

Pathfinder

DECEMBER 2023



GOLDEN WEST STUDENTS SHARE ABOUT THEIR SIGNIFICANT CULTURAL WINTER HOLIDAYS

- For New Years we stay up and sometimes eat out or make good food at home. **Jesus Camaras** (junior)
- I celebrate Day of Mary on December 12, Christmas Eve, Christmas, and Día de los Reyes on January 6. These holidays are really important to being Catholic, and Mexican-American. **Myrijham Anguo Beltran** (senior)
- I celebrate Christmas, New Year, and also Día de los Reyes Magos. They're important for me because of the time I get to spend with my family celebrating these holidays. **Valerie Jurado Sanchez** (senior)
- Lahu New Years is a cultural holiday where family gets together, which is a very important time to us. **Khloey See-Keovilay** (freshman)
- Christmas is important to my heritage and culture because it's a reminder of The Savior and how He sacrificed Himself for us, which is a big part of our religion. **Hannah Mellow** (freshman)
- Christmas is an important holiday in my family because it gathers all of the family together and just shows how much we all care for each other. **Evelynn DeAnda** (sophomore)
- Christmas celebrates the birth of Jesus Christ, and Three Kings Day represents the three kings that brought gifts to baby Jesus. **Diego Vazquez** (freshman)
- Celebrations connect me not only to my culture, but to my religion as well, along with the traditions in my family. Because I come from a family of musicians. **Sebastian Salas** (senior)
- I celebrate Christmas, New Years, and Día de la Virgen. They are important to my heritage because they are traditional. **Antonio Villalvazo** (junior)
- I celebrate Christmas and New Years. These holidays are important because they bring my family together. **Wiley Pratt** (junior)
- Christmas is important to my religion because of the meaning behind it. **Joshua Weldon** (junior)



CULTURAL WINTER HOLIDAYS

- St. Nicholas Day** - Dec. 5 / 6
- Immaculate Conception Day** - Dec. 8
- Bodhi Day** - Dec. 8
- Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe** - Dec. 12
- St. Lucia Day** - Dec. 13
- Hanukkah** - Dec. 18-26
- Yule** - Dec. 21-Jan. 21
- Christmas** - Dec. 25
- Boxing Day** - Dec. 26
- Kwanzaa** - Dec. 26-Jan. 1
- Zarathosht Diso** - Dec. 26
- New Year's Eve** - Dec. 31
- Omisoka** - Dec. 31
- Three Kings Day** - Jan. 6



LEARN SOMETHING NEW ABOUT HERITAGE

Saint Nicholas Day is celebrated yearly on December 6 in many European countries, usually by filling stockings and shoes that children leave out overnight.

Bodhi Day is a Buddhist holiday celebrated on December 8th. It is most commonly celebrated by East Asia's Buddhist Mahayana traditions found in Japan, Korea, and Vietnam. During this holiday, many people perform acts of kindness and generosity.

Hanukkah is a Jewish holiday celebrated in the winter, usually in December. It celebrates the victory of the Maccabees over the larger Greek army. It is celebrated for eight days, and is one of the most popular Jewish religious observances. This year Hanukkah is December 7-15.

Yule falls on the winter solstice, which occurs yearly on December 21 or 22. With roots in the Roman celebration of Saturnalia, Yule marks the start of winter. The holiday was eventually extended to span 12 days between the winter solstice and the new year.

Kwanzaa is celebrated December 26-January 1st. During the holiday, families and communities eat together, honor their ancestors, and celebrate African and African American culture. Each day celebrants light a candle that represents one of 7 principles: unity, self-determination, collective work and responsibility, cooperative economics, purpose, creativity, and faith.



ENJOY WINTER BREAK

Enjoy celebrating your culture, heritage, and traditions during winter break!

Come back to school safe and rested Monday, January 8, 2024.



WHAT DO WINTER CELEBRATIONS MEAN TO GOLDEN WEST STAFF?

Christmas and New Years Eve holidays are a time for traditions and togetherness. **Mrs. Hall, Science teacher**

We celebrate Christmas and New Year's Day (with a jump in the pool at midnight)! The holiday times have always been a time for family, whether we're eating, hanging out watching movies, or just enjoying quiet time together. **Mr. Pasquini, Assistant Principal**

New Years is important because it's a moment to remember the past and to wish for a greater future. **Mr. Campos, Spanish teacher**

During New Year's Eve, my dad's family would make tamales, and on January 6th, my family would celebrate Armenian Christmas. In the Armenian culture, this is when they thought the three wise men arrived in Bethlehem. **Ms. Rubio, counselor**

Christmas is important to me because it celebrates the birth of Jesus, our Savior, and the hope that He gives, which is an important part of my Christian belief. **Ms. Watson, Education Specialist**

