

# PAW PRINTS

**DECEMBER 2023**



## **Results of the Mount Laurel Schools Food Drives**

By: Rose N.

The eight Mount Laurel schools and the Mount Laurel Rotary have partnered together to participate in a food drive during November and December. Each school made a goal of how much food they wanted to collect. With the cans and boxes of food, holiday baskets were made. Now, they are being donated to local families in need. The food each school collected was:

Countryside: Cranberry sauce  
Fleetwood: Jell-O  
Hillside: Green beans  
Larchmont: Corn

Parkway: Stuffing  
Springville: Gravy  
Hartford: Yams  
Harrington: Instant mashed potatoes

Each school's goal was to collect 300 of their selected food from students and staff by December 13th. Great news! All the schools met their goals! Harrington had General Potato providing marching orders, and more than 380 boxes of instant mashed potatoes were collected.

The goal of the food drive is to help 150 families this holiday season and bring them a warm and filling meal. Thank you to everyone who participated in bringing food in. Your contribution always matters!

## **The Great Candy Cane Debate**

By Maddison D.

Some people love candy canes, and some people don't. - they're a very often used symbol of the holiday season. Some people think they are delicious, and others claim they taste horrible. But instead of just hearing my opinion, it would definitely be better to look at a few from other students and teachers at Harrington. But first, let's look at the history of candy canes.

From what we know, candy canes date back to 1670 in Germany to keep some choirboys quiet during a ceremony. In honor of the occasion, the choir director bent them to look like shepherd's crooks. They used to be just white. They came to the U.S. in 1847, still just white. The red stripes and peppermint flavor only came around at the turn of the 1900s for marketing reasons. *"With the stripe came legends of stories about the candy cane, such as it being a secret code among persecuted Christians in Germany or*

*England in the 17th century; a secret language amongst the Christian faithful depending on the stripe—three represented the trinity, one Jesus' sacrifice),” says an article on candy canes on history.com.*

Now that we know where they came from, let's see what some people I talked to say. Here's what they said:

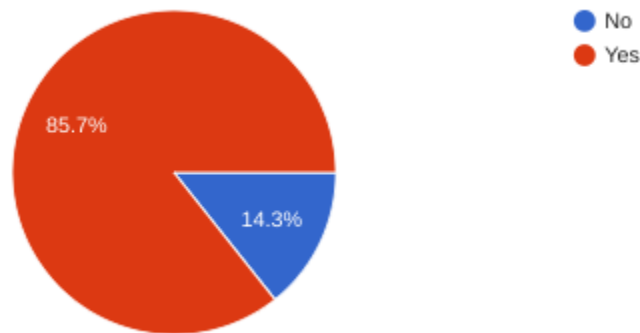
“They're too minty.” says Adrianna F..

“Anyone who doesn't like candy canes are delusional.” says Noah B..

“They are like the cranberry sauce at Thanksgiving for Christmas that no one is really excited about. They are very symbolic of the holiday season.” said Mr. Lubin.

“I like candy canes, but not the ones that are artificially flavored. They have to be made with real peppermint for them to be good.” Lily B. stated.

You can clearly see there are very mixed feelings about candy canes so far. I also asked the members of Paw Prints what they thought of them in a survey.



I found this very interesting because the answers that I got before were mostly mixed. I thought there would be more people who said no. But what do you think about them? Have you ever tried one? Do you know what your friends and family think of them?

## **Christmas Traditions from Around the World**

**By Will W.**

### **1. Mexico**

Certain Mexican families celebrate christmas with a pinata. The pinata traditionally comes is a 7-pointed star, representing the 7 deadly sins. Each point is broken with a stick to represent faith in God.

### **2. Germany**

In Germany, Saint Nicholas is an entirely different entity than Santa Claus. Saint Nicholas gives smaller gifts and is a more religious gift giver than the jolly fat man. Saint Nicholas gives coins and fruit, and leaves stick, twigs, and rocks to naughty children.

### **3. Poland**

In Poland, it is a Christmas tradition to not start dinner until someone spots the first star in the sky, which thankfully comes out earlier in this time of year. This tradition is said to have started to practice gratitude for food.

### **4. England**

In England, children leave mince pies, a small pie containing dried fruit, for Santa rather than cookies. I can personally attest that mince pies are a worthy substitute for cookies. The same level of sweetness as cookies, along with fruity flavors, and doughy exteriors.

### **5. Netherlands**

In the Netherlands, children leave their boots out for Sinterklaas to fill with goodies. The children also leave out carrots for Sinterklaas' ride, a white horse who goes by the name of Amerigo.

# Is Hanukkah The Jewish Christmas?

By Siena Slepian

Most people think Hanukkah is the “Jewish Christmas” because you get presents while celebrating it. I thought it was too, even as a Jewish person. It wasn’t until I started thinking and researching more about Hanukkah, when I realized that it really isn’t the “Jewish Christmas.”

## What Is Hanukkah?

Hanukkah is a Jewish holiday that is celebrated because the Maccabees, (Jewish soldiers) defeated the foreign rulers who took Jerusalem from them. Jews use lights to celebrate Hanukkah because while the Jews were rebuilding Jerusalem, they only had one day worth of oil to keep the temple menorah lit. Turns out, they ended up having enough for 8 days; the perfect amount for a menorah. This is said to be a miracle. Jews now light their menorahs for 8 nights to celebrate this miracle.

## How Christmas And Hanukkah Are Different

Christmas and Hanukkah are different because Christmas is supposed to celebrate the day Jesus was born, since he was said to be the son of god. People give and get gifts on Christmas day because of the saint, Nikolaos of Myra, since he was known for always giving gifts. You already know why Hanukkah is celebrated, but why do people give and get gifts for this holiday? The reason for gifts on Hanukkah is because parents don’t want their kids to feel left out since they don’t celebrate Christmas. People really started doing this after the holocaust. Also, Hanukkah is a minor holiday in the Jewish religion. There are other Jewish holidays that have more meaning religiously. Christmas is the second most important holiday for Christians, right behind Easter.

## Hanukkah Is Not The Jewish Christmas

Hanukkah is not the most important holiday in Judaism, unlike Christmas, which is a pretty big holiday. However, many people including Jews consider Hanukkah as their Jewish Christmas because both holidays are the same time of year, and they both involve presents. Some Jewish kids consider Hanukkah as their Jewish Christmas because they don’t get a Christmas, and don’t want to feel left out. People also call Hanukkah the Jewish Christmas as a joke, but mostly only Jewish people do this. Overall, Hanukkah is not the Jewish Christmas religiously. Hanukkah and Christmas aren’t opposites. If you don’t understand, think of it this way; if Hanukkah is the Jewish Christmas, then is Christmas the Christian Hanukkah?



## **Is This The WORST Holiday Song?**

By Shawn H. (AKA Kirby)

Oh, the holidays. Chestnuts roasting on an open fire, jingle bells, and the defrosting of Mariah Carey. But of course, at the center of it all, the music. Even if you're the human equivalent of the Grinch, you can't escape the allure of the holiday radio. But not every song that hits the North Pole is gonna be the next "Santa Claus is Coming to Town", some of them are actually pretty trash, while others rocket themselves to stardom faster than Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer can run. So, I went out and asked 13 of your peers (some of them you might know), and the principal which holiday hits are the top of the tree, and what songs are a few marshmallows short of a cup of cocoa. Here's what they thought:

Q: What do you think is the worst/best holiday song? Why?

**Emily A:** I would say that all of them are great, but the one that I really like the most is this really good song called "White Winter Hymnal" by the Penatonix. I don't like the theme, but I love the beats and the hand motions. The worst is "All I want For Christmas Is My Two Front Teeth". When I was little, my mom pulled out both of my front teeth and whenever my dad played it, I was embarrassed because they were actually what I wanted.

**Noah W:** "Jingle Bell Rock." I'm the most basic person. The worst is "All I Want For Christmas Is You". It gets SO annoying after a while.

**Ryan F:** I'd say, probably, "Jingle Bell Rock". It has a type of... Nostalgic feel. The worst is "All I Want For Christmas Is You". It's completely overplayed and it's excessive.

**Alexander A:** My favorite has to be "Last Christmas". You know "Feliz Navidad"? it's a good song, but I'm not going to put it at the high ranks.

**Sam P:** "Last Christmas" because that song is the perfect song for if you're in love with someone. It's a love story, but also a breakup story. "The Holly and the Ivy" sounds like a depressing choir singing.

**Giana J:** I don't have a favorite. I like all music. I think the worst is "The Holly and the Ivy". I just really, don't like it.

**Abigail B:** The best is "Christmas Tree Farm" by Taylor Swift. It's a Taylor Swift song. The worst Christmas song is "Baby, It's Cold Outside". It sends a bad message.

**Samantha M:** That's a good question. I'd say, "Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree" because it's a super catchy song and everyone knows it. I don't think there really is a worst.

**Mr. Besler:** My favorite holiday song is probably "Last Christmas" by WHAM. It's my wife's favorite and she plays it a lot. The worst one is "Little Drummer Boy" by Bing Crosby. I doesn't get me into the holiday spirit.

**Will W:** "The Christmas Song" by Nat King Cole. It's calming and it reminds me of Christmas traditions with my family. The worst is "I want a Hippopotamus for Christmas". The voice is very annoying and yeah, that's it.

**Sophia D:** That has to be "The Grinch" by Tyler The Creator. I love the new rap feel to it and the Grinch is relatable. "The 12 Days of Christmas" is literally just a whole bunch of birds. And I hate birds.

**Lucas W:** I have to go with "All I Want for Christmas is You" by Mariah Carey. I don't know, it's just iconic. The dude in "Baby, it's Cold outside" is just really weird.

**Alex B:** The best holiday song? "Winter Wonderland" I just like the lyrics. "Dominic The Donkey" is kinda annoying.

**Natalie Bucks:** Holiday Song? Probably, "Jingle Bell Rock" for me. I don't know, I think it just reminds me of classic/normal Christmas. I'm not sure the worst, it might be "I saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus". It's not very Christmassy, it's just weird.

**Liv J:** The worst holiday song is "Baby, it's Cold outside". It talks about some bad stuff. The best holiday song is "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer".

**Sage D:** The best has to be "Rockin' Around the Christmas tree". I sing it a lot. "Silver Bells" sounds so boring.

Personally, I think the best HAS to be "Up on the Housetop" by the Penatonix. I really don't know what I like about it, it's just so awesome, especially the part where they breakdown all the reindeer. To me "Silent Night" feels SUPER outdated. They should just leave it in the past. But so this isn't a clickbait article, I have to tell you what two numbers came out on top... and bottom. Without further ado, the most liked Christmas song out of the 14 people I interviewed is.... well, there's two actually! "Last Christmas" and "Jingle Bell Rock" tied with three upvotes! The worst ended up being "Baby, It's Cold Outside" due to it's possibly, sexist themes! But at the end of the day, none of this matters. What matters the most is YOUR opinion. So, have a merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, or whatever you celebrate from Kirby and the rest of the Paw Prints team!

## **The Classic SUGAR Cookie RECIPE**

**By Jessmone**

### **Ingredients :**

**3 cups all-purpose flour**  
**¾ teaspoon baking powder**  
**¼ teaspoon salt**  
**4 cup unsalted butter, softened**  
**1 cup of sugar**  
**1 egg, beaten**  
**1 tablespoon milk**  
**Powdered sugar, for rolling out dough**

### **Directions:**

**1 Sift together flour, baking powder, and salt. Set aside. Place butter and sugar in a large bowl of electric stand mixer and beat until light in color. Add egg and milk and beat to combine. Put the mixer on low speed, gradually add flour, and beat until mixture pulls away from the side of the bowl. Divide the dough in half, wrap in waxed paper, and refrigerate for 2 hours.**

**2 preheat your oven to 375 degrees F**

**3 Sprinkle the surface where you will roll out dough with powdered sugar. Remove 1 wrapped pack of dough from refrigerator at a time, sprinkle rolling pin with powdered sugar, and roll out dough to 1/4-inch thick. Move the dough around and check underneath frequently to make sure it is not sticking. If dough has warmed during rolling, place cold cookie sheet on top for 10 minutes to chill. Cut into desired shape, place at least 1-inch apart on greased baking sheet, parchment, or silicone baking mat, and bake for 7 to 9 minutes or until cookies are just beginning to turn brown around the edges, rotating cookie sheet halfway through baking time. Let sit on baking sheet for 2 minutes after removal from oven and then move to complete cooling on wire rack. Serve as is or ice as desired. Store in an airtight container for up to 1 week. You can finish it off with sprinkles, then enjoy!!**

### **Volunteer Opportunities for Teens**

Do something good for the community!

By: Sophia Koltchev

If you are interested in taking care of animals? Well, Animal Welfare Association is a non-profit organization that relies on local donations. They have a variety of different programs, from adoptions, to

veterinary services, to pet therapy. They strive to make animal companionship available to all. (509 Centennial Blvd Voorhees, NJ 08043)

Does learning about United States naval history interest you? The volunteers in Battleship New Jersey get to work with veterans and youths. If you decide to volunteer, you can get access to the ship's library, which consists of thousands of books, manuscripts, charts, historical records, artifacts, and memorabilia. Volunteers under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Email [volunteers@battleshipnewjersey.org](mailto:volunteers@battleshipnewjersey.org) if you are interested!

Do you want to make a Senior Citizen smile? Color A Smile is a nonprofit that gives out happy drawings to Senior Citizens, United States Troops abroad, and anyone who needs a little happiness in their lives.

The PO Box is 1516 Morristown NJ 07962-1516

FedEx and UPS is 164 Ridgedale Avenue Unit 7, Morristown NJ 07962-1516

Are horses your favorite animal? If so, Majoda Stables volunteers gives you the opportunity to help the organization with daily chores needed to take care of the animals (A herd of horses, a donkey, 2 goats, and a bunch of chickens.) If you enjoy spending time with the horses, you can even take lessons to learn how to ride a horse! Their email address is [majodastables1992@gmail.com](mailto:majodastables1992@gmail.com), their address is 620 Garwood Road, Moorestown, NJ, and their phone number is (856) 231 7552.

### Is *Die Hard* a holiday movie?



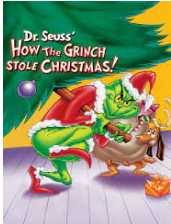

















More than 35 years after its release in July 1988, many Americans still debate whether or not, *Die Hard* should be part of the classic holiday movie club. Look below at both sides of the debate. What do you think?

<p>Heck, Yes! <i>Die Hard</i> should be considered a holiday classic.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For starters, <i>Die Hard</i> takes place on Christmas Eve.</li> <li>• There are 21 Christmas references hidden in the movie</li> <li>• Three Christmas songs are on the soundtrack, including Run-DMC's "Christmas in Hollis"</li> <li>• Classic holiday themes like "The rekindling of family ties" and "the hunt for the lone savior."</li> </ul>	<p>Nope! <i>Die Hard</i> is just an action flick and not a holiday movie at all.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jan de Bont, <i>Die Hard</i>'s cinematographer, said that it's a bit "far-fetched" to place a Christmas label on the summer blockbuster.</li> <li>• The star himself, Bruce Willis, says, "Now please, listen very carefully: <i>Die Hard</i> is not a Christmas movie!"</li> <li>• Machine guns, murder, violence...not in the holiday spirit.</li> </ul>
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## Best Movies to watch during the Holiday Season

By Emily A.

<p><b>ELF</b></p> 	<p><b>The Nightmare Before Christmas</b></p> 	<p><b>How the Grinch Stole Christmas (1966)</b></p> 	<p><b>How the Grinch Stole Christmas (2000)</b></p> 	<p><b>The Grinch (2018)</b></p> 	<p><b>DIE HARD</b></p> 
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<p>Spirited</p> 	<p>Violent Night (WATCH WITH GROWNUP)</p> 	<p>A Charlie Brown Christmas</p> 	<p>Home Alone</p> 	<p>Home Alone 2</p> 	<p>Santa Claus 1-2-3</p> 
<p>The Polar Express</p> 	<p>A Christmas Story</p> 	<p>Jingle All the Way</p> 	<p>It's A Wonderful Life</p> 	<p>A Christmas Carol</p> 	<p>A Muppets Christmas Carol</p> 

## Country of the Month

- Malta -

By: Sophia K.

Here are some interesting facts about Malta!

Malta's ocean water is filtered, which means that they use it as drinking water, so you don't need to bring an extra bottle of water when going to the beach!

The national drink of Malta is called Kinina - which has an orange, bitter taste.

One of the most diverse languages is spoken in Malta - a mix of Italian, Arabic, French and English! It's called Maltese.

A national staple in Malta is Rabbit Stew - it's an old dish that consists of tasty wine and tomato sauce.

Malta was once a British colony, from 1814 to 1964, which is why there are many English pubs on the streets of Valletta (the capital)

During WWII (World War 2), Malta was unfortunately the most bombed place on the planet. Over 30,000 buildings were destroyed, and it took a long time to repair the destruction.

Gozo (one of the main islands of Malta) has ruins that are roughly 5,600 years old!

Malta is known for its delicious foods, especially baked goods. One of the most famous ones is called Pastizzi, it's cooked hot and fresh, usually stuffed with ricotta and peas.

# Who's the Best Holiday Icon?

By Liv D

I interviewed the Paw Prints staff, and there is one popular response to this question: Kevin McCallister from *Home Alone*. Many would agree with those who said Buddy the Elf (Elf), Santa Claus, or Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer, and I do, too. And while I think Kevin is *definitely* an icon, Clark Griswold from *National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation* is my favorite holiday icon. While the chaos with the McCallister family is relatable for families who travel for the holidays, the whole Griswold family captures the essence of chaos during the holidays. What with the different branches of the family staying in one house for the holiday, they don't all get along. The movie shows how families can be in absolute chaos and still find a way to fix it. And we have to give it up for Clark Griswold, the reason the holiday season was chaotic in the first place, and the one who brought peace to the situation. He did it all.

I'm not the only one who thinks this, but I also know that others disagree. Overall, Santa Claus is the number-one icon. When you think of the holiday season, or specifically Christmas, there are probably a few things that pop up: the tree, a nice fire, snow, presents, hot chocolate, and... oh! Santa's here, too. So, while there is no right or wrong answer to the question, "Who's the Best Holiday Icon?" Santa Claus is *the* holiday icon, with Kevin McCallister being our favored character. And, y'know, Clark Griswold with his one-year membership to the Jelly of the Month club (if you know, you know).

## Snowmen...

Cosmo

First of all, I'm not here to talk about how to MAKE snowmen. I'm here just to talk about my own experience of making one, which was pretty weird. Don't start emailing me about the fact that you don't know how to make them, because it doesn't even snow that much here. You'll be fine.

Anyhoo off to my story about how we created a snowman. This was when my brother was still with us and not in Maryland failing a math course at college, had the same haircut as my brother had (his buzz cut was NOT it), and lived in the room next to mine. So one day, it's snowing outside, and mind you it was winter break. We had lots of free time that day, since... winter break.

I'm not exactly sure where the idea originated from, but it came up somewhere around the morning when it was just my brothers, my grandma, and me. So we all got into our warmest clothes, looked outside to see if it was still snowing, and then all of us just... walked outside. There wasn't any funny business like smoke billowing from the door to make it dramatic, we just stepped outside down the 3 old wooden steps and onto the snow. I miss those little steps; they were nice. Well, we've got a porch now, so that's also nice.

We're outside, walking around to make the snow imperfect mostly because we liked how the snow crunched under our feet. This was also only our 2nd time playing in the snow, since this place does not snow that much. My older brother mentions a snowman, and guess what? All of the sudden, we're rolling around a huge snowball everywhere trying to suck up all of the snow out of the ground. We put the first ball in the middle of the yard, since that just seemed right. The second one didn't come out as pretty, since most of the snow went into the previous one. We still managed to stack it on top, before chipping off parts of it so it wasn't so ugly and not snowman-like. Well, ugly is mean, so let's just call it deformed. Just a little bit, promise.

We didn't have a carrot to put a nose on, but we did have grapes to make eyes and beans to make the mouth. Seems funny, but we had no choice. Once it was done, we just left it there. What am I supposed to say? Oh yeah, it came to life and took my head? It just was there for a while.

Though this little entry is about how we made a snowman, I think I left out some parts. Like how we had a mini snowball fight, but that's not relevant, since it just involves me and my younger brother getting pelted by snowballs because we didn't know how to make one. Another thing, I think all of us got turns for being buried in the snow. It was cold, made my body feel like it was about to crumble, but it was pretty fun. We took turns taking pictures of things, though it was mostly my older brother since he was the one who owned the phone. Ahhhh memories!



## The Christmas Horror

A Fiction Story Written by  
Shreya and Dhanshika

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It was Christmas Eve and the snow was falling heavily outside. The family had gathered around the fireplace, sipping hot cocoa and exchanging gifts. Suddenly, they heard a loud knock on the door. The father went to answer it, but there was no one there. He shrugged it off and went back to the living room.

As they continued to celebrate, strange things began to happen. The ornaments on the tree started to shake violently, and the lights flickered on and off. The family tried to ignore it, but they couldn't shake the feeling that they were being watched.

Then, they heard a faint whisper coming from the chimney. It grew louder and louder until it was a deafening roar. Suddenly, a hand reached out from the fireplace and grabbed the youngest child.

The family screamed in terror as they watched the child being dragged up the chimney. They tried to grab onto the child and luckily the child was saved.

They moved away from the house and never spoke of that night again. But every Christmas Eve, they could hear the faint whisper of the child's voice, calling out for help from the chimney.

## How to get on the Naughty List By Paw Prints Staff



1. BE NAUGHTY DUN DUN DUH
2. Stick gum in your sibling's hair.
3. Steal your parent's credit card, and buy stuff using it.
4. Blame everything on your dog.
5. Rip every page out of your mother's favorite book.
6. Steal dad's car keys so he's late for work.
7. Say Santa Claus isn't real. You'll get socks and underwear.
8. Instead of leaving Santa milk and cookies, you leave Santa "healthy quinoa, low carb, high protein" cookies.
9. Like the Philadelphia Eagles
10. Leave Santa Coca-Cola instead of milk
11. Eat noodles with ketchup
12. Throw a party without parents permission
13. Eat cereal without milk
14. Look at someone's device without them knowing
15. Cheat, lie, and sneak
16. Text on someone else's email
17. Sing "All I Want for Christmas is You" over and over and over
18. Switch around your friends' text contacts
19. Wear a cowboy hat after the Cowboys just won
20. Buy five monkeys and jump on the bed with them
21. Put fire in your fireplace on Christmas Eve
22. Set a booby trap for Santa
23. Put milk before cereal
24. Biting into a Hershey's bar instead of breaking the pieces off



# Holiday Wishlist Ideas

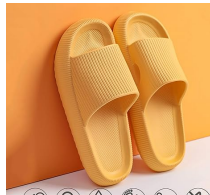
By: Sophia K.

Are you wondering what to wish for this holiday season? Well, this is the perfect, ideal teenage Christmas wishlist!

- Are you the type of person who likes to experiment with different art tools? Then the MYNT 3D Pen is the perfect gift for you! - \$60 (Amazon)



- You may have seen these cloud slippers all over TikTok or on social media, they are super easy to clean, and most importantly super comfortable! -\$24 (Amazon)



- Do you like making bracelets, or do you just want to expand your creativity levels? This bracelet kit is awesome if you want to kill boredom, and have something fun to do! -\$10 (Amazon)



- Do you love makeup, especially mascara? The Maybelline Sky High is a very good mascara, it adds volume to your eyelashes, and it makes you glow all day long! \$10 (Target)



- The Ariana Grande Cloud is my favorite perfume. It smells amazing! The scent is lavender blossom, and juicy pear. \$65 (Ulta, Amazon, or Target).



- This list wouldn't be complete without the UGG Tasman Slippers! These keep you so warm, and are perfect for fall time. \$110(Nordstrom, or the UGG Website)



## Christmas Traditions Around the World

By: Sophia K.

Japan - "Back in 1974, the American fast food restaurant KFC released a festive marketing campaign in Japan. The seemingly simple slogan "Kurisumasu ni wa kentakkii!" (Kentucky for Christmas!) spawned a national tradition that still thrives to this day."

Germany - "The Christmas tree tradition embraced around the world today is believed to have started in Germany back in the 16th Century, so it comes as no surprise that our continental cousins still have some unique customs relating to the festive conifers. One of these is to hide a pickle somewhere within the branches of the tree, and give a gift to whichever child in the household finds it."

Finland - "Many homes in Finland come equipped with their own sauna, and at Christmas time this cozy spot becomes a sacred space associated with long dead ancestors. On Christmas Eve, it's customary to strip naked and take a long and respectful stint in the sauna, which is also believed to be home to the legendary sauna 'elf.'"

Italy - "Forget Santa and 25th December when in Italy, as all the action takes place on the eve of 5th January. According to folklore, an old woman named Belfana visits all the children of Italy to fill their stockings with candy and leave them presents if they've been good. Just like Father Christmas, Belfana enters through the chimney and is left treats by the children who live there - typically wine and local delicacies."

Iceland - "One of the more unique festive traditions we've heard of comes from Iceland, where a giant cat is said to roam the snowy countryside at Christmas time. Traditionally, farmers would use the Yule Cat as an incentive for their workers - those who worked hard would receive a new set of clothes, but those who didn't would be devoured by the gigantic cat-like beast."

Norway - "According to Norwegian folklore, Christmas Eve is the day when mischievous spirits and witches take to the skies for mischief and general tomfoolery. As witches often use brooms as their preferred mode of transportation, it's tradition for Norwegian families to hide away any sweeping sticks where the witches won't be able to find them."

New Zealand - "The Kiwis are all about the pōhutukawa, a beautiful tree that is native to New Zealand with gnarled roots and bright crimson flowers. Today, the pōhutukawa tree is a recognised symbol of Christmas around New Zealand and is featured on Christmas cards, decorations, and even in the Christmas carols that children sing at school."

Sweden - "Last but not least, we have one more Christmas tradition from Sweden - which may just be the oldest tradition still celebrated on the list. The Yule Goat dates back to at least the 11th century, where there are mentions of a man-sized goat figure, led by Saint Nicholas, who had the power to control the devil."

Source: <https://www.holidayextras.com/travel-blog/wanderlust/unusual-christmas-traditions.html>

# HMS Wrestling Preview

By Aarov S.

The wrestling season has recently started, and there are many upcoming dates to look forward to. Here are all the upcoming events of the season. The highlighted events, have already taken place.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Opponent</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Time</u>
12/7/23	Girls Only	Delran	3:45
12/12/23	Marlton	@Marlton	3:45
12/14/23	Moorestown	@Moorestown	3:45
12/19/23	Rosa	@Rosa	3:45
12/21/23	Riverside	@Riverside	3:45
1/4/24	DeMasi	@DeMasi	3:45
1/9/24	Delran	@Delran	3:45
1/11/24	NBC	@Harrington	3:45
1/12/24	Medford	@Harrington	3:45
1/16/24	Cinnaminson	@Harrington	3:45
1/18/24	Bordentown	@Harrington	3:45
1/23/24	Pemberton	@Harrington	3:45
1/28	League Championship	@Moorestown	

Here is a Q&A with Mr. Barrett, the head coach of the wrestling team:

**Q: What are your hopes for this season?**

A: "My hopes for the season are for this team to work hard day in and day out for each practice they attend, as well as find to work outside of school at other organizations for extra practice. Additionally, I'd like to see this team surprise the Burlington County division of our league given the depth that we have."

**Q: What is going well so far?**

A: "There are a ton of things going well thus far. This team is shown as a unified family and community that is passionate about the sport they are committing to. That is a culture I wanted to establish for this team ever since I took the head coaching job. They show an eagerness to continue to learn the sport as well as to continue to improve their styles. The more experienced wrestlers are also doing a tremendous job being leaders in the room, being role models to the newer wrestlers by showing that proactive mindset of being responsible for their own learning of the sport. This team is also showing its tremendous depth and ability to be resilient, especially during our first two matches thus far when we knocked off the top teams in Burlington County and ultimately won handsomely. Lastly, this team just has fun with each other, and honestly with finding humor being such an important habit of mind, it keeps the environment positive and safe."

**Q: How well did the team do last season?**

A: "Last year, the team did pretty decent. We went 4-8 with a really tough schedule and went through a COVID transition. We had nine of our starters qualify for the individual end of season tournament and three of them placed top 4. All three of them returned for their 8th grade year and are not only doing extremely well thus far, but are being amazing leaders in the room."

**Q: Do you think this year's wrestling team will be better than last year's or win the championships?**

A: "Yes, I do think this team this year is better than last years. The team championships, I mean that is the ultimate goal for any team in the league we are in. However it must be our task to focus on each regular season match at a time, work on our areas of growth, and set goals for ourselves first."

**Q: Anything else you would like to add?**

A: "I am super excited about how talented and passionate this team is all around this year, and I am excited to see where the remainder of the season takes us. Let's just say I am super honored and proud to be able to coach them every single day."

## Can You Guess All of These Holiday Quotes?

By Liv D

1. "You stink! You smell like beef and cheese, you don't smell like Santa."
2. "You'll shoot your eye out, kid."
3. "Keep the change, ya filthy animal!"
4. "Looks great. Little full, lotta sap."
5. "Son of a nutcracker!"
6. "Can I refill your eggnog for you? Get you something to eat? Drive you out to the middle of nowhere and leave you for dead?"
7. "I'm a cotton-headed ninny muggins!"
8. "I'm sorry I ruined your lives and crammed 11 cookies into the VCR."
9. "Buzz, your girlfriend! Woof!"
10. "Francisco, that's fun to say! Francisco, Francisco, Franciscooooo..."
11. "Hey, I'm gonna give you to the count of ten, to get your ugly, yella, no-good keister off my property, before I pump your guts full of lead! 1, 2, 10!"
12. "A, I'm not that lucky. Two, we use smoke detectors, and D, we live on the most boring street in the whole United States of America, where nothing even remotely dangerous will ever happen. Period."
13. "I triple-dog-dare ya!"
14. "I can't put my arms down."
15. "Meatloaf, smeatloaf, double beatloaf. I hate meatloaf."
16. "He looks like a deranged Easter Bunny."
17. "Nadafinga!"
18. "Aaah! 'Fra-GEE-Lay!' It must be Italian!"
19. "Bah Humbug!"
20. "A poor excuse for picking a man's pocket every twenty-fifth of December!"
21. "I'm a cotton-headed ninny muggins!"
22. "That's right. I am the Pumpkin King!"
23. "I believe it was our most horrible yet! Thank you, everyone."
24. "Kidnap the Sandy Claws, beat him with a stick. Lock him up for 50 years, see what makes him tick!"

25. "I suggest we all hold on... tightly!"
26. "Found this on the seat of my sleigh. Better get that hole in your pocket fixed."
27. "We are in some serious jelly."
28. "Here we only got one rule: never, ever let it cool."
29. "We shared a bowl of sugar, did some shots of brown liquor, played with my shotguns, field dressed a cat, looked for women... I read him a book!"
30. "Well, Neil's head comes to a point."
31. "The Rose Suchak Ladder Company."
32. "I'll be hanging around the mistletoe, hoping to be kissed."
33. "Definitely go for England, girl. You'll meet Prince William—then you can marry him instead."
34. "There was more than one lobster at the birth of Jesus?"

### Use This Chart to Record Your Answers

Elf	
Christmas Story	
Home Alone	
Christmas Vacation	
The Grinch	
Christmas Carol	
Love, Actually	
Nightmare Before Christmas	
The Santa Clause	
Polar Express	

## A Timeline of Famous Holiday Gifts

WHAT KIDS ASKED FOR THROUGH THE YEARS

By: Aarav S and Anirudh A

**1900s** - The Victor Talking Machine (now known as Victrola) invented the first machine to play music (a phonograph). The headquarters were nearby in Camden, NJ. The newly created teddy bear was also popular, nicknamed after President Theodore (Teddy) Roosevelt. Small, personal, hand-held cameras created by Kodak were also popular then.

**1910s** - Raggedy Ann & Andy dolls were made then, they were a different kind of doll. They were rag dolls with red wool hair, a smiling face, and button eyes. Another popular gift was the rocking horse. Other than those, there weren't many new things made then.

**1920s** - Famous toys during this time included Lincoln Logs and Tinker Toys. These toys are all similar to Legos, but Lincoln Logs uses logs, and Tinker Toys uses various materials like sticks and circular pieces. A.C. Gilbert Chemistry Sets were also popular but were created mainly for boys. A girls' version was created in the 1950s. The first modern yo-yo was created around this time. When yo-yos first started producing, around 300,000 were made per day.



**1930s**- In these years, the great depression was going on so families could not afford fancy gifts. Instead, things like fruits and homemade items such as quilts, blankets, and dolls were given. Another classic game known as Monopoly gained popularity in these years.

**1940s** - Toy army men were very famous, especially since World War II had recently ended. Cap guns experienced lots of popularity during this period. Cap guns release small amounts of smoke when fired. Kids loved to battle each other with these! Slinkies were created during this time, and their ability to walk down the stairs made them very popular and attractive. They were created by the naval engineer, Richard T. James.

**1950s** - As the US recovered from the war, gift-giving came back. In these years, Little People and Mr. Potato Heads were made. Other popular gifts were Matchbox cars which are like Hot Wheels cars but more realistic, and silly putty.

**1960s** - Famous dolls were created in the 1960s such as Barbie and Ken, and their famous competition at this time, a talking doll, named Chatty Cathy. If her string was pulled, she would speak one out of eleven phrases. The Easy Bake Oven was created to teach young children how to bake, using two lightbulbs as a heat source. In the 1960s, Hasbro also created the G.I. Joe Doll, which was a big upgrade from plastic toy soldiers.

**1970s** - The game of Risk made its way into many households in the 1970s. Other new gifts were Nerf balls, Uno, and Etch-A-Sketch. Another popular toy (and is still popular today) is Lego. Legos were introduced into the United States in the 1960s and became popular in the early 1970s.

**1980s** - The Rubik's Cube was very popular, with 200 million sold worldwide. Cabbage Patch Dolls were immensely popular, but they have been known to have children's fingers or hair caught in the doll's mouth. The dolls were recalled because of that. Also, the Atari, and Game Boy were popular gaming consoles during this time.



**1990s** - The 1990s brought Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. Video games were also starting to be developed, with the Game Boy, Nintendo 64, and Tamagotchi. Tamagotchi is a virtual pet simulation game on a keychain where you must take care of a virtual pet. In 1998, a new toy called Furby came out. In both the years 1998 and 1999, over 15 million Furbies were sold.

**2000s** - Furbies were popular animatronics, that could even repeat words that you said! Rainbow Loom was very popular, as kids were obsessed with friendship bracelets during this time. Razor scooters were also popular and were even named the Spring/Summer Toy of the Year, in 2000.



**2010s** - Christmas gifts got even smaller and much more expensive, as most kids asked for something Apple-related, including things like an iPhone, iPad, and iPod. New gaming consoles were also popular such as the Xbox 1, PS4 and the Nintendo 3DS.

## **Best Holiday Movies to Watch**

### **An Opinion**

**By Aashray S.**

Holiday movies are one of the most popular traditions in the Holiday season. Kids grab the remote, hot cocoa in hand, the roaring yet silent sound the fireplace booms across the room as you prepare to be launched into a whole new world you have never explored. Despite this, many people, such as myself, often argue over what movie



to watch. Turns out, this is a common minor convenience among families. In this article, I will describe three movies for the holiday season, new or old which may help resolve these conflicts.

## The Christmas Chronicles

The Christmas Chronicles is one of the most intriguing holiday movies you will watch. The constant action, mystery, and feeling of discovery really sparks the attention of viewers. Although this film may be old, the plot is one you would have never notioned.

Plot : Kate and Teddy Pierce are siblings who, through a series of astonishing events, “accidentally” capture Santa Claus. Things go downhill from there causing Santa Claus, his trusty elves, Kate, and Teddy to work cooperatively in order to save Christmas before it is too late !

## ELF

Elf is one of the funniest movies ever made ! Doesn't matter if you watch it once, twice, or even 30 times, this film will make you laugh no matter what. The plot is simple, a boy, Buddy, was accidentally transferred to the North Pole as a toddler. When he finds out about the truth, Buddy sets off into the “real world” to find his father. As many comical events unfold, will Buddy find his true father or not ?

## Noelle

Noelle is a movie that conveys a beautiful message. This movie is a mixture of both comedy, drama, and suspense providing a great experience for all viewers. Everything about this movie is perfect, especially the message and plot.

Plot : Noelle Kringle (Kris Kringle A.K.A. Santa Claus's daughter) is a young lady overflowing with Christmas spirit. As Noelle's brother, Nick, will take over the vital job of Santa Claus this upcoming Winter. Everyone soon realizes that Nick is breaking down and is clearly not suited for the job. Noelle suggests Nick goes away on a trip to clear his mind... but he never comes back. Noelle must find his brother in time to save the holidays!

## How to get on the Naughty List

By Paw Prints Staff



25. BE NAUGHTY  
DUN DUN DUH
26. Stick gum in your sibling's hair.
27. Steal your parent's credit card, and buy stuff using it.
28. Blame everything on your dog.
29. Rip every page out of your mother's favorite book.
30. Steal dad's car keys so he's late for work.
31. Say Santa Claus isn't real. You'll get socks and underwear.
32. Instead of leaving Santa milk and cookies, you leave Santa "healthy quinoa, low carb, high protein" cookies.
33. Like the Philadelphia Eagles
34. Leave Santa Coca-Cola instead of milk
35. Eat noodles with ketchup
36. Throw a party without parents permission
37. Eat cereal without milk
38. Look at someone's device without them knowing
39. Cheat, lie, and sneak
40. Text on someone else's email
41. Sing "All I Want for Christmas is You" over and over and over
42. Switch around your friends' text contacts
43. Wear a cowboy hat after the Cowboys just won
44. Buy five monkeys and jump on the bed with them
45. Put fire in your fireplace on Christmas Eve
46. Set a booby trap for Santa
47. Put milk before cereal
48. Biting into a Hershey's bar instead of breaking the pieces off