

MONTHLY MUSTANG

West University Elementary School

What Holiday Do Kids Like Most?

By Kelsey Yip

Yay! It's finally the new year! 2022, here we come! Holidays are going to come again. I was wondering what holiday West U students like most, so I took a survey on "What holiday do kids like most?"

I asked eighty-four people, and the results were VERY surprising. I gave them four options. The options were Thanksgiving, Halloween, Valentine's Day, and Christmas. I chose these holidays because they are usually the most popular. Zero people chose Thanksgiving. How crazy! Maybe because students don't like turkey!

Valentine's Day got four votes. Many students said it's the best because you get mini toys, candy, and sweet cards. Halloween got five votes. And many of the students who chose Halloween obviously (cont. on page 2)

Keystone Ski Resort

By Lila Cooley



Over Thanksgiving Break, my family went to Keystone, Colorado to go skiing. We stayed in a condo in a cute, little village that was next to the mountain. Here are some tips if your family ever decides to go to Keystone:

1. If you are skiing on the first day and there is a banner that says, "No Beginner Terrain Beyond This Point," do not go on it because it might be more than you expect. It will likely be icy and more difficult than you imagine. You might want to try it later in the trip, but I recommend not trying it on the first day.

2. There are many fun lifts and ski runs at Keystone. There are trails for all levels: green is the easiest, blue is more difficult, and black is the most difficult. My favorite run is Spring Dipper. It is a blue trail, and it is long and fun!

3. There are two really fun playgrounds that you can visit. There is one that is Old Western-themed, and the other one is a normal playground. They are both great! To make it funny, the Old Western-themed playground has a pretend jail with bent bars, so it looks like the person escaped. This is a great spot for funny pictures. It has two levels (Continue on page 2)

Houston Children's Chorus

By Brayden Lim

The Houston Children Chorus is for singers from second to eighth grade. The chorus was founded in 1989 by Stephen Roddy. "Mr. Steve" still runs the chorus today. The mission of the chorus is to teach children to achieve multi-cultural understanding through choral singing and performance. Over the years, the chorus has had 1,600 performances and over 5,800 chorus members. The chorus has performed in front of the president twenty-eight times and has sung at professional sporting events.

You can join the chorus by auditioning for it during the summer. For my audition, I had to sing My Country, 'Tis of Thee, clap out beats, and match pitch. It wasn't too hard.

I started choir this fall.



(Cooley, cont. from page 1) to explore, and it also has a fun slide.

4. There are some awesome hot tubs and a heated pool that I recommend you visit. To make the walk less cold from the condos, I recommend that you take the underground parking garages to get there.

5. If you have time to check out the village, you should stop at The Crepe Stand. There are so many crepes—sweet and savory, you name it! They are also very messy, but very delicious!

6. Since Keystone is pretty close to some other ski resorts, you could easily drive to some of them. Some places we went were Breckenridge and Vail because they were relatively close to Keystone.

These are just some tips about Keystone. You don't have to follow them, but they might help your family to have a fun ski trip!

(Yip, continued from page 1)

said something like "Halloween is so much fun. Candy! Candy! Candy!"

Christmas got seventy-six votes, and that is a lot of votes. Everybody who chose Christmas said something like "During Christmas time, you get to spend time with your family and friends, and also get lots of gifts." Here is a picture of the Holiday Graph which shows all the votes.



(Lim, cont. from page 2) There are two choirs: Preparatory Choir (grades 2-3) and Concert Choir (grades 4-8). We have practice once a week for two or three hours. We practice to get ready for concerts. This year, I've already had two performances. The performances were at a wedding and at a brunch. We are currently preparing for our Christmas concert.

I've enjoyed being part of the chorus. I have learned how to sing better by staying on pitch and by opening my mouth wider. If you are interested in joining the Children's Chorus, talk to me.

Escape The Rooms Review

By Milo Jenq

There were 8 of us. We were trapped in a tiny theater with a stage and several rows of seats with puppets in display cases. We needed to escape in 60 minutes. The four puppets on stage were hungry, and our mission was to give them sandwiches so we could escape. Where could the clues be? As soon as the game master announced that the time had begun, everyone started running around the room like headless chickens with their arms in the air screaming, "AHHHHHHHHHHH!" I felt trapped and anxious. We were in a race with time itself. I started looking for possible clues in the least obvious places. The first clue was at a box office window near the entrance...

Escape room is a game where you and your group have to escape from a room, typically within 60 minutes. It became popular in the 2010s. Escape the room clues include riddles, mathematics, and puzzles involving physical objects such as chess or matchsticks. Some rooms in Houston are The Rec Room, The Theater, The Dig, Outbreak, The Agency, The Apartment, and Jurassic Escape. During your struggle to escape, if you get stuck, you can ask for hints. You shouldn't freak out, because then you will make your

teammates freak out, and everyone will run out of time. If your team fails to escape in time, don't

worry; you're not trapped forever. The game master will let you out, although in shame. Better luck next time!

We chose "The Theater" because it was the newest room. We successfully managed to unlock the room with only 34 seconds to spare! The fastest time someone escaped The Theater was an impressive 29 minutes! Escape rooms are fun, cooperative, and competitive games for families and friends, and they are great team-building experiences.



Do you think YOU can escape?

Alaska by Sea and Air

By Gavin Terrazas

For this summer break, my family got to go to Alaska. It was a complete blast! Two of the most fun parts of my trip were when I got to take a ride on a boat and a plane. If you are ever looking for two fun but unusual things to do, I absolutely recommend (Continue on page 4) (Terrzas, cont. from page 3). those, and there is no better place to do this than Alaska, the last Frontier!!!!

Let me start with the sea part of my adventure. My family hired a guide to take us on a tour of the ocean. Soon, I would be standing on the front of a boat with water splashing across my face! I learned a lot and saw a lot of things. As soon as we started our ride across the open sea, my mom decided to go out in the front of the boat, and, a little while later, my little brother Evan joined her. It looked like so much fun that I decided to join them too, and it was a complete blast! From the front of the boat, it felt like we were going supersonic, and we felt the water fly into our faces!

Looking back from the boat, we could see a part of town that was sort of bare. Our guide explained to us that once there had been a lot of stuff there including a railroad. So, what happened? Well, there was a tsunami. A tsunami is a huge wave caused by earthquakes, and this part of town had suffered one. They rebuilt the town, but they never put a ton of stuff there because building it alone took a lot of money and repairing

it also took a lot of money. They didn't want to go through that again, which I'm sure we can all understand.

Soon, we saw an iceberg. Icebergs are giant chunks of ice floating around the ocean. This iceberg was a beautiful shade of blue. Some time later, we saw a family of sea lions resting out on a chunk of ice. My family and I used binoculars to get a closer look at these sea lions. A few minutes later, they flopped back into the sea and swam away. As we rode farther, we got a brief glimpse at an orca whale and her baby as they

came up for air. Pretty soon, we saw a very small island covered with birds. It's amazing how many animals the ocean has. Then, we rode back to the dock. The ride back to the dock was really fun! My brother, mom, and I rode out in front of the boat. We could feel the water splash into my face, and it felt like we

were going really, really fast! That was one of the most fun times of my life, and I didn't want it to end!

A few days later, we hired a man named Chris to fly us on his plane to an island that also doubled as a state park, and it was an island that was a huge bear habitat. When we got onto the plane, Chris told us to put on a pair of headphones so we could communicate with each other over the noise. I got to sit up in the front, and, a few minutes later, Chris asked me if I wanted to fly the plane using the other yoke on my side that was used for somebody who was training to be a pilot. (Continue on page 5)



(Terrazas, cont, from page 4)I said yes, and I started flying the plane! It was a blast, and all I needed to do was turn the yoke!

The ride was too short, but I had no idea that what I later nicknamed Bear Island was going to be so cool. We landed on a beach, which was fun, and later we went to an observation deck and a whole tour group was standing there. But that wasn't even the cool part. The cool part was that the tour group could only look from there, but we got to explore the island!!!! (Continue on page 5) Soon, we saw a sleeping bear. I named it Snoozehead. Very soon, we got about ten feet away from Snoozehead. We were so close it felt like I could reach out and touch it. We also got to see bears clamming, which means that they were digging to find clams to eat them. We also saw a mom bear and her two cubs! The ride back was just as fun as the first one! I got to fly the plane again, and I still treasure those memories.

I hope you enjoyed my story about my sea and sky adventures. I hope you visit Alaska soon, and when you do, remember to have fun in the last Frontier!!!!

New Year's Around the Globe

By: Alice Kate Allison



New York City New Year's Celebration

New Year's is a special celebration on every continent, and it's different everywhere you go.

Now, let's travel. In North America, New York City is the symbol for celebration. They drop a giant ball in Times Square, and people watch around the country on TV. Americans also love a countdown to the New Year. Americans also like to make New Year's resolutions, but they don't always keep them. I hope you like New Year's in North America.

Now, let's celebrate South America! Some traditions include eating twelve grapes, singing carols, wearing white, and cleaning the house. South Americans sure are busy.

Now, let's travel across the Atlantic to Europe. It's a long journey, so buckle up! For good fortune in the New Year, you need to drop a gold object in your champagne glass (like a ring). Then, you toast and retrieve it. At midnight in Spain, you eat twelve green grapes for every strike of the clock.

Now, let's travel to Asia. It is a pretty short trip, so let's go. In China, New Year's activities include putting up decorations, eating family reunion dinners, offering sacrifices to ancestors, fireworks, and red envelopes and gifts.

We are almost done; now let's travel to Africa. They have amazing dinners, drinks, and dances. There are also fireworks and a countdown to midnight. Finally, the church bell declares it is officially New Year's. They sure are party animals.

Last, but not least, let's travel to the smallest continent and country, Australia. They celebrate with fireworks and by barbecuing sausage steak and lamb. Not much celebration, but still okay! (Continue on page 6)

(Allison, cont. from page 5) I know we didn't do Antarctica, but no one celebrates New Year's there. Hopefully, you learned New Year's! The next time you visit a new country, you will understand their New Year!

Battle of the Month

By Sam Atha

Hi, my name is Sam, and I like the history of battles. You have probably heard of the battles of Pearl Harbor and D-Day, but have you heard of the Battle of New Orleans? Let me tell you about it.

The Battle of New Orleans was the last important battle of the War of 1812. The battle was in New Orleans—as you might have guessed. The battle occurred on January 8, 1815. The battle was between the United States and Great Britain. Great Britain thought that taking over New Orleans would help them invade the United States in a new way. The United States had just recently completed the Louisiana Purchase from France, and Great Britain saw value in taking the port city and claiming access to the Mississippi River.

What is strange is that the battle should have never happened. The United States and Great Britain signed a treaty between the two countries to end the war, but the battle happened anyway because neither side knew yet.

There were 4,500 American troops. Some were slaves, some were pirates, and some were militia. One notable fighter was the French pirate Jean Lafitte.

These men were commanded by Andrew Jackson. Jackson's men fought against 8,000 trained British soldiers. The British tried to

sneak in using the fog as cover, but the fog evaporated making them visible. The Americans' heavy military weapons gave them an advantage, and they caused the British to lose over 2,000 men, including ten commanders in just over thirty minutes. The British retreated and boarded their ships to go back to the Gulf of Mexico.

When Great Britain retreated, the sounds of Yankee Doodle rang through the streets.



Andrew Jackson became popular, and he later ran for and won the presidency.

I hope you learned something.

Sources:

www.history.com/topics/war-of-1812/battle-of-new-orleans

www.nationalgeographic.org/media/battle-new-orleans

New Year Poem

By Valentina Di Fiori



It's a brand-new year,

I'm so happy it's here.

It's 2022

We have so much to look forward to.

It's time for us to celebrate with happiness and joy

Fireworks explode,

resembling all our hope.

I wish you all the best,

new adventures await you next.

Book Reviews



Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Big Shot

By Alexander Kim

Are you one of the many kids who enjoys reading Diary of a Wimpy Kid? The Diary of a Wimpy Kid series has been on The New York Times Best Seller List for Children's Series for 665 weeks (as of December 15, 2021)! The latest book in the series, Book 16, is Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Big Shot, which was released on October 26, 2021.

Big Shot starts with Greg Heffley (the Wimpy Kid) wanting something, as usual. He wants to get better at sports. The first reason is

Field Day. If your homeroom wins Field Day, then your homeroom gets a day off from school. That raised the stakes because the reward four year ago was only free ice cream at lunch. After Field Day (when he did get a day off, despite his class not winning), his parents kept on pushing him to do more sports. So, he chose basketball. He gets on a school basketball team and practices, but they lose every game they play. After these losses, his mom takes charge of the group, and they go to a basketball tournament, called the Second Chance Tournament, where only teams that lost every game come to play. The tournament is unusual, though, because the teams that win go home and the teams that lose stay in. Then, a lot more basketball commences, and some celebrations occur, and then it is the end.



I would give this book four out of five stars. To me, the book was not a slam dunk (pun intended) in terms of enjoyment. It has a slow start compared to the other books in the Wimpy Kid series. It focuses on sports too much for my taste. For example, it starts with everything about Field Day and ends with a ton of basketball. What's up with that?!?

I recommend this book to people who like laughs and who love the Diary of a Wimpy Kid series. It may not be as good as the other books in the series, in my opinion, but it is still a good book and an easy read. I hope you will take a chance and read this entertaining book soon. The next book in the Diary of a Wimpy Kid series will be released in July or August 2022.

Book review on The School for Good and Evil Series (Book 1)

By Willa Castle



Do you like stories filled with action, adventure, magic, and romance? Do you like series like Harry Potter and Percy Jackson? If so, I'd like to highly recommend The School for Good and Evil Book 1. This book series is written by award-winning author Soman Chainani, who is a Harvard graduate.

This book is mainly about two main characters, Agatha and Sophie. They are best friends with COMPLETELY different personalities. They live in Gavaldon, a tiny and run-down town far away from modern civilization and close to the woods. It is a dark land where many creatures roam, and it is the only barrier between Gavaldon and The School For Good And Evil.

Sophie dresses with pretty pink dresses and glass slippers, but she cares too much about being beautiful. She loves to wear makeup and seriously dislikes "ugly things."

Agatha, on the other hand, has black frocks and wears shoes called clumps. She is not nearly as fashionable as her friend Sophie and dislikes nearly everyone! She loves her pet cat, Reaper, who is wrinkled with no fur! (He might seem unimportant now, but becomes a key character near the end of Book 5). Agatha is also considered "Evil" by almost everyone in Gavaldon.

Everybody knows that they will be the ones taken to go to The School for Good and Evil, where ordinary kids train there to become fairy-tale legends. So why don't you join them on their journey and read the series to experience the magic yourself?

Book Review: The Golden Compass

By Maria Neata

In this classic novel, Philip Pullman might not have a compass, but without a doubt, he struck gold. The story follows a young girl by the name of Lyra Belaqua. She has a normal life until rumors start about a mysterious society, but she doesn't believe them, until she is thrown in the middle of it. This is a page-turning book filled with mystery, bravery, and plot twists at every corner. It is guaranteed to keep even the laziest of readers up all night.

Lyra lives in a world unlike ours. In this universe, a person's soul lies inside of an animal. They can talk to each other, understand each other, and feel the same pain. These animals are called daemons, and they shapeshift from one form to another until (Continue on page 9)



(Neata, cont. from page 8) you are an adult, which is when they permanently settle. Lyra and her daemon, Pantalaimon, were brought to Jordan College before her parents died. They grew up there, and Lyra and her best friend, Roger, were the exact definition of mischievous. They had the utmost fun together until Lyra's uncle, Lord Asriel, visited. She admired him deeply for he was a famous explorer, and she yearned to voyage with him to the North.

Despite her uncle's promises, she is left behind when he leaves. But Lyra has bigger problems to face. Rumors about a mysterious organization called the Gobblers are everywhere. Word has it, they kidnap children, but she doesn't believe it until Roger goes missing. She is set on finding him, but she is distracted by a beautiful lady who comes to meet Lyra at Jordan. The lady lures Lyra with promises of many adventures and with help finding Roger. Before she leaves, Lyra receives a final gift from the headmaster—one she must protect with her life. However, Lyra is absolutely delighted to go into the world, and she leaves Jordan College with the beautiful lady. Life with the woman is too good to be true, literally. Soon, Lyra discovers a horrible secret, and she flees.

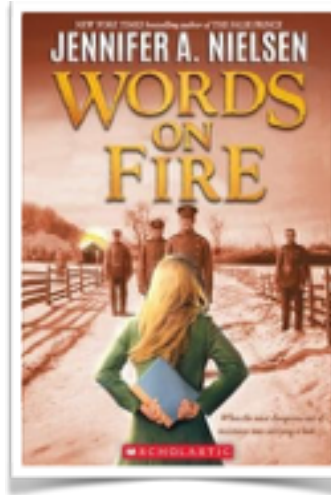
Lyra and Pantalaimon forge long-lasting alliances, fight terrible foes, and face unbearable sacrifice. They will have to summon their bravery, fight with wisdom and strength, and, most importantly, harbor the secret that holds the key to the universe. The whole world depends on them.

By far, this is one of the best books I've ever read, and I believe this is something everyone should experience. It takes you to a whole new world, and you'll never want to come back. I rate this book five stars only because that's the highest you can go. This is a must-read, and I guarantee

that you'll cry when it's over. Don't miss out on the adventure and start as soon as you can.

Book Review: Words on Fire

By Keira Thomas



Words on Fire is an adventurous book, and it has a big twist at the end. It is mainly about a girl named Audra trying to help her parents, who got arrested for carrying cultural books about Lithuanians. After being arrested, her parents were sent to Siberia in the

freezing winter. Audra tries to make the Lithuanian books from her culture legal. She meets a friend named Lucas and Rose. Lucas's dad was the one who arrested her parents and made the Lithuanian culture illegal. Also, Audra meets a man, who tries to stop Audra from getting caught carrying Lithuanian books because he wants to protect her. The man turns out to be Audra's grandfather. Audra is helped by many people to keep her books. I enjoyed reading this book, but I wish the author wrote a sequel to continue the story. I hope you enjoyed my book review.

RESTAURANT REVIEWS

Armando's Restaurant Review

By Gibson Allison

Armando's is a Tex-Mex restaurant located on 2630 Westheimer Road in Houston, Texas. When you walk in, you see a picture of Armando himself. The food is very good. My favorite food



there is the chicken soft taco. On the plate, there are two tacos with three toppings: queso, guacamole, and pico de gallo.

I recommend getting the rice and beans on the

side. The beans are homemade.

The beans have bacon in it, which is why I like them. They serve Mexican rice with corn on it. The tortillas are nice and fluffy. They are not cold and are not too hot.

My favorite waiter is Manny, and he is a really nice person. I give it five Gibsons.

2021 Nintendo Games Recap

By Samuel Arroyo and Alexander Beddar

2021 is over, so we decided to review four of the best Nintendo games released during 2021. Our review includes a summary of the game's elements, and we also discuss what we think is good about the game and what we believe to be not so good. We ranked the game just in case you decide to try the best of 2021 (see chart below). We hope you enjoy reading as much as we did writing it.



Game Name	Release Date	Price \$	Rank	Games Elements	The Good	The Bad
WarioWare Get it Together	Sep-21	49.99	4.0	This is an Action/Party game. The Wario gang get trapped in Wario's Game and must play many microgames to get out. Game also includes new and old microgames from other WarioWare games. The game allows users to choose your characters for each level. The objective of the game is to gather Pokémon pictures. Then a professor rates the pictures and give you points. You are a Pokémon trainer that needs to go throughout several worlds. Each world has different landscape. The new version of the game include new landscapes. The new landscapes are more vibrant than first game. Landscapes have a lot more color which fits the game. There are new types of Pokémon. Example: Scorbunny.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Every character has a power. It has a story mode. It's 4 player in multiplayer. There is a Leaderboard Online or offline. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Price seems excessive for a game that only allows you to play microgames. Games do not allow you to use Nintendo's motion controls. The game story is very short.
New Pokémon Snap	Apr-21	59.99	4.9		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Very good graphics than other games. Pokémon's animations are really good. The game is really colorful and will put you in a good mood. Simplicity of the game. Just capture Pokémon on pictures. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Too much money for a game of taking pictures of Pokémon.
Pokémon Brilliant Diamond and Shining Pearl	Nov-21	59.99	4.5	This is an Adventure RPG game where you catch Pokémon and complete your Pokedex, and try to become the best Pokémon trainer. You will also encounter a mysterious organization called Team Galactic and defeat them to save the world.	<p>This is a remake of Pokémon Diamond and Pearl from the Nintendo DS. The remake has new features including an update for the underground called the grand underground. In the grand underground, you can explore and find fossilized Pokémon. Using the fossilized Pokémon, you can make a secret hideout. There are also super contest shows where you, your Pokémon, and other Pokémon trainers have a dance battle. You can play super contest shows online or offline.</p> <p>This game is a remake of Super Mario 3D world from the Wii U, and some new features include a new game called Bowser's Fury, a whole different game from Super Mario 3D world, and multiplayer online. There are also new power-ups including the Giga bell, which turn you into a big cat to defeat Bowser.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are no new Pokémon in the remake and no new motion controls.
Super Mario 3D World Bowser's Fury	Feb-21	59.99	5.0	This game is an action platformer where you save the sprines from Bowser's duties in Super Mario 3D world. In Bowser's Fury, you have to stop Bowser from getting mad and destroying everything.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Super Mario 3D world it's not an open-world game, but Bowser's Fury is.



INTERVIEWS



An Interview With Liam Duguid-2nd Grader

By Ethan Duguid

Q. What is the coolest place you have ever been, and why?

A. Florida, because I got to go on a speedboat.

Q. What is your least favorite and your favorite donut flavor?

A. My favorite is chocolate with rainbow sprinkles, and my least favorite is strawberry with no sprinkles.

Q. Is there a place you really want to travel? If so, why do you want to visit?

A. I want to go to LEGOLAND, California, because it sounds really cool.

Q. What is your favorite TV show? Would you recommend it to anyone? Why?

A. I don't have a favorite; I like a lot of TV shows! The one I recommend is Camp Cretaceous. Why? It has a lot of dinos!

Q. What would you say is the most helpful thing in life, and why?

A. The Covid Vaccine, because you can go places unmasked safely.

An Interview with Mrs Mills

By Sydney DeFrehn

Q. Why did you choose to teach?

A. In second grade, my teacher Ms. Everite made an impact on my life and made me love school.

Q. How long have you been teaching?

A. This is my eighth year teaching.

Q. What is your favorite thing about teaching?

A. I love working with kids and seeing them grow



as

(DeFrehn, cont. from page 11)

B. individuals.

Q. What grades have you taught?

A. I have only taught fourth grade.

Q. Why do you like teaching fourth grade?

A. I love teaching this age group. They love school and I love their outgoing personalities.

Q. If you had to teach a different subject, what would it be?

A. I would teach Social Studies.

Q. If you had to get a class pet, what would it be?

A. I'll follow Ms. Stone's lead and get a stuffed animal that represents a bulldog.

Q. Was teaching your first career choice?

A. Yes. I've always wanted to be a teacher.

Q. Will Palmer go to West U?

A. I hope so.

Q. Once you retire, will you be a stay at home mom?

A. If I retire, it would be because I had more kids that need me at home.

I interviewed my science teacher, Mrs.

Pflugfelder, to see what she thinks about climate change and deforestation.

Q: What is climate change doing to rainforests?

A: The rainforests are being cut down, and that is affecting the planet Earth by not having a way for carbon to be absorbed by the trees. I have heard that the rainforests are Planet Earth's lungs!

Q: How do rainforests affect climate change?

A: The trees absorb extra carbon dioxide. Fewer trees, more carbon dioxide.

Q: Why are rainforests important to the environment and life on earth?

A: It's a habitat for wildlife and essential for so many biotic organisms. Rainforests intake a lot of carbon dioxide. Carbon dioxide is a greenhouse gas and contributes to climate change, which is warming up the globe.

Q: What is deforestation, and what is it doing to the environment?

A: Deforestation is the cutting down of the trees and eliminating a source of habitats and carbon absorption and oxygen release.

Climate Change and the Rainforest: Interview of Mrs. Pflugfelder

By Naomi Fan



(Fan, cont. from page 12)

Q: Why should deforestation be stopped?

A: It is eliminating a source of habitats.

Q: What can you do to help rainforests?

A: Support groups and organizations that support putting an end to deforestation of the rainforest. Help plant trees whenever and wherever possible.

You can support groups like the WWF, a.k.a. World Wildlife Fund. They protect all animals, especially endangered ones. You can also donate to Rainforest Concern, which is a British-based charity group protecting rainforests. Some little things you can do is just plant a tree where and when you can, go paperless at home or at school, or buy recyclable products and recycle them again. Doing this will help deforestation and rainforests even if it's just a small deed.

Teachers' New Year's Traditions

By Juliet Kuban

Everybody celebrates New Year's in different ways. For example, I stay up late and watch the ball drop. You may do the same thing, or it might be different and that's okay. You may wonder what some of the fourth-grade teachers do on New Year's Eve. Well, here is the answer.

Mrs. Leven: I will be visiting friends in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Mrs. Campbell: I plan to go out to dinner and dance with my husband.

Ms. Musgrove: I plan to hang out with friends and watch the ball drop.

Mrs. Taraba: This year, I plan to stay up late and be silly and play board games.

Ms. McIntyre: This year, I plan to go to my mom's house and eat black eyed peas, which "I don't really like," and do nothing.

Happy New Year's!!!



****I learned that one lights a bayberry candle when they see the first star light. It should stay lit through midnight. It is thought to bring good fortune to the house.**

What your Teachers do on New Year's Eve

By Coco Daniels

Welcome to 2022, a new year full of new opportunities and chances! But before that, it is New Year's Eve! Your traditions might be playing board games or staying up watching movies until the ball drops in Times Square. Whatever they may be, we've all had the funny moment when you see a teacher shopping at Kroger or bringing his or her kid to a playground during the holidays. Wouldn't you like to know what some of them might be doing on New Year's Eve?

Ms. Pflugfelder (5th): Simple can be special, so Ms. Pflugfelder celebrates New Year's Eve with her husband and an easy home-cooked dinner. Occasionally, they have friends over, and, for a couple years, they went to Austin to celebrate, but



there's no place better than home.

Ms. Westerman (4th): Ironically, the end of the year is the start of two new ones for Ms. Westerman. If you can believe it, her birthday is at the very end of the year, December 31st! Fireworks, staying up late until 12:00 A.M., and writing New Year's resolutions and a gift list would be a great way to celebrate the day you were born!

Mr. Malkemus (5th): This time of year, Mr. Malkemus is hanging with friends while watching fireworks of every color light up the night sky. And for some reason that I don't know, he will be hoping it is cold.

Ms. McIntyre (4th): Chilling with friends and family is the best. So when Ms. McIntyre hosts a party, it is sure to be a hit. So after gossiping until 10 pm, break out the old Scrabble and Monopoly board for the chance to win a free gift card! That's what Ms. McIntyre is doing this year!

Ms. Henderson (5th): Believe it or not, someone else has a birthday on New Year's Eve! She is Ms. Henderson's best friend. After celebrating with cake and kazoos, Ms. Henderson watches the ball drop on tv with her two adorable little girls. Thankfully, New York is one hour later, so they aren't going to bed too late.

Ms. Mills (4th): Some might say you should only stuff yourself on Thanksgiving, but you can do that on other holidays too. Inviting close friends over to eat a big dinner would be an amazing time. And that is what Ms. Mills does!

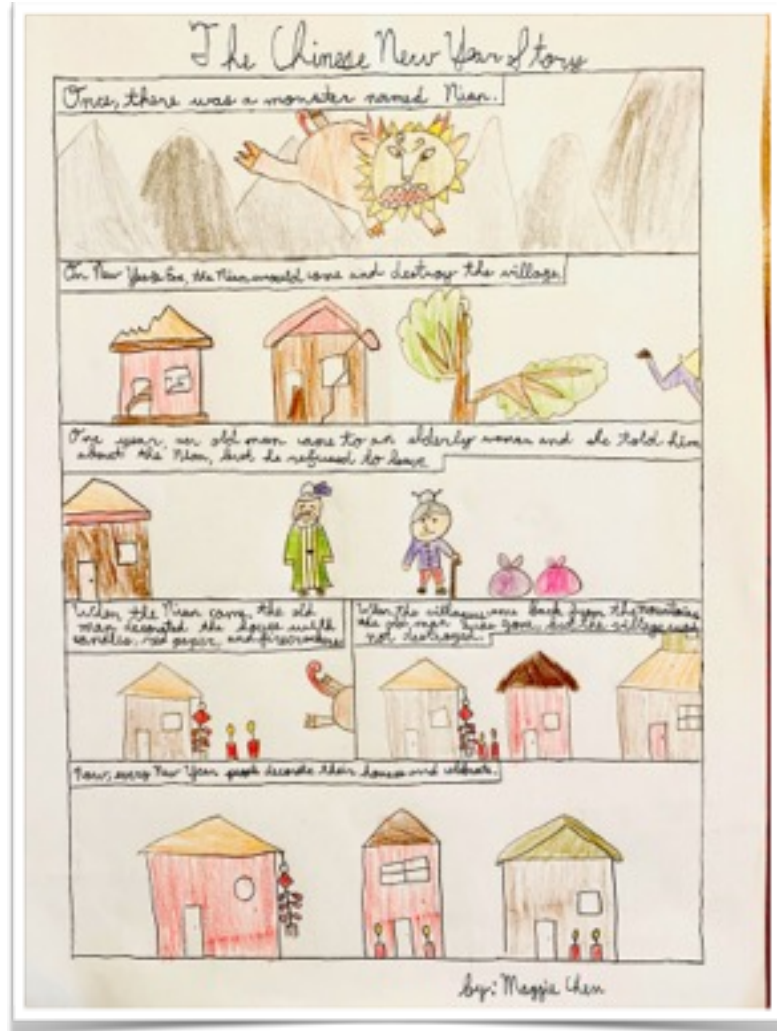




HAPPY NEW YEAR

By Yash Shivani

Happy New Year. It is the year 2022! New Years is celebrated in different parts of the world in different ways. In Spain the tradition is to eat 12 grapes, one for each midnight stroke. In Denmark people hold on to chipped dishes and glasses all year just for New Year's Eve. On New Year's eve they go to the homes of friends and smash them on their front doors. In Japan, New Year's Eve is celebrated by ringing bells 108 times in Buddhist temples. Every New Year Eve I go to friends and families' houses to enjoy a good meal and have a good time with friends and family. I wish you all a very Happy New Year.



January Word Search

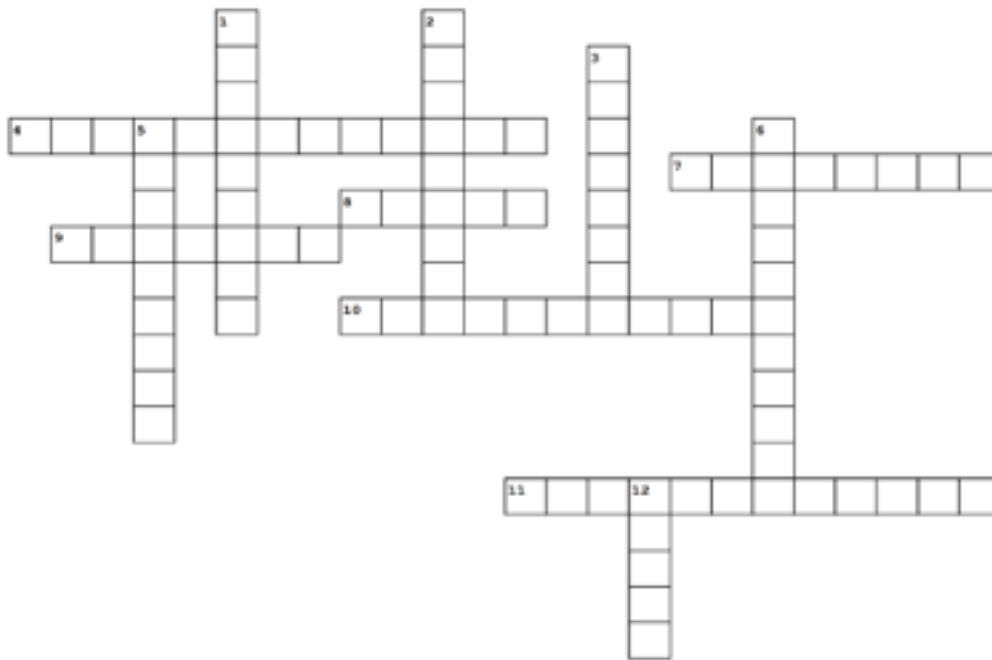
By Matthew Herman

V P D I P H M H K Z M X X S S W V K F B M E L N X P R O G J W
 L T I B S Z J G T U I O A S L P S Z Q J A M L E L J B A E G R
 V N G L U V S L S E S L D L Z U L Z X Z E F I S F X X C X R X
 H T U Y X J T I K S Y H M J O I D B Q J S L A Q O Q A F M U U
 W A M M W Q P D W Z Z T Z E D Y V Z R C F U K X Y H B K D A J
 M N B T V H C X I A H D F K K H H E S B U J E D Z Z Y B N P K
 N R D M Z B L P E I C S Y W L K E X I H M I K D Z S N B A R N
 C J W G V V G E L T A G R P S C O G Q P J E I E Q L U G R R A
 L H G U V T M S L O G N Z T M O X Q V Z T T O I Y R C H N S U
 F F M P K C W Y J K Q A W C H Q Q C D G Y V E A E P U N H Q E
 T G P E O S I R R K N W J J Z U O H G S Q Y T A A P F W G U N
 R J R K C O G G N W F O R S K R O F L I K Z R U N N U T I Q G
 C F J L U Y N D P E A E R L O Y U S G L Y P S V Q F L M Q Q S
 Y G L Z F R E R G O U T J D Z N H J O B Q I Z U S I Q U R A F
 C U G G F K W T V E Z G H D B L B Q W P X N B O S G M P T B N
 S O Y M I K M G R O N L N S O J E H R I F Z X N C L F Y J U B
 A O A D B R S R I P K N R P N N C P I Q Q E O Q Z E X U N N L
 N U E A V S X B O O D S N T B X G O G A C T H T P R S E U S W
 B F W T P H X I H G P D Q B W G E Y Q E E J Q O K R Y P U I L
 K R Y Y K T E V X W L S Q O G W D P P N R Y B Y R O N J D O C
 G S D A Z N Y J C H P N Y H P S T Y R X C U I P D A R F D I U
 W R P G A G U O M Z W F I R E Z Y E M L U S G N I N N I G E B
 K L K M L E W C W U Q E F H T Z T H X N X D R U A Q Q A E Z Z
 I N K L N L U T V G X F U D F N W G L M W L Y C R B L B R E A
 K R J Z W I Q M J L Z Z Z Q I K L T H M B T A M E B J E T L V
 D M P D N Q O L W K Z X N W T K J N L T M C C L D N M W D E J
 K T E B Z N R Y I P B Y J P L Z Z V M C H J Q H O M Z Y R L R
 S G Z K

Word Bank

Celebrations
 Fireworks
 Goals
 January
 Resolutions
 Winter
 Beginnings

New Year's Crossword Puzzle by Ana Sofia Munoz



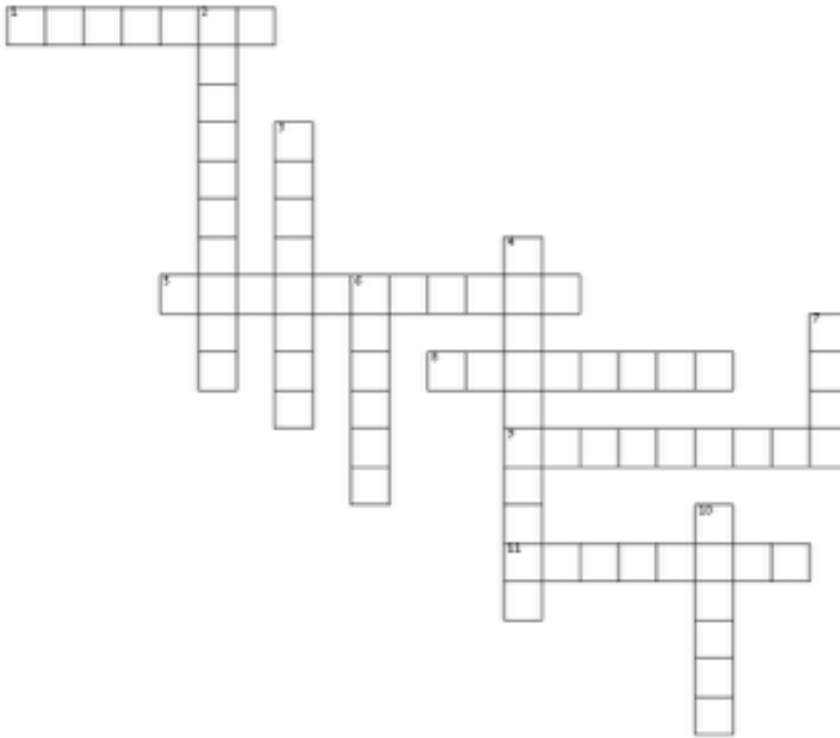
Down

1. It's time to
2. Post midnight colorful sky explosions
3. Time to celebrate
5. 10, 9 ,8, 7, 6, 5, 4 ,3, 2, 1
6. Where many gather in New Year's Eve in New York
12. Festivity starting with p

Across

4. Vegetable eaten in New Year's Eve for good luck
7. What a snowman does after New year's Party
8. 12 o'...
9. First month of the year
10. New year's pledges
11. What you say to others at midnight

New Year's puzzle
By: Jack Bridges



ACROSS

1. Is the first month of the year.
5. is where the New Years Eve ball drops.
8. The time when it turns to the new year.
9. Number of days in January.
11. The first holiday after Christmas.

DOWN

2. Is what we say we will do for the new year.
3. Things given by Santa that go under the Christmas tree.
4. Doing the same activities each year during the holidays.
6. Is a sport that is in the mountains during the winter.
7. Is where you lay your head.
10. People you spend the holidays with.