

Panther Press

Holiday Recipe

By: Natalie Rahrig

I realize that Christmas has already past, but this recipe is very delicious and can be eaten anytime. On Christmas Eve, my whole family gets together and we have soup. Every family brings a soup. We always make Chicken Tortilla Soup. It is almost everyone's favorite. Here is the recipe.

Ingredients

(makes 10 servings)

1 can diced tomatoes: Brooks just for Chili (mild)
2 cans diced tomatoes
1 can chicken broth
1 can pinto beans, drained
1 can dark red kidney beans, drained
3 chicken breasts
1 package taco seasoning mix
1 package hidden valley dry dressing mix

Boil the uncooked chicken breasts in chicken broth for half an hour and cut it into bit-sized pieces. Combine all the ingredients into a large pot or a crock pot and let it simmer on low for six hours. It tastes good if you eat it with tortilla chips, Monterey jack cheese and green onion on top.



Christmas in China

By: Maddie Brown

All of us know how Christmas is celebrated in America, but few of us know how Christmas is celebrated in China.

Christmas in China is very interesting. They celebrate in many different and unique ways. Only 1% of China is Christian, so most Chinese people don't know much about Christmas. Instead of Christmas, they celebrate Chinese New Year on February 14th.

One tradition that is similar to the U.S. is that Chinese people also put up Christmas trees. They decorate them with ornaments and call them a 'Tree of Life'. There, Santa Claus is called 'Shen Dan Lao Ren.' In Chinese, Merry Christmas is 'Sheng Dan Kuai Le.' They also go caroling and celebrate mass at midnight. Another tradition is that streets all over the major cities in China are decorated with all types of Christmas decorations, from Christmas trees to giant sculptures.

As you can see, there are many similarities and differences between the ways that Americans celebrate and how the Chinese celebrate Christmas.

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Prayers and Intentions

By: Sarah Lammers

- For the soldiers that are serving our country, and risking their lives for us.
- For the many soldiers who have died for our country. May their families be comforted.
- That family and friends stay safe while they are traveling on the holidays.
- For those who have HINI, are sick, or dying, that they may be healed.
- For students, may they find the strength to try their best and stay out of trouble.
- For people who have lost their jobs.
- For loved ones who have passed away.
- For homeless people, that they may have a nice place to stay for the holidays.

Mrs. Gillie Interview

By: Hannah Garretson

I interviewed Mrs. Gillie and this is what she said. Mrs. Gillie has three children. Her oldest daughter, Taylor is in high school at Bishop Luers. Her second daughter, Logan, is here at SJSE in 8th grade. Her only son, Carter, is in 5th grade. Mrs. Gillie went to SJSE for grade school, and then attended Homestead High School. After she graduated from Homestead, she went to IPFW. Upon graduation, she worked for Verizon and traveled for business. When she had her 1st child, Taylor, she decided to stay at home. Recently, Mrs. Gillie took a job as one of the junior high aides. She says she loves working at SJSE because, "The children are fun and the staff is great to work with."



Should Classrooms Be Divided?

By: Maddie Kriesel

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Here at SJSE we have two classes in each grade, girls and boys combined. Research, however, suggests that this may not be the best set-up because of actual, physical differences in boys and girls brains.

It seems that boys do better with hands-on activities early, so maybe P.E. or Science would be good first classes for them. Girls, however, seem to excel with writing in the morning, so English or Literature would be beneficial for them.

Divided classrooms may seem a little extreme and it may never happen at SJSE, but there are some things that teachers can do so that everybody can do their best. One idea is to give out long term assignments with different time tables-this way boys can do it in the afternoon when they feel most focused, and girls can do it in the morning when they are at their bests.

Christmas Survey

By: Maddie Kriesel

Everyone has something they really want for Christmas. So what did the student and teachers of SJSE want? I went from class to class to find out!

5A – Mrs. Yarde – Pedicure from Woodhouse Day Spa

Alexandria Hartburg – UGG Boots

Brendan Gleeson – Smartboard

5B – Mrs. Walker – New Watch

Kennedy Brough – New Bike

Carson Martin – Cell Phone

6A – Miss Verstynen – Glenbrook Mall Gift Cards

Leah Schroeder – iPod Touch

Noah Johnson – Money

6B – Mr. D. – Colt’s Jersey

Claire Roberts – iPod Dock

Ian Singsong – Card

7A – Mrs. Brough – Her kids not to fight during the holiday season

Jessica Tebben – Lip-gloss

Tony Hoch – Bow and Arrow

7B – Miss Hagan – Dishwasher

Lena Lazoff – Cell Phone

Matt Gigli – Laptop

8A – Mrs. Potchka – For her whole family to be together this Christmas.

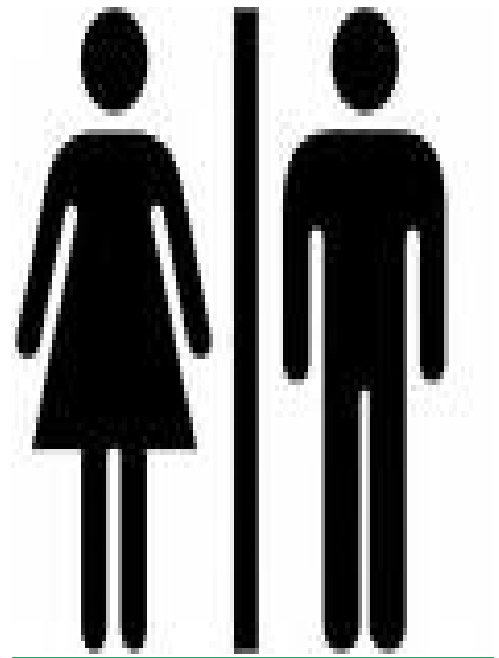
Mercedes Rodriguez – Goldfish

Joey Corbat – Four-Wheeler

8B – Mrs. Jump – Titlist ProV Golf balls

Nellie Lee – Candyland

Hector Perez – Dog



History of New Year’s Eve & New Year’s Day

By: Anesa Lazoff

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The New Year is the day that marks the end of one year and the beginning of the next year. In many cultures, the event is celebrated in some manner.

In 1582, the Gregorian calendar reform restored January 1st as New Year's Day. Although most Catholic countries adopted the Gregorian calendar almost immediately, it was only gradually adopted among Protestant countries. The British, for example, did not adopt the reformed calendar until 1752.

Probably the most famous tradition in the United States is the dropping of the New Year ball in Times Square, New York City, at 11:59 p.m. The tradition first began in 1907. The original ball was made of iron and wood. The current ball is made of Waterford Crystal, weighs 1,070 pounds, and is six feet in diameter. Another American tradition is the Rose Bowl in Pasadena, California. The Tournament of Roses Parade that precedes the football game on New Year's Day is made up of floats all made from flowers. The first parade was held in 1886.

Another old custom involved using the Bible to predict what would happen in the New Year. People chose a passage of the Bible at random. They then applied the passage to the coming months of the New Year.

New Year's is about making a new beginning to change your life. It's about achieving your New Year's resolution. It's also about celebrating the old year and welcoming the New Year.

What's Hot? What's Not? CHRISTMAS EDITION!

By Jessica Tebben and Lena Lazoff

What's Hot

- Digital Camera
- Apple iPod Touch
- Robot Dog
- Nintendo Wii
- Moxie Girls dolls
- Tweenage Dora Doll
- Wii Sports Resort
- Bakugan Battle Pack
- Cell Phones
- Nintendo DSI

What's Not

- Disposable Cameras
- iPod Shuffle
- Toy Car
- Game cube
- Polly Pockets
- Regular Dora Doll
- Wii Fit
- Yugioh or Pokemon cards
- Walky Talkies
- Nintendo DS



What's Up Nigel?

I am very happy that you all wrote letters to me, but some of you asked me if I am real. If I'm not real than who is writing this? Just to

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remind everyone, please put your questions in the box by the office. Let's get to the questions.

Dear Nigel,

My friend, whom I have had since kindergarten, is starting to bully me. I do not really want to stop being friends with her, but she is being very mean. I tried talking to her, but she just made fun of me.

-Friendless

Dear Friendless,

People change, and if your friend is being mean then maybe she isn't a friend at all. Try to think of something that you might have done that made her mad. If you do find something that you did wrong, then apologize and maybe things will back to normal. If you cannot figure out what you have done, then hang out with your other friends or make new friends. She may come back around.

*Fondly,
Nigel*

Dear Nigel,

I have a friend who is beginning to become friends with someone who isn't nice. Since she is just becoming friendly with this person, she doesn't know what this person is like on the inside. I don't want her feelings to get hurt, but I don't want to isolate her. What should I do?

Sincerely,
Protecting Friend

Dear Protecting Friend,

You're right to be worried about your friend. When you and your friend are alone

(away from the person) tell her how you feel about this person. Don't tell her not to be friends with her, just give her some warnings about this person. If your friend doesn't follow your advice, don't push the issue. You warned her, and you want to make sure you don't lose a friend.

*Fondly,
Nigel*

Dear Nigel,

I'm having sleeping problems. I just can't fall asleep! What should I do?

-Can't Sleep Boy

Dear Can't Sleep Boy,

There are a couple of different ways that you can try to fall asleep. Some things that help me are reading a book, counting sheep, listening to calm music, or trying to tell yourself a story. Make the story calm and cheerful. I hope this helps you fall asleep.

*Fondly,
Nigel*

Dear Nigel,

I am very worried about high school. There are two possibilities. I want to go to one, but my parents want me to go to the other. I'm worried that I won't be involved in this decision. What should I do?

-Easily Confused

Dear Easily Confused,

Try talking to your parents. Ask them why they think you would do better at this other school. After they tell you, tell them why

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you want to go to the school you want to go to. Listen to your parents because they might have very good reasons why you should go to this school. Talk about it as a family and decide the best option. Keep in mind that your parents are the ones paying for school expenses and they have your best interest in mind.

*Fondly,
Nigel*

Dear Nigel,

What do I do about the divorce? Is it my fault?

-Anonymous

Dear Anonymous,

It is not at all your fault. Your parents divorced because they probably wanted the best for you, not because they didn't love you. Try going to some of your friends' houses. This will help get your mind off the subject. Don't be afraid to speak to a counselor. Visit both parents often and call them often. I hope this helps.

*Fondly,
Nigel*

Dear Nigel,

I have two friends and they don't get along. I dislike that they fight, but I want to be friends with both of them.

-Friendless

Dear Friendless,

Try talking to them and figure out why they are fighting. Try to help them get along and don't pick sides. It is possible to be both their friends even when they don't like each other, but it might be hard. Don't talk about one friend with your other friend, that will

make things worse. They may learn to like each other.

*Fondly,
Nigel*

Keep sending the letters and I'll be talking to you soon!

Random Facts!

By: Marie Hege and Sydney Barnum

- On average, there are 178 sesame seeds on each Big Mac bun.
- "Stressed" is "Desserts" spelled backwards.
- Elephants are the only mammals that can't jump.
- The human heart creates enough pressure to squirt blood 30 feet.
- In a card deck the king of hearts is the only king without a moustache.
- Children are more allergic to cockroaches than they are to cats.
- From the age of thirty, humans gradually begin to shrink in size.
- The opposite sides of a dice cube always add up to seven.
- The most money ever spent on a cow at an auction is 1.3 million dollars.
- Cats sleep 16 to 18 hours a day.
- 1 in 5,000 North Atlantic Lobsters are born blue.

Resource: www.cs.cmu.edu

2009 Cultural Voyage

By Savanna Toporek

Panther Press

Saudi Arabia was probably the most authentic country out of all the countries. The best part of it was the entrance; 8A definitely lived up to last year's Germany.

Overall, France was most likely the most popular of the countries. This was because of all the work they put into their Eiffel Tower. Other things they had were the scooter races, the mimes, and also the drawn-on mustaches they gave.

Greece was very distinct this year. The walls were covered with 'bricks', also 7A put together some very fun games to play. For the food, the Baklavas were very delicious!

I'm just a little partial to Egypt because of the hard work I put into the country. Egypt had wonderful hieroglyphics. In the coat room, we put together a tunnel made of desks, then at the end of the tunnel we had a mummy (don't worry, it wasn't a real one).

Argentina was very informational. The things that stood out the most was the cardboard grill that they had put together.

What impressed me the most about Holland was their Anne Frank display. It seemed as if 6B put a great deal of time and effort into it. As for the food, I thought their Fried Cheese was very tasty!

What made India unique were all the cloths that they had dangling from their ceiling, that also made India very authentic. India also had a lot of information.

Switzerland definitely stood out because of the cotton balls they had scattered on the floor. This was mostly the most fun part of Switzerland. Also, they had all kinds of posters with interesting information.

Out of all the countries, Madagascar gets the best dressed award. Miss Palmer and Mrs. Dykhuizen had the best outfits that I saw! Also, they had some very artistic murals.

Sports at SJSE
By: Maddie Brown

I have interviewed Addie Reibold, 8th grade, to talk about her sport career here at SJSE. Some of the sports she plays are track, soccer, basketball, and cross- country.

What will you miss about playing at SJSE?

- I will miss all of my coaches and teammates that I have been with since 5th grade. I have met and became great friends with all of them.

Will you play in high school?

-Yes, I plan on playing soccer and basketball in high school.

What's been your greatest athletic achievement at SJSE?

-In cross- country, I got fourth place out of 250 runners in the New Haven Classic.

What have you learned from playing at SJSE?

-I have learned hard work, teamwork, leadership, and perseverance.

Have there been any coaches that have really stood out?

-For cross- country and track, Mr. Martinez and Mr. Annis have really helped me accomplish great things, without their help and encouragement I wouldn't have done well or had so much fun! Also, in basketball, Mr. Golden and Mr. Hyder have coached our basketball team since 5th grade. They have been great, positive coaches that have taught me so much about basketball and life. I will always miss my great coaches at SJSE!

Upcoming SJSE Basketball games:

7th grade girls

Vs. St. Jude @ SE 9:00 1/9

Vs. St. Vincent 11:00 @ SE 1/23

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8th grade girls

Vs. Huntington @ SE 12:45 1/9

Vs. St. Jude @ SE 12:15 1/23

5th grade boys

Vs. St. Vincent @ SJ 5:00 1/13

Vs. St. Vincent @ SE 9:00 1/16

Vs. St. John @ SJ 5:00 1/19

Vs. St. Jude @ SJ 5:00 1/26

6th grade boys

Vs. St. Joe Decatur @ SJ 5:30 1/11

Vs. St. Jude @ SE 12:00 1/16

Vs. St. Jude @ SE 6:00 1/20

Vs. Queen of Angels @ SE 11:00 1/22

Vs. St. Charles @ SE 5:00 1/25

Vs. Canterbury @ SE 3:30 1/26

7th grade boys

Vs. PB @ SE 10:15 1/9/2010

Vs. St. Charles @ SE 4:15 1/14

Vs. St. Jude @ SE 3:30 1/17

Vs. Decatur @ SE 1:30 1/23

Vs. St. Jude @ SE 4:15 2/10

8th grade boys

Vs. St. Rose/ Louis @ SE 11:30 1/9

History of the Spelling Bee

On December 18, the St. Joseph campus held their annual Spelling Bee. All the students that participated made a great effort. After hard studying, the winner was Karsyn Kleinrichert in fifth grade. Our runner-up was Tessa Virgilio, also in fifth grade. Those fifth graders really surprised us this year! Great Job! Karsyn will be moving on to the city competition. Good luck!

For those of you who think a Spelling Bee is named after a stinging, buzzing, striped insect, you are wrong. The word *bee* has two definitions. The first definition is for the insect bee. The second definition is *a community social gathering in order to*

perform some task, engage in a contest, etc.: a sewing bee; a Spelling Bee; a husking bee.

The first National Spelling Bee was in Louisville, Kentucky in 1925 with only nine competitors. It was hosted by the Courier-Journal. Frank Neuhauser was the first Spelling Bee champion. In 1941, Scripps Howard Broadcasting Company took over sponsorship of the Spelling Bee.

Currently, the winner of the Scripps Howard National Spelling Bee receives a 30,000 dollar cash prize, an engraved trophy, a 2,500 dollar savings bond, a reference library from Merriam-Webster, \$3,800 in reference works from *Encyclopedia Britannica*, and a \$5,000 cash prize from the Sigma Phi Epsilon Educational Foundation.

Everyone is welcome to come to the city Spelling Bee on Feb. 6th at South Side High School to cheer Karsyn on. Congratulations to Karsyn, Tessa, and all the other students who participated in the school Spelling Bee!



Valentines Day

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By: Anna
Magner



In AD 269, a Roman refused to give up his Christianity. His name was Valentine. The

history of Valentines Day came from him, and this is his story:

One day in Rome, a boy named Valentine was born. Valentine grew up in Rome as a holy boy and dreamed of becoming a priest. When Valentine was finally old enough he became a priest, Valentine started to wed couples together. The couples that he wed together loved each other so much, they had to be wed. As soon as the Emperor Claudius found out, he was furious! He told Valentine to stop. He refused to stop so Claudius threw him and the two people in jail. While he was in there he prayed for guidance from God. The daughter of the jail keeper, who was blind, heard what Valentine had done and thought it wasn't fair. She helped send notes back and forth from the two people. And every time he sent a note he would always sign it 'Your Valentine.' Claudius soon found

out and sentenced Valentine to be executed right away. When the jailer's daughter found out she was very upset. The day of the execution, February 14th, Valentine prayed to God for forgiveness. The jailer said it was time for Valentine to go. As he blessed the couple, he walked over the jailer's daughter and hugged her. Valentine gave her a heart and walked out the door. Suddenly she started to see blur until her entire vision came back! With Valentines love she could finally see again! Valentine loved so much he later became a saint. That is why we call February 14th Valentines Day!



2012: Is it True?

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By: Savanna Toporek

As most of you have probably already heard, there's been a rumor going around that the world will come to an end on December 21st, 2012 which coincidentally is the winter solstice. Well, I have the secret behind this prediction.

There is no real evidence behind this statement. Actually, there is more evidence against it than for it. But, the reason people have started to believe this rumor is because the Mayan calendar ends on December 21st, 2012 at precisely 11:11pm. On this particular solstice, the sun will be aligned with the center of the Milky Way for the first time in around 2,000 years.

But, think about it- take a calendar and flip to December. Find the 21st. Would you honestly believe that when the clock strikes midnight that night that we're all going to die? The Mayan's calendar simply wasn't designed to show dates past 12/21/12. Therefore, just like we do with our calendars, you start over.

Also, the Catholic Church teaches that we will never know

when the world will end, so that alone proves the rumor wrong.

As with many rumors, Hollywood jumped on the bandwagon. The movie 2012 that came out in November was a very good movie. It followed the Mayan prophecy and was a realistic sci-fi thriller. The main character was a devoted father and writer, Jackson Curtis, who was played by John Cusack. In the movie, Curtis tries his hardest to save his family and other loved ones basically from the end of the world. The movie was 158 minutes long and was rated PG-13 for intense disaster and some language.



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WINTER PUZZLE

By: Erin Barrett

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



CHRISTMAS
COATS
COLD
COOKIES
GINGERBREAD
HOTCHOCOLATE
ICICLES
JESUS
MITTENS
PRESENTS
REINDEER
SANTA
SKIING
SLEDS
SNOW
SNOWBALL
SNOWBALLFIGHT
SNOWBOARDING
SNOWMEN



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