

Cutler Times Newspaper

December 2018



Holiday Mini-Issue

The Nutcracker

by Talia Millas

Did you know the Nutcracker Ballet has been around for over one hundred years? On December 7, the seventh grade went to the Garde Arts Center in New London to see the ballet, *The Nutcracker*. For the last twenty years, the Eastern Connecticut Ballet has performed *The Nutcracker* for audiences in Southeastern Connecticut. There are almost one hundred kids in the performance, and each of them has to make a twelve month commitment. The dancers start with weekly practices on Fridays and Saturdays. After the first week of December, Sunday rehearsals are added. Finally, there is a tech week when the dancers have to be at the Garde from 4-9p.m. every night during the week leading up to the show. This is when they run through the show as if it was a performance night. During this time, they adjust lights and anything else that needs to be fixed to make the show perfect. The schedule for the dancers is insane, but the show is amazing and everyone loves it.



<https://www.theday.com/article/20181206/NWS01/181209650>

How to Make Meringue Kiss Cookies for the Holidays!!! Source [Baker's Royale](#)

Recipe researched by Kylee Fake

INGREDIENTS:

- 4 eggs whites
- 1 cup sugar
- Pinch of tartar
- 1 teaspoon of vanilla extract
- Food coloring/dye of your choice

DIRECTIONS:

Line to bake sheets with parchment and heat oven to 175 degrees F

Place sugar, egg whites and tartar in a bowl over (not on) simmering water. Constantly whisk the egg whites until the sugar has dissolved.

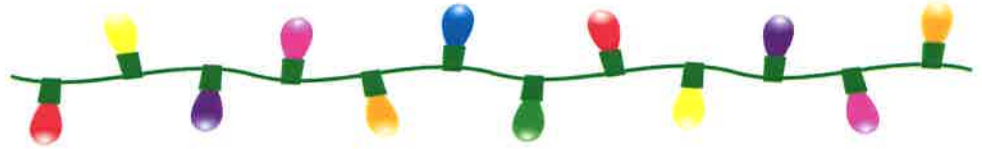
Pour the egg mixture into a clean bowl. Using a whisk attachment on a stand mixer or a hand held mixture, slowly beat egg mixture. Add in vanilla extract and any food coloring if you are using it. Gradually increase speed and continue to beat mixture until stiff peaks have almost formed. Mixture is ready when whisk attachment dipped into mixture leaves a curled but stiff peak when removed.

Transfer mixture to a pastry bag fitted with a close or open star tip and pipe ½ inch to ¾ inch wide cookies, making sure to set them one inch apart from one another. Bake at 175 degrees F for 1 ½ hours, then turn off oven and leave the door slightly ajar for meringues to cool down with the oven.



The Cutler Chronicles:

CHRISTMAS EDITION



by Logan Meenan and Special Editor Kate Tarinelli
ENTRY TWO

His black boots hit the snow with a large crunch. He could hear loud screams from far behind him yelling, “After him!” so he knew he had to hurry. He began to see doors opening, probably people wondering what the loud noise was. He raced into a nearby cottage of the village he was in. He quietly opened the door and yelled, “Hello?” to make sure that no one was there. He was pleased at the silence. Quickly, he locked the doors and closed the blinds. He peered through the window and watched four kids lie in the snow. As their eyes fluttered open, he yet again closed the blinds, as an evil smile grew onto his face.

“Ow!” Riley complained.

“Where are we?” Maya wondered.

“I....,” Nora started. “I don’t know....”

The group of friends looked around. It looked like they were in a neighborhood that took Christmas way too far. Decorations were everywhere, like wreaths, snow, decorated trees, and colored lights.

“Ok...” Maya said. “We need a plan.”

“Agreed,” said Leo. The children looked around.

“Aha!” yelled Nora. She pointed at the ground. There was a trail of large booted footprints in the snow. The group followed the tracks, and arrived at a cozy, wooden house. Leo grabbed the handle and tugged it.

“Leo!” screamed Riley. “You can’t just do that now!”

“Why?”

“Look around! We’re in a village!” Leo looked around. She was right, but he saw something else. The people were short, and... cute? His jaw dropped. The lights, the trees....

“Elves.”

“What?” He pointed at them. As they stared at the elves, Santa’s helpers stared back.

“We need to move.” said Maya. “We’re like a foot taller than them, and all of a sudden we just show up.” The group nodded, and they walked into a store, and into the bathroom.

“So the elves are pretty small....” Nora started. “And those footprints are pretty big.... That must have been whoever was in the library!” They were happy about the discovery, but terrified knowing that that person was still close to them. They began thinking about their plan, but it turns out that their decision only had one good answer. Suddenly, they heard a scream outside. As peaceful as this town was minutes ago, they knew something had to be up.

They raced out the door, and arrived just in time to see a door to a small cottage slam shut. With sudden courage building up, Leo barged inside. He looked around. He didn’t see anything too suspicious, but when he turned around, his friends were nowhere to be seen. “Guys?” he called out nervously. He turned back around just in time to see the face of the “Evil Santa”. All of a sudden, everything went black.

Maya’s eyes slowly opened. She was laying on cold, painted black wood. She looked up and saw the night sky, and could feel the frigid wind blowing on her face. Something wasn’t right. She tried to get up, but she was weak. With all the strength she could muster, she threw herself onto her knees, and looked over the short wall. They were hundreds of feet above the ground, high above a neighborhood’s houses. There were black wrapped presents to her left. Maya looked back, and saw the Evil Santa. She tried to scream, but then she realized she had a bandana covering her mouth. Luckily, she wasn’t seen. When she turned around, she gasped. She saw all of her friends still unconscious, and one she hadn’t seen in what felt like forever. She saw Claire, the girl that had mysteriously disappeared about a week ago. She looked helpless. A bandana was also covering her mouth, and her pale skin was covered by her long black hair. Her eyes flew open, and her screams echoes through the night sky.... **TO BE CONTINUED**



December Holidays Around the World by Fiza Shariff

Three Kings Day is a holiday celebrated on January 6th in Mexico. It is also known as Epiphany, and as Dia de Los Reyes. This holiday honors the three wise men who gave gifts to Jesus Christ. This holiday is both of Mexican and Christian origin. On this day, the people of Mexico get together to have a feast and exchange gifts.

St. Lucia Day is celebrated in Sweden on December 13th. This is a Christian holiday. Another name for St. Lucia day is The Feast of Saint Lucia. This holiday comes from stories that were told by monks who first brought Christianity to Sweden. In these stories, St. Lucia was a young girl who was killed for her Christian faith. Celebrations include special foods and girls dressing up like St. Lucia, wearing a crown of candles.

Kwanzaa is an African-American holiday which starts on December 26th and ends on January 1st. Kwanzaa was created by Maulana Karenga, and it was first celebrated in 1966 or 1967. This holiday includes gift giving and having a feast.

Hanukkah is a Jewish holiday that starts on December 2nd and ends on December 10th. Another name for Hanukkah is Chanukah. Hanukkah commemorates the of the Second Temple in Jerusalem rededication during the second century B.C. During this holiday, gift giving is not a tradition, but money or chocolate coins are given to children. Today many parents include gifts as part of Hanukkah.



HOLIDAY JOKES!

by Ashley Kendle

HO! HO! HO! It's that time again! Holiday time! I know some of you reading this probably don't like the holiday season because you need to act like a perfect angel for a month and dress up like a royal on the big day, and I, personally, understand you..., I get it. So, to cure you of your holiday gloom, here are some holiday jokes! Enjoy!

Q: Why do Dasher and Dancer love coffee?

A: Because they're Santa's star-bucks!

Q: Why did Scrooge keep a pet lamb?

A: Because it would say, "Baaah humbug"!

Q: How can Santa deliver presents during a thunderstorm?

A: His sleigh is flown by raindeer!





Legends of the Christmas Stocking

By Ellie Menezes

There was once a man who was very poor. He had 3 beautiful daughters, but the man worried that no one would marry them because of their social class ranking. However, little did this man know that Saint Nick would come to his rescue. The girls had recently washed their stockings, so they were hanging out to dry on the mantle. The girls went to bed. In the morning they woke to a pleasant surprise. Saint Nick had slid down the chimney and filled the girls' stockings with gold coins. Saint Nick did the good deed in this manner as the father wouldn't accept any charity. This is why we now hang stockings on the mantle by the chimney. This legend is the most popular.

Another legend is that, again, there was a man who had 3 daughters. They also were very poor, and their father was very worried that, even though they were beautiful, no one would marry them because they were very poor. Saint Nick heard people in the town discussing this family's difficulty. He knew that the father wouldn't accept any charity money, so Saint Nick came up with a plan. He decided to fulfill the plan and throw gold coins in a bag through an open window in their house. The gold coins that Saint Nick threw in the window landed in the girls freshly laundered stockings hanging by the fire. This is another legend about why we hang Christmas stockings for Santa to fill. This legend is not as common.

Another legend says that since the father has 3 girls he took the gold and got 3 gold balls. This is why in the 1900s people got oranges in their stockings. It was to symbolize the 3 gold balls. Another reason why oranges were in stockings was because in New England in the winter oranges were very uncommon.

GIFTS OF THE HEART—THAT DON'T COST A PENNY!

1. Help a family member, friend, or neighbor.
2. Write a letter telling someone why they matter to you.
3. Bake something as a gift.
4. Create a photo album.
5. Give the gift of your time—put down the phone or video game and talk to a family member.



TOYS OF CHILDHOOD

Idea for survey by Shea Cahill

What is your favorite holiday toy or gift from your childhood? We surveyed Cutler teachers and some students to find out!

Teacher/Student	Toy/Gift		
Mrs. Lake	baby doll	Coltan White	bike
Ms. Degree	Barbie	Laura Letelleir	Tickets to the Pats game
Mr. Mazzarella	baseball glove	Hannah Warner	Ukulele
Mrs. Reinhold	Barbie airplane	Morgan Schuyler	Baby doll
Mr. Bass	Tinker Toys	Ben Ferguson	Thomas The Tank Engine
Ms. Lau	Light Brite	Dylan Beebe	Xbox One
Ms. Popp	Holly Hobby Toy Kitchen	Patrick Lindy	Wilson a2000 baseball glove
Mr. Masterjoseph	Light Brite	Cat Hodge	MONEY :D
Mr. Panucci	hand saw	Kayla Johnson	My Family and Friends
Ms. S. Panucci	Patty Playful with crib and a beautiful blanket with matching pillow that my mother crocheted	Frankie Jimenez	NES Classic Edition Console
Mr. Byassee	Ghostbusters Proton Backpack	Justus Martinez	Xbox 360
Ms. Farnsworth	Batman helmet and cape :)	Shantel Greaves	phone
Mrs. Crofts	Barbie Styling Head	Shailen Patel	telescope
Mrs. Talbot	Easy Bake Oven	Pascale Toussaint	Instant Camera 9
Mr. Luong	Star Wars Lightsabers	Oakley Garrison	Russell Westbrook Jersey
Ms. DeP	Cabbage Patch Kid	Annabelle Schafer	Baby Monkey Cradle set
Mr. Beriau	Skateboard	Marczyanna latino-davis	ukulele
Ms. deCastro	Etch-A-Sketch	Jusinia Hylton	Sea Monkeys
Ms. Fiore	Playskool Kitchen	Ashlee Fake	3Ds
Mr. Browne	N64	Ariana Verdini	Polaroid camera and MONEY hoodies
Ms. Cady	A microscope set	Jordan Chapman	Razor Riprider 360 Drift Trike
Mrs. Gray	Strawberry Shortcake dolls	Andrew Connett	My electric guitar
Mrs. Courtright	Barbie Dream House	Chassidy Sheffield	My Huge Giraffe
Mme. Stover	Cowgirl outfit (might even have a picture...)	Angelina Watts	Phone
Mrs. Conway-Fenn	Spirograph	Riya Patel	A switch
Mrs. Strickland	Magic 8 Ball and ice skates	Erik Wtulich	My computer/ Spongebob cup thing
Jack Barie	My Xbox One!	Liz Sisalima	My phone
Benjamin Kellogg	My first phone!	Sakhi Patel	Stuffed animal tiger
Lizzie Rix	My First Hula Hoop	Julia Mielguj	Hilton Head Surf Lesson and Phone
Charles Bacon	Beats	Gillian Chase Riley	Nintendo switch
Mia Buzon	Keyboard	Ethan Peterson	Easy Bake Oven
Gracie Peil	My first bike	Adrianna Houle	Hotwheels(4-7)NintendoSwitch(12+)
Raziel Cruz:	First phone	Henry Thorndike	Toy kitchen (younger)/ phone (older)
Cat McKenna	\$100 swim outlet gift card	Jessica Helal	Nerf gun and my Nintendo switch
Aiden Choi	Nintendo Switch	Julianna Dsouza	Little Tykes Cozy Coupe Car
Alani Farris	piano	A'mya henry	Snowboard
Ben Claspell	Hoverboard last year	Chase Beyus	Hot Wheels Set or Wii
Trinity Sweat	I got my first ever bike	Andy Beck	My Xbox One S and my Ipod
		Cole Faulkner	electric Legos
		Jesse Diaz-Caragena	toy plane
		Mr. Martinez	

Name _____

Date _____



CHRISTMAS TREE

ADDING CHALLENGE 6

- Each number is the total of the two numbers below it.
- Find a solution for each of the trees below! There are many possibilities!

The four trees and their target numbers are:

- Top-left tree: Target number 48
- Top-right tree: Target number 100
- Bottom-left tree: Target number -25
- Bottom-right tree: Target number -6.8