



Oak Grove Student Council | December 2021 Newsletter



A season of celebrations

Christmas, Hanukkah,
Kwanzaa take centerstage

By Eleanor Huang and Grace Shrestha

The holiday season is here, and with it comes the aroma of freshly baked cookies in the kitchen, holiday spirits, gift exchanges, and fun celebrations. This is the time to bask in the holiday spirit. So here are some highlights about these holidays, and recipes you can make in their honor.

Christmas

Christmas is a very popular holiday celebrated by millions around the world. Whether it is because of religion or just a fun tradition, this is still a holiday enjoyed by many. There are several ways to honor Christmas. While many celebrate Christmas with Santa Claus visiting us and leaving presents under a tree – as well as chugging down a glass of milk and a few cookies – not everyone celebrates that way. For example, “in [Iceland](#), capital city Reykjavik turns into a winter wonderland with its Christmas market; and for the children, there is not one but thirteen Santas, known as Yule Lads. One arrives each night in the thirteen days before Christmas, leaving small gifts in shoes left in window sills.” (WorldStrides, 2021).

Here is a donut recipe to enhance the Christmas spirit!

[Paczki \(Polish Donuts\) - Jo Cooks](#) (shown in the photo above, courtesy of www.jocooks.com/recipes/paczki/)





Hanukkah/Chanukah:

Hanukkah is also a very well-known holiday. It is celebrated for eight days and involves lighting and adding candles to the menorah. There is also a ninth candle that helps light the other eight candles. The reason why Hanukkah is celebrated is because when a man known as Judah Maccabee fought back against and won over the people who made him and others

change their religion, he relit the candelabrum that was supposed to be kept burning every night. However, although there was only enough olive oil for the candles to keep burning for one day, they burned for eight. A true miracle! That is why Hanukkah is celebrated. Here is a latkes recipe you should make to honor the Hanukkah spirit!

[Classic Potato Latkes Recipe - NYT Cooking](https://cooking.nytimes.com/recipes/1015533-classic-potato-latkes) (shown in the photo above, courtesy of cooking.nytimes.com/recipes/1015533-classic-potato-latkes)

Kwanzaa:

Kwanzaa is an annual celebration for African-American culture. It starts on December 26th and ends January 1st. It is a celebration of community, family, and culture so African Americans can reconnect with their roots and heritage.

Kwanzaa was created in 1966 by Dr.

Maulana Karenga. Here is a delicious candied yams recipe to celebrate Kwanzaa:

<https://www.allrecipes.com/recipe/26482/candied-yams/> (shown in the photo above, courtesy of www.allrecipes.com/recipe/26482/candied-yams/)



New Year's Day:

New Year's Day is an annual celebration of the old year passing and a new year beginning -- a chance for a fresh start. Many people make New Year's resolutions, which are goals you want to accomplish in the coming year. On New Year's Eve, many people stay up till midnight to ring in the new year. Did you know the first New Year was celebrated 4,000 years ago by the ancient Babylonians? In fact, Julius Caesar, the emperor of Rome, was the first to declare January 1 a national holiday. Here is a pizza fondue dip recipe to add to your celebration menu:

<https://www.bbcgoodfood.com/recipes/pizza-fondue-dip>

Students spread holiday cheer to local residents

By Karly Cservak and Amaya Siddique

On Saturday, Dec. 11, members of the Oak Grove Peer Mediation and Student Council groups made their annual visit to the Lutheran Care Center with advisor Mrs. Turpin-O to celebrate the holiday season with residents. By all accounts, it was wonderful experience.

According to Mrs. Turpin-O, students sang songs, did a little dancing, played instruments, and made gifts.

"The residents who live there were very thankful and said it brightened their holiday, and that we made their day," she said.

"I felt excited before going," said peer mediator and sixth grader Samantha Kirsch. However, she admitted that students were nervous when they arrived. "After singing and dancing, I felt thrilled."



Reading during the break is time well spent

By Eliana Haimowitz

Time spent during the winter break is likely to be filled by gadgets, games, and streaming videos. However, one of the best ways to pass the time is to read a good book. Making some time to read during the break is a great way to keep fluency and comprehension skills fresh before returning to school after the holidays. And if you're not careful, you must just learn something new. Here are some recommended titles:

Grades K-2

- . Fancy Nancy
- . Pete the Cat
- . Junnie B. Jones
- . The Best Chef
- . The Berenstain Bears
- . Grumpy Monkey
- . May I Please Have a Cookie?

Grades 3-6

- . Words on Fire - historical fiction
- . Warriors - fantasy
- . The Boundless - fantasy
- . The Girl Who Drank the Moon - fiction
- . A Night Divided - realistic fiction
- . Fever - historical fiction
- . Echo - historical fiction

- . Snow is Falling
- . First Grade, Here I Come!

- . The Girl in the Locked Room - mystery
- . WildWood - fantasy
- . Wings of Fire - fantasy

INTERVIEW WITH ...

Mrs. Johnson Cole

Library Media Specialist

1. Why did you become a teacher?

I became a teacher because I love working with and inspiring young people to read and explore their interests.

2. What is your favorite subject to teach? Why?

My favorite subject to teach is information literacy (how to access, evaluate, and use information efficiently and effectively). However, teaching students how to code using robots is also very high on my list.

3. What was your favorite subject in school? Why?

My favorite subject in school was probably English.

4. How do you motivate your students?

I motivate students by modeling the behavior that I wish to see in the classroom. If you are excited about a topic, there is a likelihood that your students will be excited about it as well.

5. What is your hidden talent?

My hidden talent is that I am a trained singer.

Interview by Shane Riley

Trait of the Month

The Trait of the Month for December is **Honesty**. Honesty is about being truthful and trustworthy with others. For example, let's say you find a five dollar bill on classroom floor. You are the only one who sees it. You know it is not yours. Maybe it is someone's lunch money. An honest person would let the teacher know right away so that the money can be returned to the rightful person. That's being honest.

Upcoming Events

The **Winter Break** is Dec. 24-Dec. 31.

School Spirit Day is Jan. 14.

School is closed Jan. 17 in observance of **Martin Luther King Jr. Day**.

Did You Know?

Did you know the fastest animal in the world is a cheetah? A cheetah can run between 50-80 mph. A cheetah has long skinny legs and a long tail. Did you know that the slowest animal in the world is a toed sloth? The toed sloth can run up to 0.15 mph. The toed sloth is a lazy animal. It eats a lot of food.

- Zachary Paredes

Trivia Question

We all know there are 50 states in the United States. What was the first state and the last state to join the U.S.?

Answer to last month's question: The PBS character Arthur's full name is Arthur Timothy Read.

Must-Click Site of the Month



If you like math and enjoy being challenged, then check out the [Prodigy Math Game](#) site. It features interactive learning games for students in grades 1-8. While the content is free, an account is needed. Some students may already have one through their teachers. If not, check with your parents first.

Students of the Month ~ December 2021

Grade	Teacher	Students
K	Mrs. Leveque	Penelope Antonini, Kalel Lora
K	Mrs. Kirsch	Ella Ilardi, Benjamin Traverio
K	Ms. Vilardi	Brandon Smith, Matthew Piacente
SC 1/2	Mrs. LaSalvia	Jayden Parisella, Ryan Rinaldo
1	Mrs. Greene	Nyla Robin, Brandon Hall
1	Mrs. Berwick	Rosalie Shuster, Alexander Alston
1	Ms. Tyburski	Savannah Leiladhar, Kaden Chrapowitzky
2	Ms. Merritt	Dominic Byrne, Kara Sunwall
2	Mrs. Wilson	Benjamin Gordineer, Madalyn Gargano
2	Ms. Murray	Evelyn Romeo, Hunter Irving
SC 3/4	Mrs. DiPalma	Egna Markja, Scarlett Adamson
3	Ms. Gashi	Sahib Dhaliwal, Symphony Jones
3	Mrs. Zmudosky	Peyton Santos, Darius Erema
4	Ms. Segarra	Olivia Kirsch, David Boamah
4	Ms. Marino	Peyton Cinquegrana, Alex Krajewski
4	Mrs. Walker	Emily Paulino, Milo Sotomayor
SC 5/6	Mrs. Kearney	Brogan Harkins, Izelha Carrero-Orellanana
5	Mrs. Dease	Beatrice Pfeiffer, Francesca Gesmundo
5	Ms. Hickey	Angela Huang, Deon Bonner
5	Ms. Halliday	Chrisana Hudson, Joshua Rodriguez-Allen
6	Ms. McCabe	Antonio Cardoso, Eleanor Huang
6	Mr. Lander	Madison Jensen, Zachery Morin-Ramos
6	Mrs. Roe	Sierra Johnson, Eliana Haimowitz

Student Council Members

Delilah Antonini	Zachary Paredes
Emily Belfiore	Alex Raszkievicz
Michael Busby	Shane Riley
Karly Cservak	Joshua Rodriguez-Allen
Eliana Haimowitz	Grace Shrestha
Eleanor Huang	Amaya Siddique



Oak Grove Elementary School

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