that my relationship with each individual student is as unique as each student. Each student and our relationship is special in its own way."

3. How long have you taught in a public school?

"This is my third year teaching in a public school."

4. Did you always want to go into teaching?

"I didn't really think about what I wanted to do when I grew up until I had that experience in 8th grade substituting in a classroom. It was really fun!"

5. What kind of goals do you have as a teacher?

"I think the biggest goal I have as a teacher is to provide all the opportunities that I can to help each student succeed and become all they can."

6. Have you ever been scared about teaching in front of kids?

"Yes, I've been scared lots of times. It's especially scary, for example, at the beginning of a new school year if you have brand new students that you don't know at all and don't know anything about."

7. Do you ever plan on retiring?

"Do I ever plan on retiring? I suppose at some point I'll have to do that, but not any time soon. I love being in the classroom and interacting with my students."

8. What is something that you always want students to remember?

"I want every student I teach to always remember, Don't ever give up on yourself, and don't ever quit trying. You have gifts and abilities far beyond what you might see in yourself, and if you're willing to put in the effort and the work, the sky is the limit

for you! Go make your dreams come true."

Thank you Kath for telling us more about yourself! It's very nice to know that we have such caring teachers here at EskDale High School. ♦



BY DANIELLE HAYWARD

CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS AND NEW YEARS RESOLUTIONS

Families have many different traditions for Christmas, so I went around the school to ask students what their family traditions were for Christmas. Some of them also told me what their New Year's resolutions were. I also asked a question: "If there was no money limit, what is one thing you would want for Christmas?" Some of their responses were very funny.

Burklie: *We wake up early in the morning and open our presents then we have a big feast in the afternoon. My New Year's resolution is to ride horses more. No comment.*

SECRET SANTA PARTY

The student council of EskDale High School has organized a Secret Santa Gift Exchange event. Every student picked the name of another student out of a hat, and that is the person that they are going to give a gift, following the wishlist that everyone is supposed to write

CHRISTMAS BREAK PLANS

It's that time of the year again. Joyful music and mostly joyful people. Christmas is just around the corner, and people usually do some fun stuff for the holiday. Some travel and some just stay home and spend time with their families. It's also a good time for the students at EskDale High School because they get a break. They get a break from their academic learning and get to focus more on their family.

CODING FUN

This quarter, the junior high and ninth and tenth graders traded an after lunch class period. Instead of their yearbook class, the ninth and tenth graders now take Kath's computer science class, and the junior high left computer science and have Sharon's Utah History class. These classes will switch back again in the fourth quarter. Carlos, a junior, has also chosen to take coding with the ninth and tenth grades.

THANKSGIVING RECAP

Another great break is over, and that means it's time to see what people did over Thanksgiving break. They could have possibly gone places or stayed home. Everyone must have had wonderful food like turkey, potatoes, bread, and any other foods their family prepared. I just hope everyone had the best break ever, and had fun. Now time to question people to see what they did.

Aidan Faber said his favorite part of

Ernesto A: *Our tradition for Christmas is that the kids always wake up the parents, or we usually just make a lot of noise until they wake up. Then we open presents and eat the leftover food from Christmas Eve until our other family members come to our house. My New Year's resolution is to try to eat more.*

Adolfo: *Well, it depends if it's with my dad's side of the family. If so, we go to my grandma's house and make food then play foosball. Then we bake cake, and then put candles in there, light them, and make a New Year's resolution. For my mom's side, we go to Beaver then we get to see everybody and*

down (If you still haven't written your wishlist, do so, or you'll probably get something you don't want). Gifts are in the 15-20 dollar range.

Gifts will be exchanged at the Christmas party on December 18th, which will take place from 10:30 UT and go until noon. There will be a cookie potluck and games, and we will, of

Here is what some students at EskDale High School will be doing for their Christmas Break.

Q: What will you be doing during Christmas Break?

Carlos: *I will just be staying home and vibin with the whole family, and playing some video games.*

Sam: *just stay home*

Danielle: *sleeping in, probably lots of video games,*

Last quarter, in Computer Science, the junior high class was working on a coding education website called Code.org. Currently, we are doing something called the Hour of Code, in which the class works on short activities, generally related to machine learning algorithms and similar programs. The ninth and tenth graders will be doing similar, if not the same activities.

Since the ninth and tenth graders have not had this course before this year, I reached

thanksgiving was the food, and most importantly the pie. He didn't like break because of no school since he didn't get to see any of his friends. The food he ate was turkey, peas, and too much bread. And pie.

Matthew Baker said the best part about thanksgiving was a little free time and turkey. His least favorite part about thanksgiving break was that his computer broke. His favorite food to eat during thanksgiving was gravy, mashed potatoes, apple or blueberry pie, and turkey.

sometimes my grandparents come over from Mexico although I never know what they are saying. We make Mexican food. My New Year's resolution is that I should just choose my moments to speak.

Danielle: *We always watch "While You Were Sleeping." We kinda do our own Secret Santa gift exchange thing because of my big family. I don't know, I never follow my New Year's resolutions, but I guess I will try to exercise everyday.*

Kara: *We open gifts in the morning, but we drink sparkling cider and then spin the empty bottle to decide who opens one of their presents first. ◇*

BY YUDNELY AVELAR

course, social distance and wear masks. Remember: DON'T TELL ANYONE WHO YOUR SECRET SANTA IS! Hopefully, everyone will be satisfied with their gift, and we'll all have a great time! ◇

BY SAM ROBERTS

and hanging out with family.

Jenna: *Visiting family I guess.*

Kara: *probably working at the park*

This is what some of the students at EskDale High School will be doing over Christmas Break. It will be fun to spend time with family and friends. It's overall just a good time of year. Hopefully people get what they want for Christmas and have a good time. ◇

BY CARLOS SAUCEDO

out to all of them to see what they think:

How do you like your new Computer Science class?

Adolfo: *"Well, I'm not really a big fan of it."*

Diego: *"I enjoy taking this class."*

Yudnelly: *"It's a pretty fun class to take."*

Burklie: *"It is a pretty good class. I like it."*

Carlos: *"Eh." *shrugs* ◇*

BY AIDAN FABER

Ernesto Avelar said the best part about thanksgiving break was the food. The least favorite part was not enough food. He ate ham, hot wings, chicken, mashed taters, gravy, and a red square looking thing.

Adolfo Iverson said he ate food and that was it.

That concludes asking people questions since that's all the people I got to question. Seems like people had great breaks and had a great time. ◇

BY ERNESTO DURAN

CHRISTMAS MEMORIES!

Last Christmas was one of my favorite Christmases. My cousin Kaila came to visit us from Missouri. My family went to the Candle Light Service in EskDale on Christmas Eve. We sang old original Christmas songs and ate lots of dessert (well, I did).

The next morning was Christmas. Kara, my dad, and I went to the dairy and did our usual work. Then we came home and had a delicious breakfast of cinnamon rolls, eggs, sausage, fruit, and sparkling cider. Then we opened gifts. I got some cute clothes and jewelry.

The rest of the day we just hung out and watched movies. For supper, we joined the rest of my family and relatives and had the best prime rib and cheesecake.

The day after Christmas we went to a Jazz game in Salt Lake City at the Vivint Center. It was a fun game and the Jazz won. Go Utah! Kara got her shoes signed by the Jazz player, Donovan Mitchell.

We stayed in Salt Lake City a few days and went to the mall, we walked by the Salt Lake City LDS Temple, and we went into the Mormon

Tabernacle. It was awesome because there were so many Christmas lights everywhere, and everything was just lit up.

We also went to Park City and drove around for a while. There was a lot of people sledding down this huge hill, and it looked really fun. Then we headed back home to EskDale. Overall, it was a very fun Christmas and also very sentimental because it was the last Christmas my family and I spent in our house at Petra. ◇

BY JENNA CONRAD

It was a cold winter night. My family and I were just hanging out. This happened before my family moved from Idaho to Utah. It was around 10 or 11 pm, and we were just waiting until midnight to open up the presents. All my family used to go to my family's house to celebrate almost every holiday. When it comes time, we all open our presents, children first, and I remember that my parents got me one of the flimsiest snowboard that I had ever seen. At the time, I didn't know that it was a bad snow board. It wasn't a good board because it was just a flimsy piece of plastic. At the time though, I thought it was the best thing in the world. I was

just admiring the snowboard because in my opinion it was the best present I had every gotten.

The next day my parents took me and my brother to the sand dunes to go sledding. We went to the sand dunes because it had nice hills that were covered in snow. I took my new "snowboard" which was just a piece of plastic and wanted to go down on it on the biggest hill that we could see. It was steep and I didn't know how to use it, but I was young and thought that I knew everything. As I went down the hill, I started picking up some real speed. I was having some fun for the first few seconds, and then I

realized that I didn't know how to stop. So to stop I threw myself off of the board, which only had some loops for your feet to go in. I just jumped because I thought that it was going to be a soft landing. But I was wrong. I landed really hard, and I got the wind knocked out of me, which wasn't the best feeling in the world. I just laid there for a couple of minutes which made my parents worry so they came over to see if I was all ok. I probably should've learned how to ride a snowboard before I actually tried to. This was really fun though, and I would love to do it again now that I know a little more about snowboarding. ◇

BY CARLOS SAUCEDO

So one year, my family went to my grandparents' house for Christmas. For your information I am not a big fan of Christmas because of all the fighting, planning, all the driving and buying stuff for the Christmas party. At the party we do all types of things like eating, playing games and talking. One year it was easy; it was simple and amazing. We arrived at my grandparents' house, and I helped with the food and babysitting and doing all of that fun stuff. I am the oldest grandkid, and the youngest at the time was one and I was 12 or 13. So I helped with everything.

After we eat, we play board games and after we do that, we do the Iverson thing and play the foosball table tournament. All the Iversons that are over the age of 10 play in the tournament, and we make a big deal about it. So the setup is to choose the teams and see if it looks good, and we play. If you don't know what a foosball table is, that is sad. It is basically easy soccer on a table with 2 to 4 players. We mostly do 4 players per game and have 7 to 9 sets of teams. So why was it the best year? I actually won a tournament! It was crazy; we did 18 games and we were undefeated, and if you ever played against any of the Iversons, that's really hard. We are crazy about it, and it

was me and my uncle in my team against the others, and we smoked them hard. Then we played another tournament, and I was put with my other uncle. Sadly we took 3rd in that game, but I still felt good about it. After 3 to 5 tournaments we eat some more and clean up and play calming games that are not so crazy. Then we make the Jesus cake and say one thing that you can do better for the new year. Then talk some more and then go to sleep and wake up and then open presents. After we do that for some time we go home and sleep. ◇

BY ADOLFO IVERSON

A memory I had from Christmas was that my brother had decided to start a nerf gun war. After I shot him a few times, he quit. A few minutes later, he came back with my parents and told them I had shot him with the nerf gun without asking if he wanted to play. Then I got in trouble and stopped playing with my little brother for a while. When he started another nerf gun war, I decided to record. So when he told my parents the same story again, I showed them the recording, and he ended up getting in trouble. ◇

BY ERNESTO DURAN

ASK SANTA—SANTA ANSWERS REAL LETTERS WRITTEN TO "HIM" FROM EHS STUDENTS

Q: Do the elves ever get a day off?

A: Oh they do, especially one of them, that one is called Demetrius. He's always asking for a day off because he's meeting this girl or something, IDK.

Q: Do the reindeers ever go around the town and poop?

A: Yeah well they aren't supposed to but they do, I hate it when they do it especially when it gets dry and hard, it turns all black and it's pretty flammable, though I have a way to get rid of it. Hey, remember when you have been told that if you have been a bad person for the year then you'd get coal.

Q: Where do you get your reindeer?

A: Oh that's kind of a secret but I'll give you a hint, in the NORTH POLE.

Q: Are you and Mrs. Clause still together?/ Ever wonder if Mrs. Clause is cheating on you?

A: Oh well I'm not sure anymore, she never gives me hugs, kisses on the cheek, or says hi to me anymore. YES, I do wonder that a lot because she goes out more often than before. It's weird because the same days she's gone are the same days that Demetrius is gone. ◇

AS DICTATED BY SANTA TO DIEGO HUERTA

EVERYBODY HAS A STORY: MARIA AVELAR

The person I decided to ask for a story was my mom, Maria Avelar, and here it is.

"Mexico, so Mexico is a pretty dangerous place for its crimes, break-ins, and especially for its drug trade. Where I lived the roads weren't so sturdy and mostly weren't built safely. I lived near a town called Apozol.

So, I was at school with my brothers and sisters. We were having our lunch break until we heard this loud bang and splashes of water. We ignored it till we heard screams, and then we ran inside and stayed in there quietly for about two hours or so. While in there, we heard ambulance and police sirens going around everywhere the town. We thought that

there was a shooting going on. At the end of the day, we were heading home and barely saw anyone out until we noticed dozens of people surrounding the bridge that we would take to go home. I wondered why people were around the bridge! Then we noticed that the bridge had fallen. It wasn't a big bridge; it was just one of those to cross a river which also wasn't too big. Because it was broken, we weren't able to cross the bridge to get home. So we had the police get a rope and help us go down to the river, and we had to cross it. There was police on the other side so they dropped the rope for us, and we went up and got home. ◇

BY DIEGO HUERTA



Maria with her mother and brother

SIX WORD ROASTS

The six word roast are back again!

Students, prepare to be roasted. Some people may understand and some may not, and that's what makes it fun. Please do not be offended; it is all a light-hearted joke.

Sam—I hope you're wearing your mask.

Danielle—"I have a paper to finish."

Carlos—Never seen him early for class.

Kara—Where are her friends at tho'?

Jenna—Wondering who will do her Edgenuity.

Burklie—So quiet, you forget she's there.

Yudnely—Can't decide between funny or dark.

Adolfo—"Diego, can I borrow your phone?"

Diego—Prays Adolfo will get a phone.

Aidan—Hope there's no bugs up there.

Ernesto A—It's the buzz cut for me.

Ernesto D—Waiting for him to show excitement.

Matthew—How many sodas is too many? ◇

BY JENNA CONRAD

OPERATION: SANTA CLAUS

BY AIDAN FABER

