

# December 2021



## Current Events

By Anabelle Q., & Aryan C.

Christmas is rapidly approaching and we can finally get back together with our loved ones in a safe manner. Many kids will have the joy of opening presents and sipping hot cocoa. Although we have this holiday in full swing again, there are still mandates to be followed:

First of all, children ages five and older are encouraged to get the vaccine and wear a mask when possible. Next, if you are having an indoor party, open windows to let fresh air in instead of it getting stuffy. Finally, have a good time, even though Christmas is not the same, that doesn't mean you shouldn't have fun. After all, you are going to be spending time with family and friends, boys and girls of all ages. Also, not all people will get to experience Christmas with all gifts. Some people around the world don't have enough money to experience the same things we do. So, we should be grateful for the things we have and get.

This Christmas we hope everyone is safe and has a great time. "Christmas doesn't come from a store. Maybe Christmas perhaps means a little bit more." - Dr. Seuss

## Q & A

**We ask the questions and you give the answers...**

**By: Ashley S., Ananya K., Kalin G., and Jenna B.**

**Kindergarten:** Do you celebrate Christmas? If so, how?  
Answer: Brinkley said cheerfully, "Yes, I celebrate by decorating and eating gingerbread cookies."

**1st grade:** How many presents do you want?  
Answer: Riley S. stated, "I want a ton because I love presents!"

**2nd grade:** What holiday do you celebrate in December?  
Answer: Alessandra A. said, "I celebrate Christmas."

**3rd grade:** Did you help decorate your classroom?  
Answer: Twinkle C. stated, "Yes, I helped by putting up the lights."

**4th grade:** Are you going to do Secret Santa this year?  
Answer: Valencia S. said, "No, but we made ornaments and gingerbread houses."

**5th grade:** Are you going to do any fun class Christmas projects? If so, which one are you most excited about?  
Answer: Naina K said, "Yes! I am mostly excited about the class party and our buddy get-together and movie day."

**6th grade:** Does your family do anything fun for Christmas? Do you have a special tradition?  
Answer: Aseem P. said, "I go to my grandma's house every year and she bakes cookies and celebrates with her!"

**Teacher question:** Do you have any fun things planned to do with your students on the last week? Maybe Secret Santa?

Answer: 1st grade teacher, **Mrs. Castillo** said, "There are going to be buddy activities, watch a movie in our pj's, and there are going to be donuts."

## Fun Facts & Jokes

By, Aryan C., Ayannah M., Kalin G.,  
Lillian L., & Anabelle Q.

### Jokes:

why did the football player go to the bank?  
To get his quarter back!

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why did Rudolph get bad grades?  
Because he went down in history!

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why did the orange lose the race?  
Because it ran out of juice!

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where do boats go when they are sick?  
To the dock.

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what do you call a pencil with two erasers?  
Pointless!

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what do you call a boomerang that doesn't come back?  
A stick

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what do you call a cow with no legs?  
Ground Beef!

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### Riddles

Q what month of the year has 28 days?

A All of them

Q what question can you not answer yes to?

A Are you asleep yet?

Q what is always in front of you but can't be seen?

A The Future

Q what has 30 legs when walking backwards, 20 legs when walking forward, and 29 hands?

A nothing

Q what goes up but doesn't come down?

A Your age

Q The more there is, the less there you see, what is it?

A Darkness

Q what is 3/7 chicken, 2/7 cat and 2/7 goat?

A Chicago.

## Special Spotlight

Silver Oak holds a special place in many people's hearts. Every month, we'll talk to someone affiliated with Silver Oak.

We at Silver Oak are a diverse bunch! Our diversity is one of the many things that make us so special. We thought it would be fun to learn about different celebrations that are practiced by families at Silver Oak.

**Christmas-** Christmas is celebrated on December 25th. It is a **holiday to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ**, who, according to the Christian religion, is the Son of God. The name is a joining of "Christ" and "mass" which means the holy mass of Christ. Many people celebrate Christmas by buying gifts for their loved ones and awaiting the arrival of Santa Claus!

**Hanukah-** Hanukkah (also spelled Chanukah) is a Jewish holiday that lasts for eight nights, usually in November or December. The rich history and tradition that goes along with the Jewish festival is also known as the Festival of Lights or the Feast of Dedication. The holiday celebrates the rededication of the Holy Temple in Jerusalem following the Maccabean revolt against the Syrian-Greek army. One of the most sacred rituals during Hanukah is lighting the menorah every night for 8 nights.

**Kwanzaa-** Beginning December 26 and lasting for seven days, Kwanzaa is a celebration of community, family and culture, established as a means to help African Americans reconnect with their African roots and heritage. There are 7 principles of Kwanzaa which are unity, self-determination, collective work and responsibility, cooperative economics, purpose, creativity, and faith.

**Diwali-** Diwali is one of India's biggest festivals. The word 'Deepawali' means rows of lighted lamps. It is a **Festival of Lights** and Hindus celebrate it with joy. During this festival, people light up their houses and shops with Diyas, small cup-shaped oil lamps made of baked clay.

**Ramadan-** Ramadan is the most important month in the Islamic calendar. It serves as a reminder of the month when the Qur'an (the Muslim holy book) was first revealed to the Prophet Muhammed "Peace Be Upon Him". During this month, Muslims are not allowed to eat or drink from sunrise to sunset. This is called fasting.

**Lunar New Year-** For many Asian communities around the world, Lunar New Year is the most important and most festive holiday of the year. Today, all over the world, streets are filled with the sounds of firecrackers and seasonal greetings. The celebration is also believed to be significant to ensure good fortune for the coming year.