Dec. 16, 2015

Christmas GREETINGS



A Special Supplement to the Winchester Press

Advent's here

Capture the moments that matter most

by Rev. Christine Lowson

Can you believe it is Advent already?



Rev. Christine Lowson

When it arrives, that means there are only a few days until Christmas.

Perhaps it's among the first miracles of the season, the truth is that it surprises me every year and stops me in my tracks.

So, too, did the following question I received via email: "Do you pray with your camera in hand?"

At first glance, my response was no. Upon further reflection, I realized that in moments of prayerful awe, times of surprise, wonder, and reverence, praying with my camera would be a treat. So, I've kind of accepted the challenge to share in this spiritual exercise by sharing it with you as an avenue to hope, peace, joy, and love this Advent season.

I think Advent and photography have things in common, don't you? Both Advent and photography enter an area where mere words cannot reach.

Both Advent and photography require focus, intention, quiet, stillness, darkness, and waiting.

So, this is how this photographic journal of Advent 2015 works. It comes with a calendar and there's one word on each day.

On the day marked "community," participants are asked to take a picture of community. I'm curious to see what photo(s) I'll take, and what photos I will see posted online as many people are participating on the *Alive* magazine website.

I'm ever hopeful that in the



hustle and bustle of December, this practice of faith will redeem the moments we spend in traffic, or in line-up after line-up, or overwhelmed by the world around us, and what's going on in our own little neck of the woods.

I'm hoping I will find myself marveling at the community of faith, people, places, seeking opportunities to share good news, and taking lots of time to offer an eyes wide-open prayer.

After all, Jesus' coming is to make this broken world whole and beautiful with God's love. The presence of Jesus is an incredible revelation of God's love for us. God with us in a way we cannot miss! And, our greatest gift to God is the love we share.

As with every season, I started thinking about my favourite Christmas traditions and decorations. Think of the things that we see this time of year: beautiful lights on Christmas trees, wreaths, Santa, reindeer, and gifts.

It wasn't too long ago that what people saw and decorated their homes with was the nativity scene, crèche. Saint Francis of Assisi is said to have been the first to build a *presepio* (from the Latin "manger") in the 13th century.

His nativity had real people representing the different characters in the Christmas story. This inspired other people to organize real-life nativity scenes in their own towns and communities.

If you look carefully at these scenes, you will notice the inclusion of some interesting folks (farmers, children playing, the Pope, etc.) Why? Because as the Gospel of Luke states, the Son of God entered history, our history! Not as an idea or a dream, as flesh and blood in a world of tragedy, beauty, joy, and suffering.

Jesus is in this world and our lives. Christ is born into the world today; we are the flesh, the Body of Christ, born into the world every day as we live the gospel with our lives.

Our understanding of Jesus and our relationship with Christ is always and forever a work in progress, a lifelong adventure. There's always more to know, more depth and breadth, and more love to see and share.

Merry Christmas!

Rev. Christine Lowson leads the Winchester pastoral charge, which includes churches in both Winchester and Winchester Springs.



Our warmest wishes for a simply unforgettable holiday season!

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Christmas concert catches Celtic culture

by Alicia K. Gosselin

METCALFE

Those who were fortunate enough to make it to Metcalfe United Church the evening of Sat., Dec. 5 were treated to a harmonious and unique ensemble of Celtic Christmas songs.

It was a first for the community and the Ottawa Celtic Choir (OCC), who trekked out to the country to perform the holiday concert in the hopes of keeping the Celtic culture alive within the village.

"I know there's a lot of underlying interest in Celtic culture and music in the village," said choir director Ellen MacIsaac, who grew up in Metcalfe. "A lot of people come from a Celtic background in one way or another, or just enjoy going to the Highland Games every year. What we [were] hoping to do [was] catch that vibe."

The OCC is a non-auditioned community choir that sings songs from the seven Celtic nations, as well as from strongly Celtic-influenced areas (such as the Atlantic provinces and Appalachia). It's the only pan-Celtic choir in the area, which means members sing in the six Celtic languages – Irish, Scottish, Manx, Cornish, Welsh, and Breton – as well as English, French, Latin, and Gallegos.

When MacIsaac founded the choir in 2008, she did so with a vision to expand the scope of Celtic culture in the region and to expose Canadians to several fading languages. None of her members are required to know any of the Celtic languages, but joining the choir gives them an opportunity to learn and practice.

"I didn't want to limit anyone because I know how intimidating the languages can be," said MacIsaac. "But there has been interest from singers of all backgrounds… And because I do all six languages, a lot of people look at it as an opportunity to practice."



For the first time ever, the Ottawa Celtic Choir made its way to Metcalfe United Church Sat., Dec. 5 to perform an evening of Celtic Christmas songs. Choir director Ellen MacIsaac (right) grew up in Metcalfe, and although the choir has always only performed concerts in the city, she said that the display was a way to "come home for the holidays."

When the choir started out, it began with only 12 members. Now, the OCC has grown to 35 singers, with a few being able to speak Scottish and Irish fluently. During the concert, there were also several music students from Carleton University singing as part of their course credit to learn about Celtic culture.

Since she was a little girl, MacIsaac has been singing, composing music, and performing pieces – "I could sing even before I could talk," she chuckled.

Growing up in a musically inclined family set the stage for her to pursue a career in music.

She went to the University of Ottawa, eventually specializing in Celtic compositions.

With her family having a strong Scottish and Irish background, MacIsaac decided to take a leap and do her graduate studies in Ireland for four years.

"It was absolutely amazing – when people from Ireland found out I was there to study and learn about the way they made music, I was welcomed with open arms," she said smiling. "Some of the [Celtic] languages are dying, so they appreciated the effort to engage with their culture in a way that wasn't just plastic patty [North-Americanized]."

While there, MacIsaac learned the ins-and-outs of singing, creating, and composing Celtic pieces. With what she learned, MacIsaac has been able to compose and mesh Celtic songs with those of Canada, and even had her choir perform a version of "Away in a Manger" during the concert that had been mixed with a Celtic original.

"Where I can find a link from Canada to the Celtic culture, I will draw it out," she said.

It was one of MacIsaac's dreams to return to her hometown of Metcalfe and bring a little slice of Celtic culture with her, and described the concert as "coming home for Christmas."

The concert included 14 holiday Celtic songs, which MacIsaac said will be the foundation for a CD that the choir is currently working on. By next year, the OCC will be able to provide their recorded masterpiece after any concerts they perform.

Although her members are serious about performing, there certainly was no shortage of laughter during the concert. When MacIsaac translated one of the Celtic song titles for the audience – "The Drunkenness Was On Us at Christmas and We Were Blind Drunk" – everyone in the church burst out laughing.

"This is what makes it fun," said MacIsaac. "And did you know, laughter uses the same muscles as singing?"

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It's beginning to look a lot…

by Thurland Brown



Thurland Brown



It's late November as I write this. I'm sitting at the kitchen table, looking out the window, and I am amazed that it is already "beginning to look a lot like Christmas." So much so that I'm not sure I can stop myself from singing that song, although I have a firm personal rule to never sing Christmas songs until at least December.

But how can I help it today? It is beginning to look a lot like Christmas.

It's plus 13 degrees Celsius. The rain is falling. The wind is blowing in an urgent manner. And, if I strain really hard, I think I can see a little fog forming in the south.

It is! It is! It is beginning to look a lot like Christmas!

That might not be what you think of when you think of the festive season, but I grew up on Grand Manan, an island in Eastern Canada's Bay of Fundy. We had fog and rain just as often (maybe more often) than we had snow. Even this far inland, I can hear the sounds of my favourite secular Christmas song. Sing it with me, won't you? I'm sure you know the tune. "I'm dreaming of a… grey Christmas… just like the ones…"

You may be thinking, "How silly." Why would anyone say that is what Christmas looks like? So I will reply, "How silly to think that Christmas has one specific look."

Fairy tale Christmas may have a covering of fresh fallen snow, and extended families happily interacting around a large table filled with gluttonous amounts of food. Fairy tale Christmas may sound like jingle bells and silver bells, and silent night and peace on Earth. Fairy tale Christmas may look like a holiday, but Christmas looks much more like life.

This year around the world, Christmas looks a lot like Syrian refugees. And if you don't want to look around the world, then look across your street, or down your block, or in your mirror, and see what Christmas really looks like.

What about the sounds of life and Christmas this year? A lot like deeply conservative people and equally deeply liberal counterparts shouting invectives at each other, voices filled with vitriol. It's a cacophony of sound that assaults our Facebook pages, and leaves us weary.

Ah yes, it is beginning to look (and sound) a lot like… Life!

Don't get me wrong. I love "fairy tale" Christmas. I hope I have one. I hope you have one. I hope it snows just a little bit on Christmas Eve, just when everyone is almost home from church. I hope your family is there, and everyone's gift is exactly right, and the turkey doesn't burn. I hope the children giggle with joy, and the parents have a deep sense of satisfaction.

But most of all, I hope that Christmas becomes more than a day in your December calendar. I hope Christmas becomes your life.

For unto us a Son is born, unto us a Child is given. And you shall call his name Jesus, for he shall save his people from their sins. And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and mind and strength. And you will show that by truly loving your (refugee) neighbour as you love yourself. And the world will look and say, "Behold how they love one another."

Then I'll be able to look out my kitchen window, at any time of the year, and sing, "It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas."

Thurland Brown serves as senior pastor at Winchester Wesleyan Church.

A gift epiphany for Three Kings' Day



Although many people are ready to take down their trees and pack away their holiday decorations once December 25 has come and gone, millions of people wait to remove such decorations until the Epiphany, which occurs on January 6 each year.

The Epiphany, also referred to as Three Kings' Day, celebrates the day the Three Magi visited the baby Jesus and presented Him with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Although any Christian can celebrate the Epiphany, the holiday is most embraced by the Hispanic community in the United States and in Spanish-speaking countries. In Latin America, for example, many children receive gifts on Three Kings' Day, rather than Christmas.

Certain traditions are essential to Three Kings' Day. In the week preceding, children may write letters requesting gifts they would like, especially if they have behaved well over the last 12 months. Children also are urged to share how they intend to improve their behaviour or practice good deeds to others in the upcoming year. Figurines of the three wise men are placed in nativity scenes on January 5, and children may leave out grass or other food to feed the animals of the magi, particularly the camels.

Those visiting another person's home on Three Kings' Day may want to bring the gift of a "King's Ring," also known as a Rosca de Reyes. This is a sweet bread shaped like a wreath that is adorned with candied fruit. A figurine of baby Jesus may be baked inside.

Tradition states the person who finds the figurine is expected to host a party on Candlemas on February 2.

Have a Ball… It's Christmas!

As we celebrate another holiday season, we thank you for giving us so much to celebrate this past year.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!



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Left: *Members of the Royal Canadian Legion Osgoode Branch 589 led off the parade.*

Left: *Trinity Bible Church brought a traditional theme to the parade as they celebrated the birth of Christ.*



Keegan O'Neil (left) and Kailynn Bailey had a visit with Santa during the Osgoode Co-op Nursery School's Breakfast with Santa at the village's community centre.

Parading through Osgoode

Osgoode's Christmas in the Village event went off without a hitch Sat., Dec. 5, thanks in part to community support and a helping hand from Mother Nature.





Above: *Longtime ward politician Doug Thompson spent some quality time with St. Nick.*

Left: *The Osgoode Guides brought colour and joy to the parade.*

Photos – Morris

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It is traditions that remain important at Christmas

by Rev. Blair Paterson

I don't know about you, but I have certain "traditions," which I keep every year when Christmas comes round.



Rev. Blair Paterson

The first thing is putting up the Christmas lights. Or rather, untangling the myriad strings of broken lights, frayed wires and other flotsam and jetsam. The next is adding Handel's *Messiah*, Bruce Cockburn's *Christmas*, and *A Very Special Christmas* to my playlists on my iPhone, and listening always and only to them during December.

Number three is getting the Christmas dishes out, the ones Mom bought Karen when we were first married. Number four is, of course, watching *It's a Wonderful Life* on PBS during their Christmas Financial Campaign.

Finally, is opening a door on the Advent calendar every morning with my girls. Some of these traditions were passed on to me by my parents and grandparents. Others are ones we created as our girls were growing up, but all are important, and it wouldn't be Christmas without them.

The wonderful thing about traditions is that you usually don't have to think too hard while doing them. Oh sure, you can, but it's not necessary. Let me explain. It's like knitting. How many women do you know who can watch television, talk to a friend on the phone, and sip a cup of tea while knitting a sweater?

In Newfoundland, I can remember the baking of bread. Older women, some of them in their nineties, would, every Saturday night, pull out the Robin Hood flour, the yeast, the pans, and the butter and bake four or five loaves of fresh bread.



In the morning, at church, they would wonder when in the world they baked bread, but glad that they did. And like a Roman Catholic friend of mine once told me, she can go through the whole service by heart, never once looking at her Mass book.

It would seem that such familiarity, such unthinking actions, would make what was done insincere. But as an Anglican priest once told me: "When I don't know what to pray or say, or when I'm lost or alone or so angry I can't speak to God, I know I'm still connected with Him and my parents, and grandparents who said these very same prayers before me."

Think of that woman who knits the sweater. She gets something real accomplished while enjoying the small mercies of everyday life. Or think how important fresh baked bread has been to her family or to that 92-year-old Newfoundlander.

These small actions speak to me of something deeper than our everyday thought processes. They are about being in touch with the deep places of Life. And it is in these deep places, these still quiet places, where we usually find Emmanuel (God-with-us).

This Christmas, like the past 13, my quirky traditions will get me through the sadness I feel of celebrating the season without my Mom.

These traditions help me remember why I do them in the first place – that I believe in something beyond death, something beyond life even. These rituals help me to be open to my wife and girls who need Christmas even if I don't feel like it.

Because, when I sit in my chair on Christmas Eve, after having led two Christmas Eve services – my girls (in their new Christmas pyjamas) chatting with their Mom about who was at church, and "when are we going to Gramma's tomorrow?" and "did you see so and so's awesome dress," I give thanks to God that, as short as this time is (it will be over in a blink of an eye), it will come round again, next year.

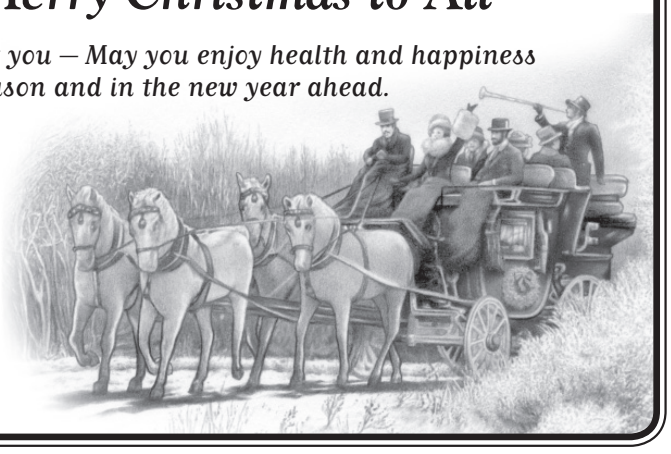
Even with the tangled lights, George Bailey, and the "Hallelujah Chorus."

Merry Christmas.

Rev. Blair Paterson leads the South Mountain-Hallville pastoral charge, which includes churches in South Mountain, Hallville, Inkerman, and Heckston.

Delivering Our Best Wishes for a Merry Christmas to All

From all of us to all of you – May you enjoy health and happiness during the holiday season and in the new year ahead.



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CONTENTMENT

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Frosty the Snowman and Madison Greer gave a thumbs up.



Members of the Brockville Lions Steel Band were not your traditional marching band, getting a ride throughout the streets of Morrisburg to play their versions of Christmas songs.



Record crowds greet Santa in Morrisburg

MORRISBURG

With the mild weather and record attendance, nothing could rain on the 22nd annual Morrisburg Santa Claus Parade – except for maybe the reins of good ol' Saint Nick himself!

George Davies, longtime organizer of the event, said that Sat., Dec. 5's parade was one of the best, with more than 50 floats decorated to participate and navigate the streets.

"I'm really pleased with the number of people who came out to see the parade [this year]," he said. "I don't know if it was the weather, but the streets were filled with people – even the little side streets. It was great."

Patrons had the option of meeting Santa afterward at the Morrisburg fire station, where they could also enjoy hot chocolate and hot dogs.

Davies has been organizing the parade with his family since the beginning, and said it has come a long way in 22 years. The amount of participating floats and community supporters has increased significantly since the first parade.

"It is a community effort at the end of the day," Davies said.



Dora the Explorer and Maddison Trizisky as Winnie the Pooh danced throughout the streets.



Above: *Margaret Prince (left) and Tara Graham posed as Santa's little helpers.*

Left: *Little Ricky Guillard (left) and Leanne Casselman trotted along on top of their high horse throughout the parade.*

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As hard as it seems, look for hope this holiday season

by Aaron Reimer

Christmas Message

It's no coincidence that Christmas falls on Dec. 25.



Aaron Reimer

As the year turned, the weather grew colder and the days shorter. The nights became a long, dark wait for dawn. Each day had a little less sun, and what there was proved cold comfort.

The ancients watched the stars descend toward the horizon, until they paused at the winter solstice – the shortest, and yet the longest, day of the year.

A few days later, there was rejoicing, because the stars began to ascend, and they knew that the days would grow longer again. The winter was still there, still bitterly cold, but there was hope that the end was coming.

It had been a long winter of the soul. Years had come and gone, the expected Messiah nowhere to be seen. It felt like God had drawn silent. It felt like the Redeemer would never come.

The night kept getting longer, darker, and colder. This was Advent. Into this pregnant silence, this longing expectation, Jesus was born.

We celebrate Christmas at the turning of the year, because his birth is the moment that hope arrives. The nights are still long. The wind is still cold, but now we know that the warmth of the sun is returning. It's getting better. It doesn't happen right away, but it marks a change. Even when it's slow, and hard to feel, we know it's getting better.

Sometimes the Christmas season isn't one of joy. It marks loss, or disappointment. It marks a long year, or a series of years of deep suffering. For some, it's a time of profound loneliness. If that's you this year, I want to wish you a Merry Christmas. Not because Christmas will be miraculously wonderful and full of joy (although that would be great to hear), but because it's a time to remember hope. Hope is coming. It gets better. It will get better.

At Winchester Wesleyan, we like to say that the best thing you can do, the very best thing, is to invite Jesus Christ into your present situation. This advent season, I hope you look for hope.

I believe that it can be found lying in a manger, at the end of a scandalous journey of grace.

God bless you this Advent season.

Aaron Reimer is associate pastor at Winchester Wesleyan Church.

Merry Christmas

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Need holiday dinner ideas? Here are two to try!

by Tim Wasylko

With the holiday season approaching, it is time that many gather around the table and share a meal. With that in mind, here are two favourites for you to try at home.



Tim Wasylko

A little bit with turkey

When I was growing up, our Christmas dinner family meal was centred on turkey, and beside that turkey was served a cranberry jelly.

My Mom took her time in removing it from the can, so that the can lines became part of the presentation. Times have certainly changed, however, and here is a little recipe that can make your cranberry sauce a highlight for that turkey dinner.

I do apologize though, as no can lines are possible in this recipe. I have added Grand Marnier. I find the orange and cranberry a classic combination, with a complex flavour profile that really goes well with any poultry, especially turkey and roast chicken.

I also quite often bring some to my duck, goose, and wild turkey hunting friends. I do hope this becomes a part of your holiday repertoire. It is so simple, and such a delicious accompaniment.

Cranberry Sauce

- Two cups white sugar
- Four cups fresh or frozen cranberries (fresh is my first choice, but frozen also works)
- Six cups water
- A spice bag containing: one cinnamon stick, five whole cloves, five allspice berries, and six whole peppercorns
- ¼ teaspoon of salt
- ½ teaspoon of ground black pepper
- Five ounces of Grand Marnier

First make your spice bag. Fill the bag with cinnamon stick, cloves, allspice and peppercorns, and tie well so that they don't escape. If you don't have whole spices, you could use ground – a pinch of each. Just be careful as cloves and allspice are powerful – they would be a tiny pinch.

In a heavy bottom sauce pan, place the sugar and one cup of water on high heat and allow to boil without stirring until a deep amber colour is achieved. Be careful not to burn the sugar. Turn off heat and add cranberries, and the rest of the water (this will boil like crazy!). Let sit for about five minutes until everything calms down, and then start to stir until all of the sugar is dissolved into the cranberry sauce. Add the spice bag and salt, and allow to simmer until thick, stirring occasionally (it will thicken more when it cools). Turn off heat and mix in Grand Marnier; allow to cool.

And for dessert

Sticky toffee pudding is one of those desserts that most people absolutely love to eat, but are too intimidated to try and make. It really is quite simple, with no exotic ingredients and something that just screams warmth, comfort, and family.

I really hope this becomes a Christmas classic for your family – it sure is at Winchelsea Events.

Sticky Toffee Pudding

For the cake part, or the "pudding" you'll need:

- ¼ cup salted butter, room temperature, plus more for pan
- 1 ½ cups sifted all-purpose flour, plus more for pan
- One teaspoon baking soda
- One teaspoon baking powder
- ½ teaspoon kosher salt
- 1 ½ cups finely chopped pitted dates
- One cup sugar
- Three teaspoons vanilla extract
- Two large eggs, plus one egg yolk

For the sauce:

- 1 ¼ cups (packed) light brown sugar
- ½ cup heavy cream
- ¼ cup salted butter
- One teaspoon dark rum (optional)
- One teaspoon vanilla extract
- Also needed is whipped cream or vanilla ice cream

Use a bundt pan – or any pan that can hold seven cups of batter.

Preheat oven to 350 degrees Fahrenheit. Butter and flour bundt pan or whatever you are using.

Bring dates and 1 ¼ cups water to a boil in a tall sided, medium heavy saucepan. Remove from heat; stir in baking soda (it will get really foamy). Set aside and let cool.

In a separate bowl, mix 1 ½ cups flour, baking powder, and salt. Using an electric mixer, beat ¼ cup butter, sugar, and vanilla in a large bowl to blend (mixture will be grainy). Add one egg plus egg yolk and beat to blend. Add half of flour mixture and half of date mixture, beat to blend. Repeat with remaining one egg, flour mixture, and date mixture. Pour batter into prepared pan.

Bake until a knife comes out clean, about 40 minutes. Let cool in pan on a rack for at least 30 minutes. While it is cooling, make the sauce.

The sauce

Bring sugar, cream, and butter to a boil in a small heavy saucepan over medium heat, stirring constantly. Continue to boil, stirring constantly, for three minutes. Remove from heat; stir in rum, if using, and vanilla. Let stand for 15 minutes.

Poke holes in the cake and pour half of the slightly warm sauce over top; let stand at least 20 minutes before eating. Warm cake slightly if making ahead. Serve with a spoonful of sauce and whipped cream or ice cream. Enjoy!

Tim Wasylko is executive chef at Stornoway, the official residence of Canada's leader of the opposition.

Have a **Holly Jolly** Christmas

Deck the halls and have a ball this holiday!
We hope your season is merry, bright and filled with all the makings of happy new memories.
Thanks and Happy Holidays!

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Season's Greetings

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Mayor, Council & Staff

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Seasons Greetings

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Merry Christmas

As we wrap up yet another year, we'd like to acknowledge all the individuals – customers, neighbours, associates and friends, who have made doing business here such a pleasure for us.

Please accept our sincere thanks and best wishes for a healthy and happy holiday season.

We look forward to seeing you again in the New Year.

From our entire staff

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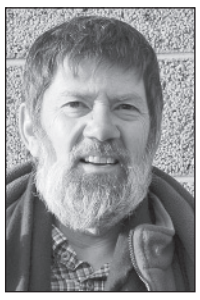
God's gift is one that lasts year-round

by Rev. Bruce Kemp



Rev. Bruce Kemp

We are approaching the season of the year, which seems to be so anticipated by people of all ages.

In the midst of winter with snow on the ground and dark nights, we illuminate our homes and our yards with multi-coloured lights and decorate with wreaths and symbols both religious and secular.

It is a time for special baking and gatherings with friends and family. It seems to be a magical time of the year, and so it is. But the real magic is not the lights or the wreaths or the baking.

The real magic is the gift of God himself in the form of a baby born in the humblest of places. Mary and Joseph received the life of God in a way that we cannot experience, for they were able to hold God in the palm of their hands. They were able to love God in a way that could never have been imagined before – and love him they did with all their heart!



We may not be able to hold God in the palm of our hands as they did, but we can still love and be loved by God even today. The greatest gift any of us can receive is the gift of God's love, and presence in our lives.

Silver and gold can buy many things, but eventually they lose their sparkle and appeal. The gift God gave us then and still gives today is a gift that will never tarnish; it is one that can be opened not only on this Christmas, but every day of the year because it is a gift from the heart of God.

My prayer is that this year the greatest gift you will find in your home and your life is the love and presence of God!

Rev. Bruce Kemp leads to local Presbyterian pastoral charge, which includes churches in Winchester, Morewood, and Chesterville.



LET IT SNOW, LET IT SNOW, LET IT SNOW...

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Merry Christmas and many thanks.

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Merry Christmas
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All the Best for the Holidays

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Both Near and Dear

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Merry Christmas





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KEEP YOUR TREE FIRE FREE

Keep all candles away from the Christmas tree.

Make sure the base of the tree is immersed in water at all times.

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NORTH DUNDAS FIRE SERVICES

Season's Greetings
from the
North Dundas Fire Services



Greg and Anna Hodsdon from Magnolia Hill Alpacas brought their stock of winter wear created with wool from their homegrown alpacas to Chesterville Farmers' Market's annual Christmas event. Their table also showcased original jewellery created by Anna, made from stones, shells, beads, and glass. "Every piece has a story behind it," Anna said.

Press Photos – Gosselin



At the annual Metcalfe Farmers' Christmas Market, Brothers Ty (left) and Lane Irven scurried to try the bread samples provided by Kate Clark from Nat's Bread Company, which uses locally grown grain from Winchester-based Against the Grain farm.



Winchester BMR's Country Treasures shop counted down the days to Christmas during the store's annual customer appreciation holiday sale. The boutique boasted a wide variety of rustic giftware, country furniture, and home décor items, all marked down by 20 per cent to ring in the holiday season.



At the Morrisburg Holiday Craft Sale, Dwight Saunders (left) and Helder Ambrosia from Iroquois-based Aura Escapes showed off what they can do with sheep's wool, including fabric art and winter wear. They also displayed their healing dolls (which have hair and eyelashes made from wool, with each hair pulled through one-by-one) and teddy bears made from recycled fur coats. The dolls are created with a 3D printer, painted from the inside out to give realistic colour, and cured.

'Tis the season...
to be shopping

'Twas a few weeks 'til Christmas, and all through the land,
Craft shows and markets popped up beforehand.
Stockings and puddings were all handmade with care,
In the hopes that the holidays could be felt in the air.

Children sampled goodies, such as homemade bread,
While crocheted creations fit perfectly on their heads.
Mothers and fathers searched for gifts they could wrap,
From vendors and artists across the region's map.

With the buildings all filled with festivity chatter,
It was obvious residents celebrated local traditions that matter.







Above: *Nico Widmer helped dole out the baked goodies from Swiss Farmer Bakery's popular display at the annual Metcalfe Farmers' Christmas Market. Close to 45 vendors sparked the holiday spirit with their displays of baked goodies, jams, crafts, winter wear, art, decorations, and more at the Royal Canadian Legion Greely Branch 627.*

Left: *Kelsey Angel is only 16 years old, but already has dipped herself into the entrepreneurial world as baker and owner of A Little Taste of Heaven. Angel showcased her homemade goodies at the market, including truffles, fudge, and chocolate-dipped cake balls at Chesterville Farmers' Market's annual Christmas Market.*

Above: *Trinity Grimes (left), Kevin Merkley, Melanie Merkley, and Tayven Merkley decided to spend some time as a family at the Maple Ridge Christmas Bazaar providing antiques of all kinds, including Christmas ornaments ad decorations.*

Right: *Also at the Maple Ridge Christmas Bazaar, Diane Hill and her daughter, Kamara, provided candle-like products from Scentsy. Hill said she likes the products because the "candles" don't have any wick, and can be left in the house without worrying about burning anything.*



Lorraine (left) and Rev. Thurland Brown partook in the Winchester Wesleyan Church's annual Christmas craft, vendor and bake sale by selling Christmas-themed items from their home. Proceeds from the items will be put toward supporting a girl from the Ukraine for one year, which costs $372 through World Hope Canada. "This is all superfluous stuff for [us], but those in the Ukraine who are living on the street have nothing, so we decided this was a way to get into the spirit of Christmas," said Lorraine.

An edible endeavor

Constructing a gingerbread house is a holiday favourite for many, and each year the Friends of the South Mountain Library organize a building workshop, giving the public a chance to celebrate the season, and enjoy the treats, of course.

Press Photos – Uhrig

Below: *Kayla Haggert was very precise in her approach.*





Concentration was key for Austin Reeve.

The addition of icing finalized Remi Bailey's housing project.







Above: *Derick Fong expertly added icing.*

Right: *Katie King (left) and Laura Burrell teamed up for their gingerbread house creation.*

Happy Holidays

From Our Home to Yours

Peace, joy and thanks to all of you this holiday season.
We look forward to seeing you again.

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MOROZUK'S FINISHING TOUCH

Christmas

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Thank you, and Merry Christmas!

Winchester Autopro

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Shine a light

The 19th annual North Dundas Country Christmas Parade of Lights made its way through Winchester's streets Sat., Dec. 5 with more than 40 entries taking part. The nighttime event followed a day full of other activities, including community meals, and a vendor and trade fair.

















Press Photos – Uhrig, Van Bridger

Merry Christmas

Glad tidings to you and your kin
this holiday season.
Thanks for your business.

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Merry Christmas
Best Wishes
from All of Us
to All of You

As we look back upon the past year, we would like to acknowledge those who have helped us shape our business. We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

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Merry Christmas

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Small gestures can make a big difference for those in need

This is the time of year when everyone talks about "giving back" and helping those less fortunate than ourselves. Fortunately, many of us are easily able to meet our basic needs, but there are still too many at home and abroad who lack essentials such as food and shelter. The holiday season with its spirit of caring for families and strangers alike is a good time to think about giving back.

There are numerous ways you can engage charitably in your own and the global community:

• Volunteer at a local soup kitchen or homeless shelter.

• Donate to a food bank – and donate regularly throughout the year.

• Clean out your closet and give what you haven't worn in a while to adults and children in need.

• Help the homeless as they are especially vulnerable to the elements. If you see someone outside on a cold day, provide them with warm socks, hats and scarves.

• Give your children some money to donate to a charity – and ask why they have chosen one cause over another to encourage discussions about giving.

If you want to buy a gift that provides hope and the real possibility of meaningful change for people in developing nations, numerous charitable and non-governmental organizations offer a wide range of ethical choices such as Plan Canada's Gifts of Hope.

More information is available at www.plangifts.com.

— News Canada



Did you know?

Historians believe new year's resolutions can be traced back thousands of years to the ancient Babylonians, who lived in a region of Mesopotamia now known as Iraq. At the dawn of a new year, the Babylonians would promise their gods that they would return objects they borrowed and pay any debts they did not repay in the previous year. Babylonians believed keeping these promises would bring them the gods' favour in the year ahead. Romans later adopted a similar practice, promising Janus, their god of beginnings and endings, that they would conduct themselves well in the coming year. Depictions of Janus typically include two faces, which are meant to symbolize his link to both the past (looking back) and the future (looking ahead). Early Christians also had a tradition similar to New Year's resolutions, as they would spend the first day of the new year reflecting on mistakes they made in the past and resolving to improve themselves and avoid making such mistakes in the new year.

merry christmas
to our many customers and friends
and many thanks for your support

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We Wish You a Merry Christmas



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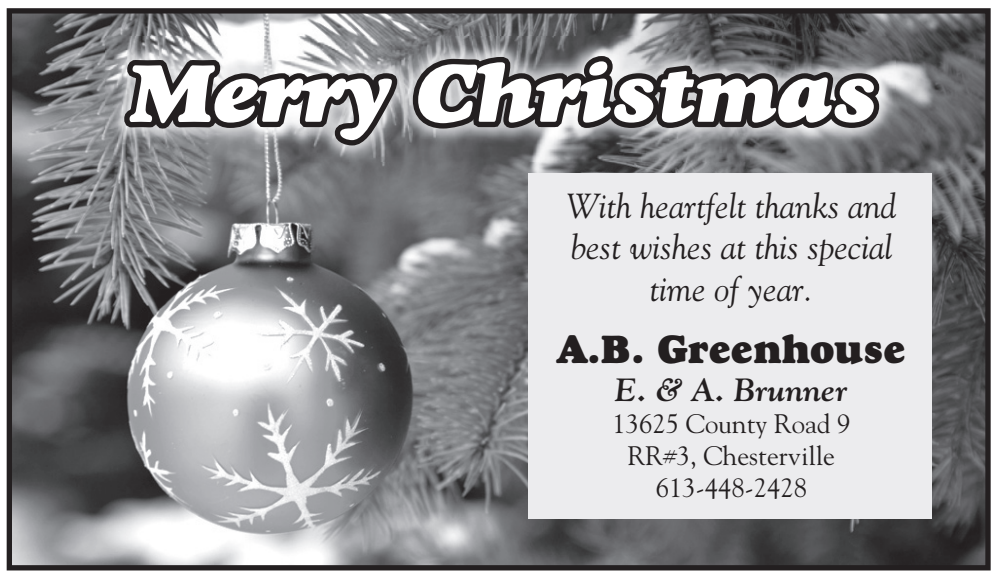



HOPE. DREAM.
LAUGH. REJOICE.

In this season of possibilities, we hope your every wish comes true.
Merry Christmas and many thanks for your goodwill and support all year long.

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May the *Spirit* of the Season Be Yours

As you revel in the true meaning of Christmas, we hope it casts a wonderful light on the year ahead.



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Bring old-fashioned caroling to your neighbourhood

Christmas carols help set the mood for the holiday season. Such songs are played in stores to create festive atmospheres for shoppers, and many families play seasonal music as they decorate their homes for the holidays.

Carols were first sung in Europe thousands of years ago during Winter Solstice celebrations. When Christian holidays replaced many of the pagan celebrations, Christian holiday carols replaced the earlier songs.

Before Christmas carols were sung by the general public, they were enjoyed during church services, when they sometimes were performed by official carol singers. However, new carols became popular during the Victorian era, when many ordinary people took to the streets to share holiday joy with others through the gift of song. Wassail, a thick, hot and spiced beverage, often kept carolers warm, and soon wassailing and caroling became intertwined.

Although carols and other songs are still popular forms of entertainment at school concerts and some religious group events, the classic tradition of carolers going door-to-door has largely fallen by the wayside. But those who want to bring back this once beloved tradition can take the following steps to do just that.

• **Find a caroling group leader.** It helps to have someone who has a sense of musicality and pitch to lead the caroling. Carols are usually sung a capella, so you'll need a strong singer to guide others and keep them in tune. Recruit a theatre or music student or even a member of your church choir. Of course, anyone could be the leader, as it's more about sharing the joy rather than having a pitch-perfect group.

• **Choose a neighbourhood to visit.** Select an established neighbourhood where there are likely to be many families and even seniors who will be most receptive to carolers. Place fliers in the mailboxes alerting residents of your caroling plans for those who want to be home to enjoy the free show.



• **Promote your plans if you want a larger crowd.** If you want to make the caroling a big event, promote your plans in the local newspaper or in a community bulletin. This way everyone in the community can take in the caroling show.

• **Choose a handful of well-known songs to sing.** Your audience will appreciate easily recognizable songs they can sing along with if they choose.

• **Print lyric sheets.** Although the lyrics to popular songs are widely known, it helps to have them handy if carolers forget verses. Keep extra copies on hand in case others want to join the caroling group.

• **Get a sponsor.** If you live in a rural area and caroling door-to-door is impractical, see if a local retailer will let you carol outside of his or her store or business. Doing so can set the holiday mood and may generate free advertising and increased business for sponsors.

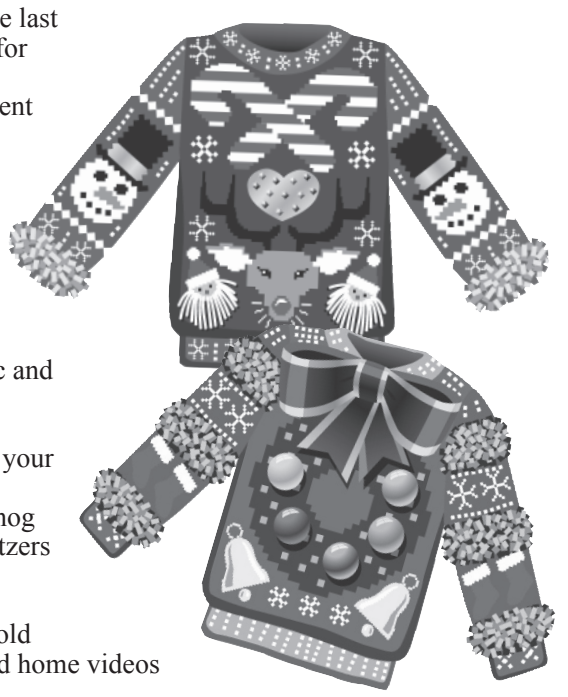
• **Involve youth groups.** Kids love the holiday, so including them in your caroling efforts can bring smiles to many faces. Speak with local youth groups to determine if their members may want to join in your efforts to spread holiday cheer.

Start a new family tradition

Traditions are important to every family. They can strengthen bonds and create meaningful and lasting memories.

While many traditions are set in stone, try adopting some new rituals this season to get into the holiday spirit and bring your family together.

1. Rent a ping-pong table and host an elimination tournament with your family. The last person standing gets a free pass for not doing the dishes.



2. On Christmas Eve, implement a mandatory onesie dress code. To document your onesie party conduct a playful photo shoot with your family and friends.

3. Create a playlist of old tunes from your grandparents and parents' generation, your teenage years and classic cheesy holiday songs. Turn up the music and have a dance party.

4. Combat the cold by incorporating tropical items into your holiday menu. Create Caribbean inspired drinks like coconut eggnog slushies or mandarin orange spritzers and beach inspired snacks like guacamole or crab dip.

5. Dust off and bust out your old school VHS player and watch old home videos from your childhood.

6. Have a slumber party with your siblings by camping out in the living room in front of the tree.

7. Host an ugly sweater craft session and contest with your family. The person with the most 'likes' on social media gets to open the first present.

8. Make breakfast. Four words: "The Wife Saver Recipe." This breakfast dish that you can easily throw together the night before will save you when your family wakes up with hungry tummies after a night of festivities.

— News Canada

Holiday Greetings



With best wishes to you and your flock at this joyous season.

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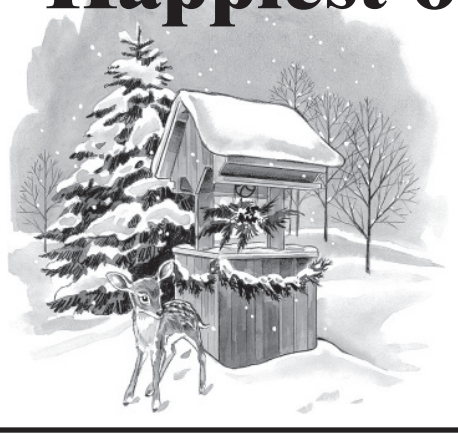
Happiest of Holidays



You've helped make this past year everything we wished it would be. Thank you for your generous support.

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Wishing You A Very Merry Christmas

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Happy Holidays *Joyeuses Fêtes*



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CHRISTMAS WORD SEARCH

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

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally and diagonally throughout the puzzle. Words can also be read backwards – from right to left.

Solution on page 20.

WORDS

BALL
BELLS
BLITZEN
CANDY CANE
CAROLS
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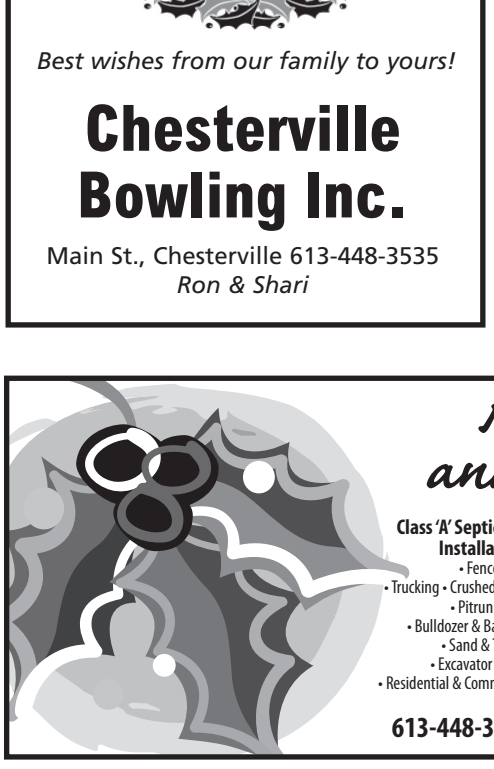

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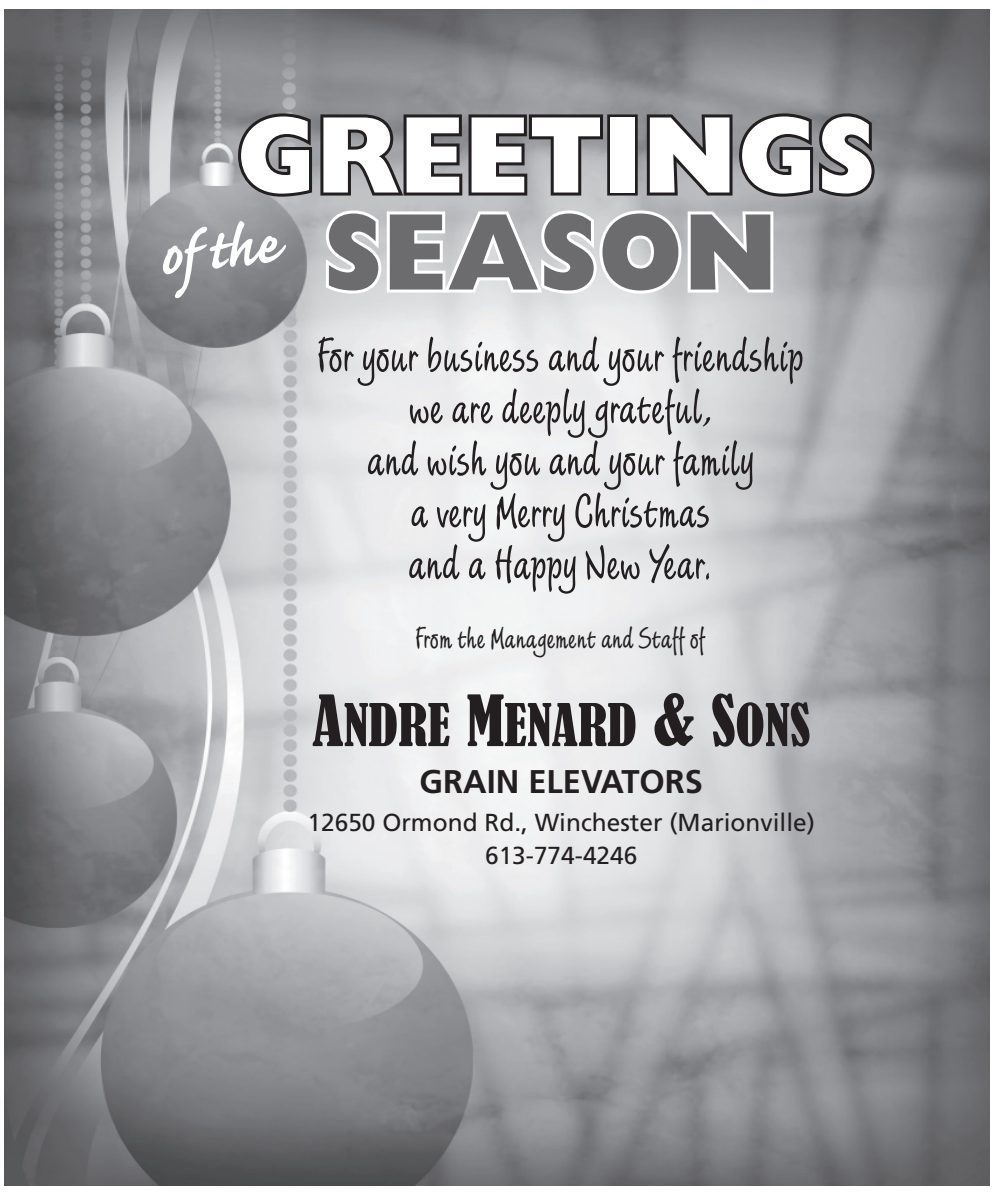

GREETINGS of the SEASON

For your business and your friendship we are deeply grateful, and wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

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'Christmas Vacation' still a top pick for holiday flicks

Holiday films hold a special place in many people's hearts, and perhaps no holiday movie of the last 30 years has resonated as much as "National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation." The oft-quoted holiday favourite turned 25 years old in 2014, yet the film remains as popular as ever.



Fans of "Christmas Vacation" can no doubt quote their favourite lines from the film, but the following are a few tidbits that even the most ardent fan might be unfamiliar with.

• The movie is based on a story titled "Christmas 59," which was written by the same man, John Hughes, who wrote and produced the film. The film pays homage to this story when Clark Griswold is rummaging through the attic and finds a movie reel named "Christmas 59."

• Frank Capra III worked as an assistant director on the film. In one scene of the film, "It's a Wonderful Life," which was directed by Frank Capra III's grandfather, is on a television in the background.

• Actress Mae Questrel (Aunt Bethany) provided the voices for Betty Boop and Olive Oyl in the 1930s. "Christmas Vacation" would be her final film.

• "Christmas Vacation" featured a handful of "Saturday Night Live" alumni. In addition to the film's star, Chevy Chase, SNL alums Randy Quaid, Julia Louis-Dreyfus, and Brian Doyle-Murray appeared in the film.

• The role of Cousin Rocky had no lines in the film.

• In the "Lampoon" films that preceded "Christmas Vacation," Rusty was the older child of the Griswold clan. However, he is the younger sibling in this film.

• "Christmas Vacation" marked the directorial debut for Jeremiah Chechik, who went on to direct "Benny & Joon" and 1998's "The Avengers."

• The movie had a large budget ($27 million) for a comedy with no special effects.

• Surprisingly, "Christmas Vacation" had its own sequel that few are familiar with. The made-for-television "National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation 2: Cousin Eddie's Island Adventure" was released in 2003.

• Cousin Eddie's fashion style, in particular the sweater/Dickie combination, was the brainchild of actor Randy Quaid's wife.

• No part of "Christmas Vacation" takes place on Christmas Day. The film culminates with the antics that take place at the Griswold home on December 24.

• Brian Doyle-Murray, who played Frank Shirley, is the brother of another famous comic actor: Bill Murray.

• "Christmas Vacation" was the only movie in the series up until then that did not feature Lindsey Buckingham's song, "Holiday Road."

How to avoid holiday chaos

Despite your best intentions, you've left your shopping until the last minute. You could be facing a high-stress drive to the mall in heavy traffic this weekend, only to cool your heels in the lengthy lineups.

Here are five ways to simplify your shopping, while still giving meaningful gifts:

1. Go on a baking blitz: Many people don't want a large gift – it's the thought that counts. Everyone loves home baked goodies, so put together an assortment of treats to please every sweet tooth.

2. Host an easy get-together: You don't have to transform your entire home when hosting your next party. Clean the main room and bathroom, buy some wine and a few specialty cheeses and crackers, and you're set to have a few people over on a weeknight.

3. Give group gifts: Cut a shopping list considerably by buying for groups, not individuals.



4. Choose and write personal cards: Nothing says love like a card chosen especially for the person opening the envelope. Plan and write a message from the heart, about what the person means to you or an experience you've shared together this year.

5. Plan a January event: Give the gift of something to look forward to. Whether you invite girlfriends to a spa, or neighbourhood families to skating and hot chocolate, your friends will be happy for an outing once the calendar is empty again.

— News Canada

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HAVE A BALL... IT'S CHRISTMAS!

Minimize the mess!

Trees come in many shapes and sizes, both real and artificial. Those looking for a more authentic tree gravitate toward real trees, with their rich, earthy smell and beautiful boughs of green.

While the sights and smells of real trees are what draw many people in, live trees do require more maintenance than their artificial alternatives. Falling pine needles and sap are part of the live-tree package, as is regular watering and some initial tree preparation. However, those who have their hearts set on a real tree can employ some strategies to minimize the mess.



Face a tree's trunk toward the front of the car to prevent needles from becoming loose and falling off in your home.

Buy a fresh tree

Christmas tree lots may begin to crop up before the end of November, meaning trees will have been cut and shipped weeks before. The tree you put up in your home may be at least two months old by Christmas Day. Also, trees that are open to full sunlight at tree lots can dry out prematurely.

When shopping, look for trees that seem freshly cut and have good needle retention. Grab a branch and see if the needles remain intact. Give the tree trunk a bump on the ground and assess how many needles drop to the ground. Look at the colour of the tree and determine if it is wilting. These may be signs that the tree is old and on its last legs.

Choose the right variety

Some varieties of trees have more staying power after being cut than others. Scotch pine and balsam fir have good needle retention. Spruce trees, which are usually the least expensive variety on lots, may only last two to three weeks.

Wrap and transport

Ask the tree seller to freshly cut the bottom of the tree and wrap the entire tree in twine so it will be easier to move. Place the tree on the roof of your car with the trunk facing the front of the car. This way the wind will not fan out the branches and loosen up needles.

Choose the right location

It may seem like a good idea to put the tree right in front of a picture window, but if that window receives ample sunlight, the tree may dry out more quickly. The same can be said for putting a tree too close to a heating source. A cool, shaded area is best for keeping trees fresher longer. Fit the tree in the stand while it is still outdoors and wrapped up and then move the entire product inside to the right spot. This helps minimize dirt, bark, and needles getting all over the room.

Time your removal

Removing a dried-out tree can be a cleaning disaster. It's better for the tree to make its exit before it withers. A tree can drink a gallon of water per day, so make sure the stand reservoir is adequately filled. Over time, though, the tree may stop taking in water. When this happens, it is best to take down the decorations and get ready for removal. Hiding a tree disposal bag under the tree skirt can make it easier to get the tree out to the curb.

Christmas tree varieties

An evergreen tree decked out in lights and ornaments is one of the universal symbols of the holiday season. The Christmas tree tradition is believed to have originated in Germany in the 15th or 16th centuries, when trees were decorated with edibles, such as nuts and fruits. They were later decorated with candles and eventually lights.

Through the centuries, people have trekked to forests, Christmas tree farms, and commercial lots to pick the perfect trees for their holiday displays. While there are scores of evergreen varieties, certain tree types are more popular than others and thus more available for purchase. The following are some of the more popular trees come Christmastime.



• **White Spruce:** This tree has strong slender twigs which hold ornaments well. Dense foliage and symmetrical proportions of the spruce make it a very beautiful Christmas tree. The spruce needs lots of water however, and like all Christmas trees, must be watered regularly to prevent it from losing its needles. The needles are about two centimeters long, and are an attractive dark green. They are stiff and slightly curved and give off a sharp pungent odour when crushed.

• **Colorado Blue Spruce:** An attractive blue-green foliage and a good symmetrical form is what attracts many people to the blue spruce. The Colorado Blue Spruce has an excellent natural shape and requires little pruning to look like the perfect Christmas tree. It's not very fragrant, but the tree needles may give off an unpleasant odour when crushed.

• **Scotch Pine:** A classic conical shape and very good needle retention help make the Scotch pine a popular tree to cut for the holidays. Scotch pines also are quite prevalent thanks to the tree's adaptability to a wide range of climates.

• **White Pine:** A delicate green colour and long needles are found on this tree. Another popular pine, the rich fragrance of the white pine may make it preferable to those who like their homes to smell of evergreen.

• **Balsam Fir:** Balsam fir trees hold their needles well and are a good choice if the decorated tree is to be left standing for a longer period of time. The needles are two to three centimeters in length, are rounded at the tip and are a dark, shiny green in colour. Unlike spruce needles, fir needles are flat and will not roll between your fingers. Balsam fir Christmas trees branches work well for lighter ornaments.

• **Fraser Fir:** Another popular fir for Christmas is the Fraser fir. The needles are bicoloured, with dark green on top and silver on the bottom. More fragrant than its cousin, the Douglas, the Fraser also boasts a slender profile, which makes it suitable for smaller rooms.



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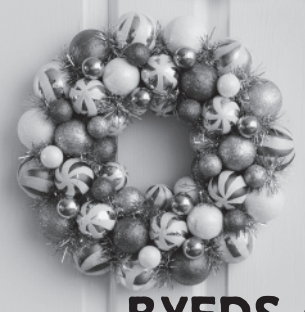

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Did you know?



Leaving cookies and milk for Santa Claus is a Christmas Eve tradition. Children regularly place a dish of cookies and a glass of milk by the tree on Christmas Eve so that Santa has enough energy to complete all of his gift-giving before kids wake up on Christmas morning. The tradition of leaving cookies out on Christmas Eve may trace its origins to Saint Nicholas. On the feast of St. Nicholas on December 6, children would leave food and drink for the saint and any attendants. The treats would be exchanged for gifts. While that's one theory behind the tradition, others think it is linked to the history of the Christmas tree and the edible decorations that adorn it. Santa would snack on the ornaments. Even after edible decorations gave way to inedible ornaments, the tradition of leaving a snack for Santa remained.

Toy trends for kids

This year's trending items are full of fun, creative ways for kids to play and learn. Use this handy list when you head to the toy store and you can't go wrong.

• **Maker movement.** This growing movement is all about creating something and is perfect for little inventors and tinkerers. Think construction toys, design kits, and musical instruments.

• **Interactive learning.** Lure kids away from the screen with toys that grab their attention and invite them to join in. Try number and word games, finger puppets, puzzles and brain teasers, or a good old fashioned chemistry set.

• **Helping others.** Put the focus on the spirit of giving. Ask kids to trade in an old toy for every new one, or simply give a gift to charity in their name. UNICEF's Survival Gifts program lets you choose your gift – such as vaccines, textbooks, and therapeutic foods – and sends a card to the person in whose name you've dedicated the life-saving gift. More information is available at survivalgifts.ca.

• **Open-ended playtime.** Say goodbye to scheduled activities and let kids be kids by promoting creativity and problem-solving skills. The ideas are endless: craft supplies, toy cars, bubbles, finger paints, bath toys, building blocks, doll accessories, and more.

— News Canada

TV trivia

A Festivus for the rest of us

There are numerous end-of-year holidays. Thanksgiving, Christmas, Chanukah, Kwanzaa, and New Year's Eve are celebrated this time of year, but there's another holiday that's celebrated in December.

Each December 23, legions of "Seinfeld" fans and many others who are familiar with the popular series pay hommage to "A Festivus for the Rest of Us."

This contrived, alternative holiday was a plot line developed for the beloved Costanza family on the series and was billed as Frank Costanza's creation.

Festivus debuted on December 18, 1997, on the episode, "The Strike." Instead of a tree, candles or carols, Festivus celebrations involve a metal pole, the airing of grievances and feats of strength.

Many believe Festivus was simply a television creation, but the holiday is loosely rooted in fact. Daniel O'Keefe, a former writer for "Seinfeld," reluctantly admitted that his father, Dan, actually invented Festivus in 1966. O'Keefe told CNN that his little brother let the Festivus traditions slip out, and other writers for the show, including Jerry Seinfeld, felt it would make for a great episode, particularly because the holiday wasn't beholden to anything political or religious. That was the reason O'Keefe's father developed it in the first place.

The real Festivus had few similarities to the TV version. While there was an airing of grievances, the pole and feats of strength were absent. In addition, Festivus would be celebrated any time between October and May. O'Keefe has written that his father would also nail a bag containing a clock to the wall each year, but he doesn't know why his father did this.

Since 1997, the holiday has become a worldwide celebration, with people gathering around their own metal poles in late December every year.

How Sweet It is!

Wishing you all good things at Christmas and in the New Year to come.

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Deck THE HALLS

This note is trimmed with best wishes, and our gratitude too, plus a string of glad tidings to each one of you!
Happy Holidays!

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Helpful tips for enjoying a debt-free Christmas

by Karen Sheldrick

Christmas is a wonderful time of year to relax, and celebrate with family and friends. Contrary to popular belief, we don't need to spend large amounts of money to make great memories – here are some tips to enjoying a debt-free, memorable Christmas.



Start saving in January

The key is to plan ahead by making a list, and deciding what amount you'll be spending. Divide the amount by 52, and set aside this amount each week in an envelope or jar marked "Christmas" along with the list you've made. Each time you make a purchase for Christmas, use the money from this stash and replace it with the receipt from the item purchased.

Give gifts with meaning

The most memorable gift I ever received was a small doll's bed my father made, decorated with decals from a Sears catalogue, and covered with a blanket my mother crocheted. Personal gifts mean so much to the recipient of the gift, and often cost a fraction of a store-bought one.

Here are some thoughtful gifts for the special people in your life, all for under $10.

Handcrafted gifts

- A basket with their favourite treats
- Handmade item like a scarf, lap blanket, coffee cozy, or dish clothes
- A jar of red pepper jelly, jam, cranberry sauce, salsa, butterscotch sauce, or garlic butter
- A Christmas arrangement, such as a door bough or wreath made with greenery from your back yard
- A binder with your teen's favourite recipes
- A framed handwritten poem or child's artwork
- Homemade Play-Doh
- Sewing kit in a jar
- Scrabble ornament
- Teacup candle
- Pine cone firestarters

Most of these items, including knitting and crochet patterns, can be found on the Internet by doing a Google search.

Personalized Coupons

Make coupons to give as gifts, stating what the coupon is redeemable for. Free printable coupon templates can be found on the Internet.

Here are some coupon ideas:

For kids up to tweens: A special "mom and me" outing, staying up one hour past bed time, a cookie baking session, afternoon of crafting, one hour playing their favourite sport with them, or an ice cream sundae party.

For teens: Home mani/pedi, car detailing (of their car, not yours!), their choice of dinner, get-out-of-chores-for-a-day (or week), one hour playing their favourite video game with them, or doing something of their choice.

Spouse: Watch a sport with them that they enjoy, a romantic picnic, serve them breakfast in bed, foot/body massage, sleep in for a morning, do a chore of their choice, or wash and detail their car for them.

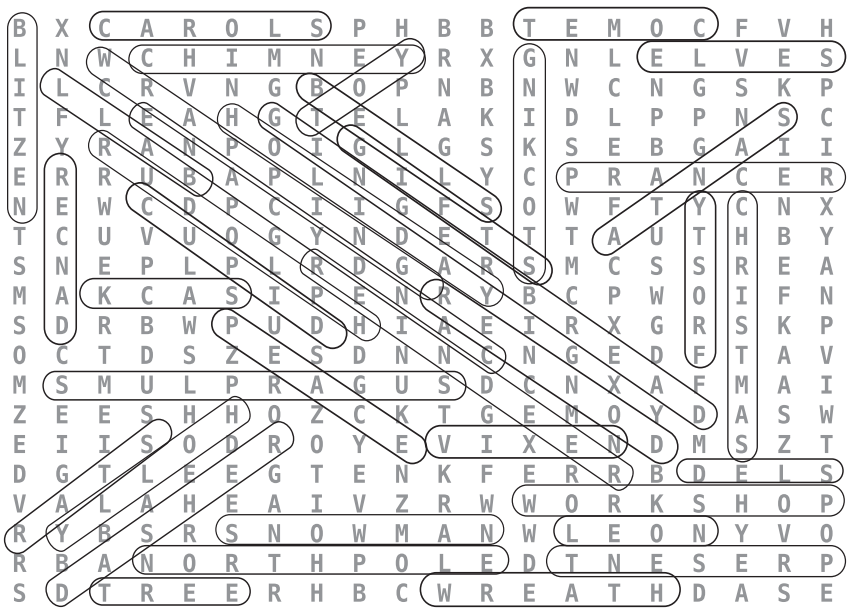
Other great gifts for under $10

- Donation to the recipient's favourite charity
- Gift or gift certificate from a local business or coffee shop
- Local food item, such as honey or cider
- A small food item with the story behind it attached, such as Terry's Chocolate Orange (Google search "Story of the Chocolate Orange") or the Christmas story of M&M's.
- For the techie: USB wristband, USB transformer, or a Cable Monkey Organizer.

By putting some time into creating inexpensive, thoughtful gifts, we will also be modelling good habits for our children that will benefit them for years to come.

Karen Sheldrick is a Russell-based financial assistance specialist, and owner of Dove Financial Coaching. She can be reached by email at dovefinancialcoaching@bell.net.

Holiday Word Search Solution



A Sleigh Full of Thanks!



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Greetings of the Season
There may be a chill in the air, but our hearts are warmed by thoughts of our many good friends and neighbours at this special time of year.
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Holiday Recipe Collection

From Our Kitchens... ...To Yours



Reese's Pieces Peanut Butter Cookies

Submitted by Donna Rushford, co-publisher and advertising manager

This is one of my favourite cookies that my Granddaughter Cadence makes. Siblings Ethan and Arwyn would agree as well that they are yummy!

½ cup (1 stick) butter or margarine softened
½ cup granulated sugar
½ cup packed brown sugar
½ cup peanut butter
1 egg
½ tsp vanilla extract
1 cup all purpose flour
½ tsp baking soda
¼ tsp salt
1 cup Reese's Pieces candies

Heat oven to 350 degrees F. Beat butter, granulated sugar, brown sugar, peanut butter, egg and vanilla in a large bowl until fluffy. Stir together flour, baking soda, and salt, gradually add to butter mixture, beating until well blended. Stir in candies. Drop by teaspoons onto ungreased cookie sheet. Bake 10 to 12 minutes or until edges are lightly browned, remove from oven. Cool slightly and move to wire rack. Let cool completely. Makes about 30 cookies.

Secret Kiss Cookies

Submitted by Elan Slack, advertising sales

You can use milk chocolate, HUGS, candy cane, caramel or any other flavour of Kisses you want. Try a new flavour each batch!

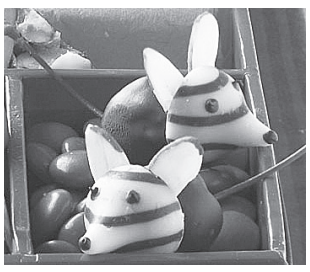
1 cup butter, softened
½ cup sugar
1 tsp vanilla
1 ¾ cups flour
1 cup walnuts, finely chopped
1 package (6 ounces) Kisses (about 36). Remove wrappers.
Confectioners sugar

Cream butter, sugar and vanilla in a large bowl. gradually add flour and nuts. Beat on low speed until well blended.

Chill dough about 1 hour or until firm enough to handle. When sufficiently chilled, mould approximately 1 tablespoon of dough around an unwrapped candy Kiss and roll to make a ball. Be sure to cover the Kiss completely (may not be quite round).

Place on ungreased baking sheet. Bake in 375 degree F oven for 12 minutes or until cookies are set but not brown. Cool slightly, remove to wire rack. While still warm, roll in confectioners sugar. If desired, roll in sugar again before serving. Makes about 36 cookies.

Christmas Mice



Submitted by Marlene Harper, office manager

1 ½ cups semisweet chocolate pieces
1 - 300 ml jar maraschino cherries with stems, drained and patted dry
36 milk chocolate kisses with stripes
Sliced almonds

Place chocolate pieces in a small microwave-safe bowl. Microwave on high for 1 minute or until chocolate is melted, stirring twice. Hold cherries by the stem and dip, one at a time, in melted chocolate to coat. Place coated cherries on a large baking sheet. Immediately press the flat bottom of a kiss up against the cherry (forming mouse head). Insert two almond slices between head and body to form ears. Use a toothpick dipped in remaining melted chocolate to make eyes. If you like, dot some of the melted chocolate on tip of kiss for nose. Place the baking sheet in the refrigerator and let chill for 15 minutes or until chocolate is set. Use a small flat metal spatula or table knife to help remove mice from baking sheet. Store in tightly covered container in refrigerator for up to 2 days. Makes about 36 mice.

Chocolate-Cherry Poke Cake

Submitted by Linda Johnston, graphic designer

1 package chocolate cake mix
3 eggs (or as called for by your cake mix)
⅓ cup oil (or as called for by your cake mix)
1 ⅓ cups water (or as called for by your cake mix)
1 (85 g) package cherry gelatin
1 cup boiling water
1 or 2 (540 ml) cans cherry pie filling
1 or 2 pkg. Dr. Oetker chocolate mousse (prepared) or frozen whipped topping (thawed) or sweetened whipped cream
Grated chocolate (or chopped nuts)

Prepare and bake cake mix according to package directions in a greased 13 x 9 inch pan. Cool. Remove cake from pan. Immediately poke holes down into cake using a fork (holes should be at one-inch intervals). Cool cake completely. When cake is cooled mix Jello with boiling water until combined; pour mixture over cake. Top with pie filling, then cover with mousse or whipped topping. Sprinkle grated chocolate or nuts over top. Refrigerate until serving.



Merry Christmas

Wishing you and your loved ones a wondrous season filled with all the trimmings and hopes of a healthy and happy new year.

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Happy Holidays

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Ho-Ho-Hope It's Fun!



May the Christmas season bring a rush of excitement that leaves you laughing all the way through the New Year!

Thanks for your trust in us. We appreciate your loyal support and friendship.

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Press Staff

Holiday Recipe Collection



Press staffers have sifted through their recipes to share some of their favourites with readers.

Easy Christmas Peppermint Patties

Submitted by Marlene Harper, office manager

¼ cup butter, softened
⅓ cup light corn syrup
3 - 4 cups powdered sugar, divided
1 - 2 tsp peppermint extract or your choice
Food colouring - preferably gel or paste
½ cup granulated sugar (to roll balls in)

Combine butter and corn syrup together in a small bowl. Add 2 cups powdered sugar and your choice of extract and mix until well combined. Add extract ½ teaspoon at a time until the mixture reaches your desired flavor. Stir in an additional cup of powdered sugar.

Turn bowl onto a cutting board sprinkled with another half a cup of powdered sugar. Knead the mixture until sugar is absorbed and is completely smooth, adding additional powdered sugar if needed. Divide dough into three portions. Tint one portion red with the red food colour/gel and one green. Leave one portion white.

Shape into ¾ inch balls and roll in granulated sugar. Flatten gently with a fork. Let stand, uncovered, at room temperature for 1 day. Store in an airtight container.

Optional: Dip in chocolate if desired.

Jean's Raspberry Pastry Squares

Submitted by Sharon Holmes, administrative assistant

Sift together:
1 ½ c flour
¼ cup white sugar
1 tsp baking powder
½ tsp salt
½ tsp cinnamon

Stir in ½ cup brown sugar
⅓ cup blanched ground almonds

Cut in:
½ cup butter until crumbly and one slightly beaten egg.

Pat ½ mixture in 8 x 8 inch pan. Spread ½ cup raspberry jam over. Roll out rest of dough to 9 x 6 inches. Cut strips ½ inch x 9 inch (20). Lattice diagonally over jam. Brush with slightly beaten egg.

Bake 375 degrees F for 25 minutes.

Creamy Egg Nog

Submitted by Nancy Torrance, graphic designer

4 egg yolks
4 ½ cups milk
½ can (150 ml) sweetened condensed milk
4 egg whites
1 Tbsp white sugar
2 Tbsp rum
1 tsp vanilla
¼ tsp ground nutmeg

In a large mixing bowl, beat egg yolks until they are thickened and light. Gradually stir in condensed milk, sugar, vanilla, and milk. Beat the egg whites until stiff, then add them to the milk mixture. Stir rum into the mixture (to taste). Garnish with nutmeg.

No Bake Granola Bars

Submitted by Janet LaPierre, production manager

2 ½ cups Rice Krispies
1 ½ cups quick cooking oats
1 cup trail mix (pumpkin seed, sunflower seed, cranberries, almonds, M&M's)
1 cup smooth peanut butter
½ cup honey
¼ cup packed brown sugar

Line a 13 X 9 inch pan with parchment. Combine first 3 ingredients.

Microwave remaining ingredients in microwave on high 1 minute, stir.

Add to cereal mixture, mix well.

Press in pan, cool 30 minutes. Cut into bars.

Best Ever No-Bake Bars

Submitted by Nancy Torrance, graphic designer

1 cup peanut butter
½ cup honey
½ cup unrefined coconut oil (be sure to use unrefined for the coconut flavor)
2 cups dry oats (not instant)
1 cup shredded coconut
½ cup chopped walnuts (optional)
1 ¼ cups dark chocolate chips
1 tsp. vanilla extract

Combine all ingredients in the top of a double boiler and heat gently until chocolate and peanut butter melt and everything is well combined. Turn into a buttered 9 x 9 inch pan and press firmly. Chill until you can cut into bars. Keep in the fridge or a cool place.

Recipe lends itself to adding glacé cherries or almonds or whatever you like.



May the bounty of the holidays bring you peace, joy and contentment.

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Press Staff

Holiday Recipe Collection

Here's a selection of our holiday favourites that will hopefully become your favourites, too.



Cranberry White Chocolate Oatmeal Cookies in a Jar

Submitted by Linda Johnston, graphic designer

Great home-made gift idea!



1 quart mason jar or other decorative jar
1/3 cup sugar
1/3 cup packed brown sugar
¾ cup flour
½ tsp baking powder
1/8 tsp baking soda
1/8 tsp salt
1 cup quick cooking oats
1 cup dried cranberries
1 cup white chocolate chips

Place sugar in the jar. Tamp down to create clean layers. Place brown sugar in the jar. Tamp down to create clean layers. Combine flour, baking soda, baking powder, and salt in a separate bowl and mix. Add to jar and tamp down. Layer in the oats, cranberries, and white chocolate chips, tamping between layers. Seal with lid and decorate.

Make labels or tags with name of cookie and the following baking directions:

Preheat oven to 375 degrees F. Beat together ½ cup softened butter or margarine, 1 large egg, and 1 tsp vanilla in a large bowl until well blended. Add this jar of cookie mix and mix well. Cover and refrigerate 30 minutes. Place Tbsp sized balls onto ungreased baking sheets. Bake 8-10 min., then move to wire racks to cool. Makes 18 cookies.

Homemade "French Vanilla" Coffee Creamer

Submitted by Janet LaPierre, production manager

½ can of sweetened condensed milk
10 oz of milk – can use 2% if desired
2 Tbsp of vanilla extract
¼ tsp peppermint extract

Whisk all these together really well. Store in fridge. It will stay fresh as long as the milk you added hasn't met its expiration date yet.

Butter Tart Squares

Submitted by Linda Johnston, graphic designer

½ cup butter
2 Tbsp icing sugar
1 ¼ cups all-purpose flour
1 ½ cups packed brown sugar
¼ cup butter, melted

2 eggs, beaten
1 Tbsp white vinegar
1 tsp vanilla extract
1 cup raisins

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F.

To Make Base: In a small mixer bowl, cream together butter or margarine and icing sugar. Blend in flour. Pat into 9 X 9 inch pan. Bake in preheated oven for 5 minutes.

To Make Filling: In a large bowl combine brown sugar, melted butter or margarine, beaten eggs, vinegar, vanilla, and raisins. Pour over base and bake in preheated oven for 35 to 40 minutes, until set.

Christmas Crunch Popcorn Recipe

Submitted by Alicia Gosselin, reporter

If you want to whip up a tasty holiday treat in less than 10 minutes, this recipe will make your eyes pop! This recipe is also an easy holiday gift – just place into a mason jar, tie a ribbon around it, or decorate as you please.

½ cup of popcorn kernels
½ cup of melted white chocolate
1 (12 oz) bag of milk chocolate or mint M&M's, green and red
1 cup of red and green (jingle mix) nonpareils sprinkles
½ cup of pretzel pieces

Pop the popcorn kernels. Pour the melted white chocolate over the popcorn. Stir in the rest of ingredients. Let mix settle for about five minutes. Serve!

Gingerbread Smoothie

Submitted by Alicia Gosselin, reporter

During the holidays, it's hard to resist the high-calorie goodies available just about everywhere you turn. But this simple gingerbread smoothie is a creamy, healthy, vegan, and gluten-free treat that tastes just like gingerbread cookies. What more could you ask for?

1 ½ cups of coconut milk from carton or milk of choice
1 small banana, frozen
¼ tsp. nutmeg
½ tsp. cinnamon
½ tsp. ginger, ground
1/8 tsp. cloves, ground
1 tsp. vanilla extract
1 tbsp. molasses
¼ tsp. Stevia or sugar to taste
1 cup of ice

Place all ingredients in a blender and process until smooth.

Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas

We wish you a season trimmed with health, harmony and happiness.
Thanks for brightening up our year.
We're looking forward to serving you again next year.

Chris Hart, CMA
Area Manager, Winchester
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chart@alliedtax.ca www.alliedgroup.ca

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Thank you and Merry Christmas!

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The Winchester Press

is proud to present children's drawings, poems, and letters to Santa, submitted by local schools.

December 16, 2015

I love Christmas

I love Christmas yes I do, I do.
I sleep and sleep until the sun is shining. I wake up and see how good I been this yere. Then it's all over and I am sad but I can't waet until next yere!

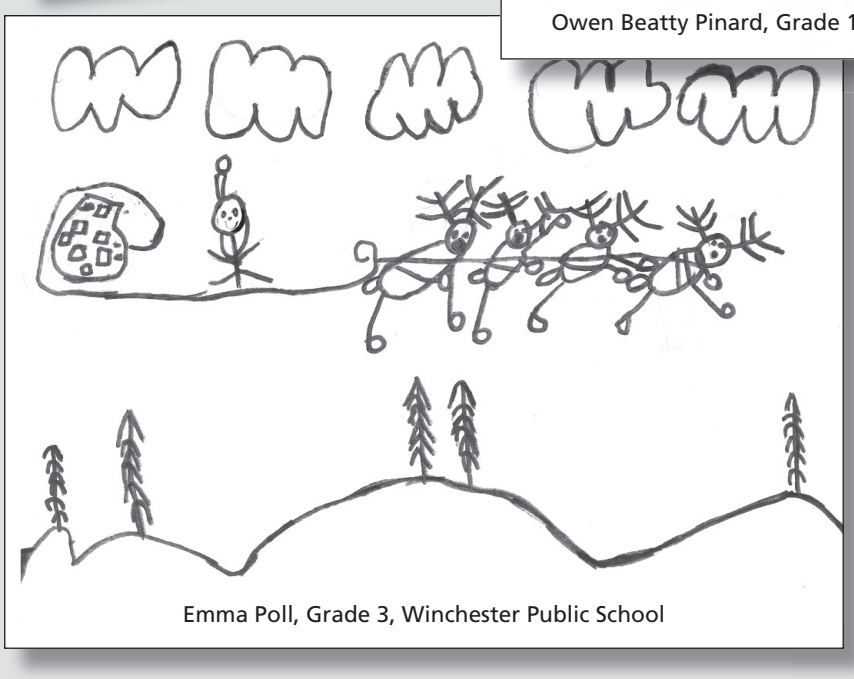
Isabelle,
Grade 2,
Winchester Public School



Owen Beatty Pinard, Grade 1, Winchester Public School

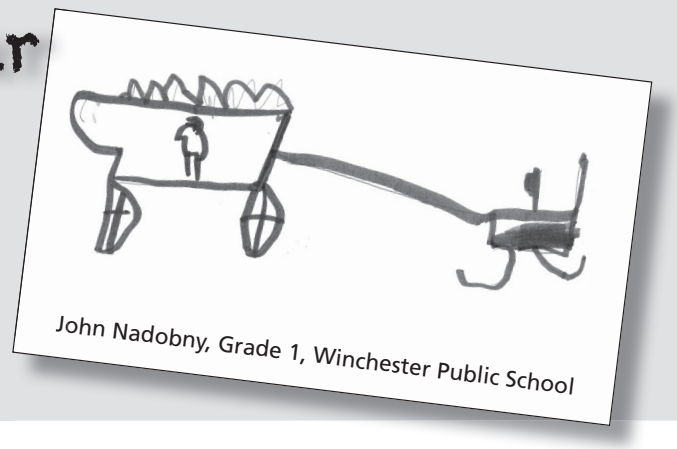


Tyler, Grade 3, Winchester Public School



Emma Poll, Grade 3, Winchester Public School

Winchester Public School



John Nadobny, Grade 1, Winchester Public School

Merry Christmas & Happy Holidays

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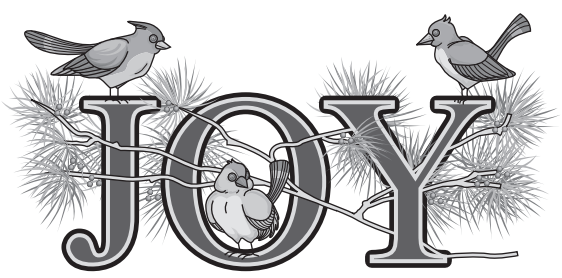

Merry Christmas!

Here's hoping your home and heart are filled with joy this holiday season.

With heartfelt gratitude from our flock to yours.

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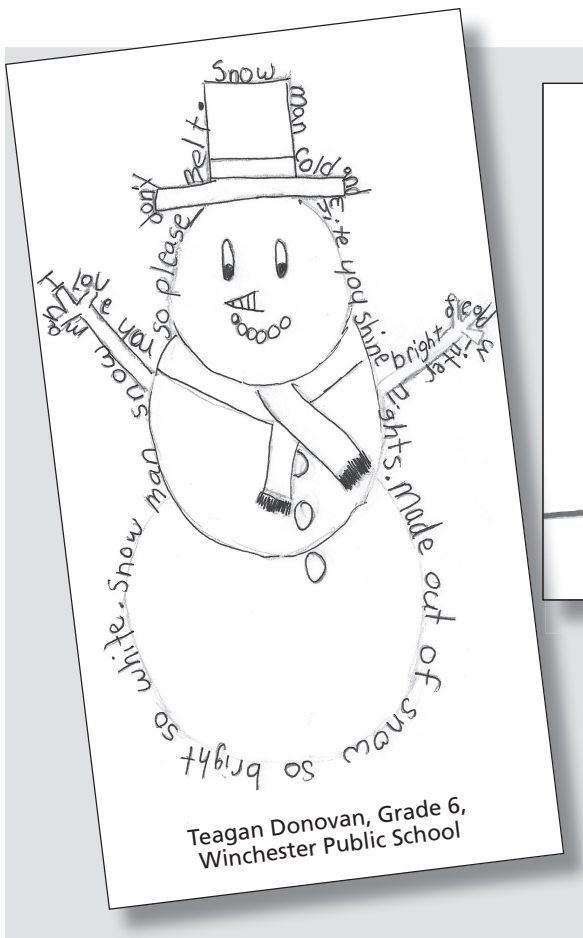
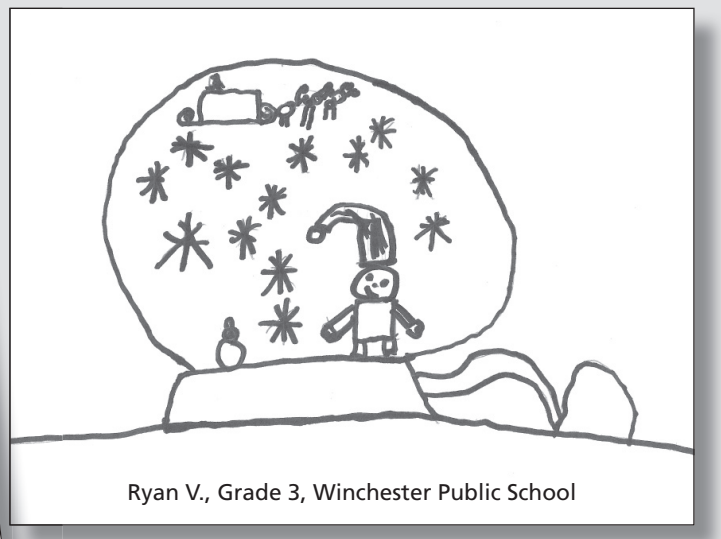
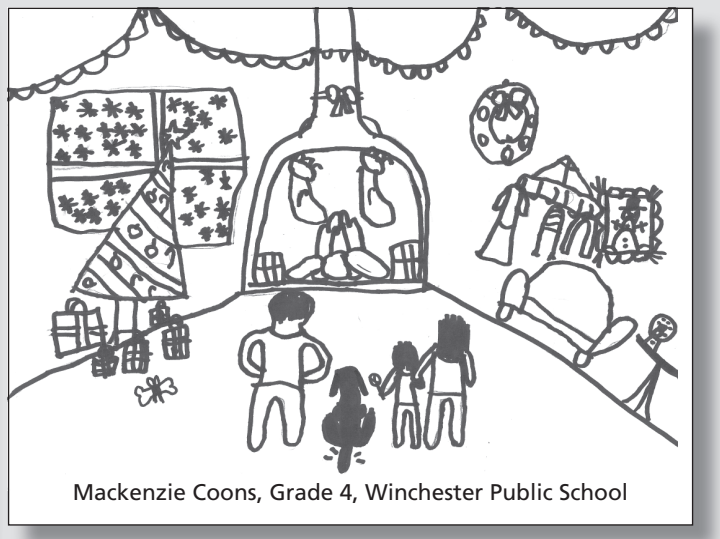


Teagan Donovan, Grade 6, Winchester Public School

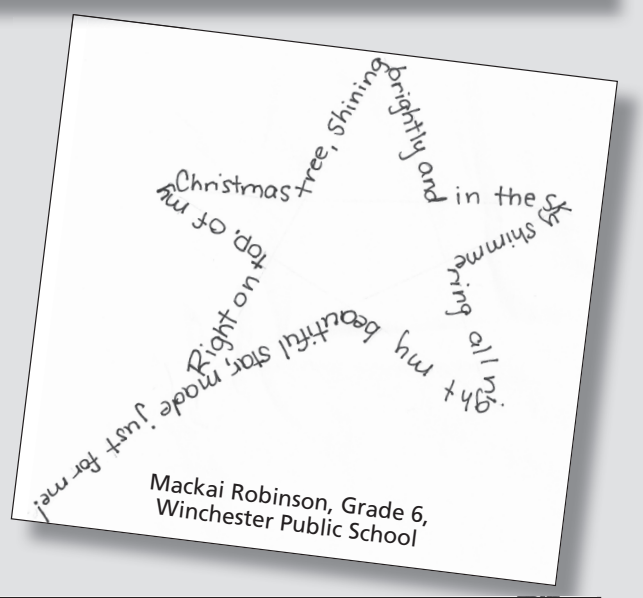


Ryan V., Grade 3, Winchester Public School

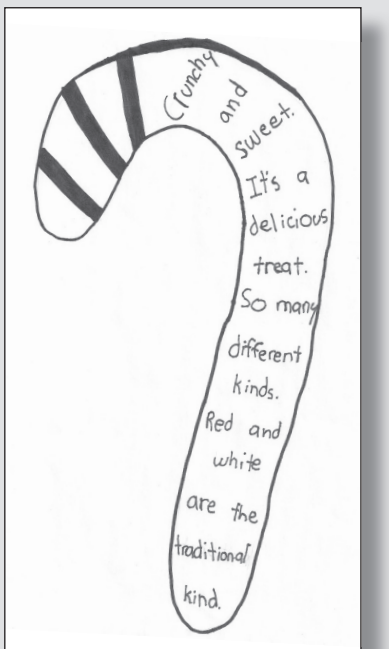


Mackenzie Coons, Grade 4, Winchester Public School

Winchester Public School



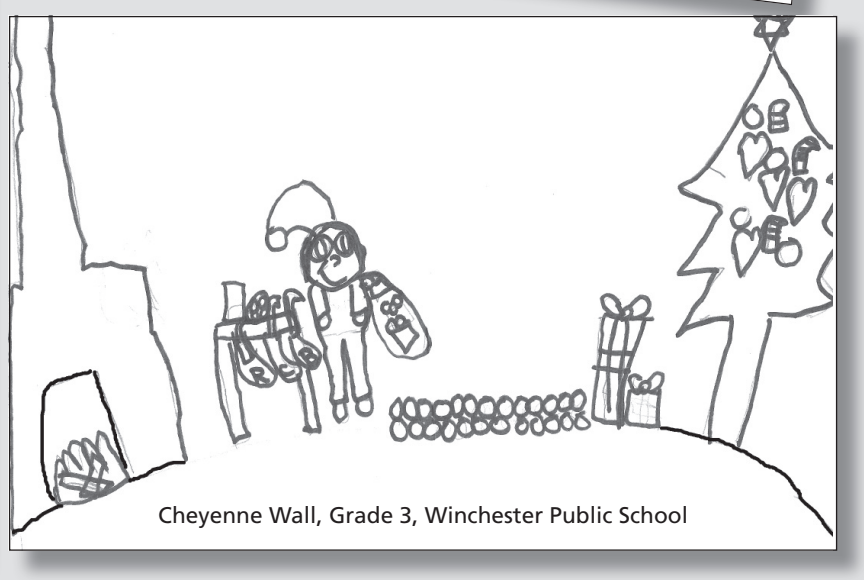
Mackai Robinson, Grade 6, Winchester Public School



Kayla Nagerl, Grade 6, Winchester Public School

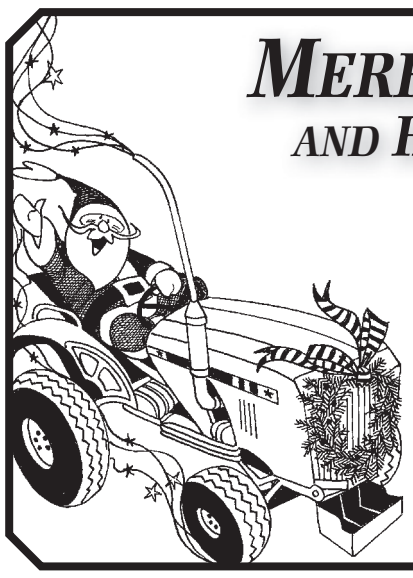


Jade, Grade 2, Winchester Public School



Cheyenne Wall, Grade 3, Winchester Public School

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!



With best wishes and gratitude to all of those who have made doing business here such a pleasure for all of us!

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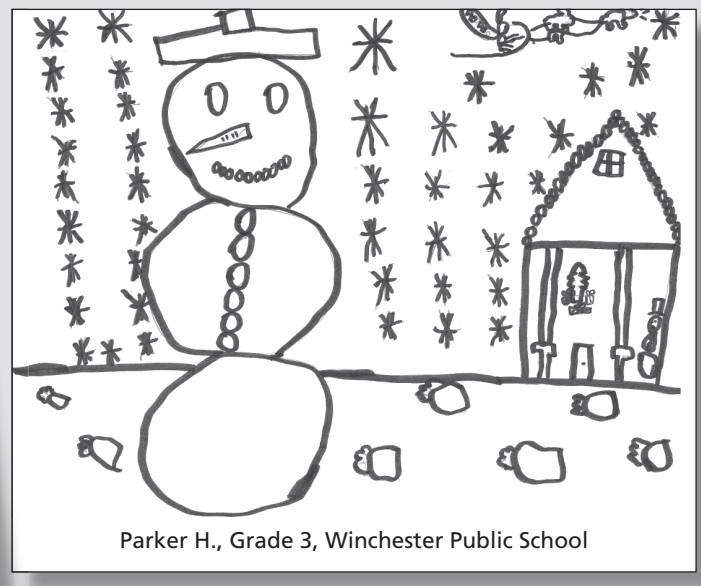
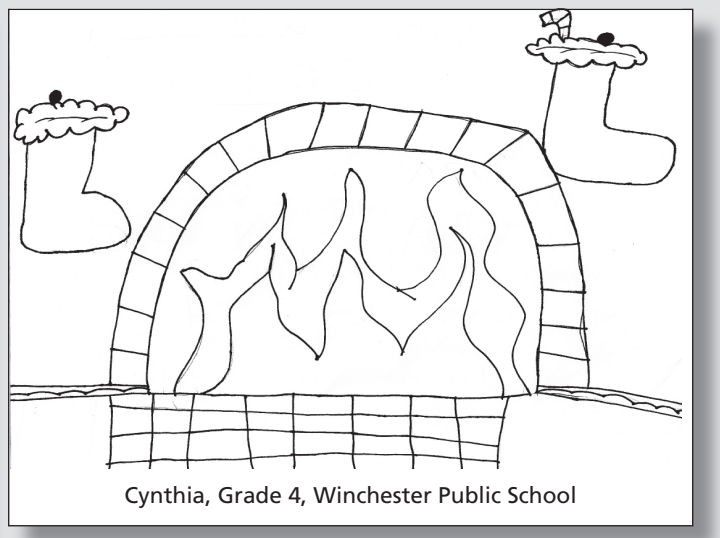
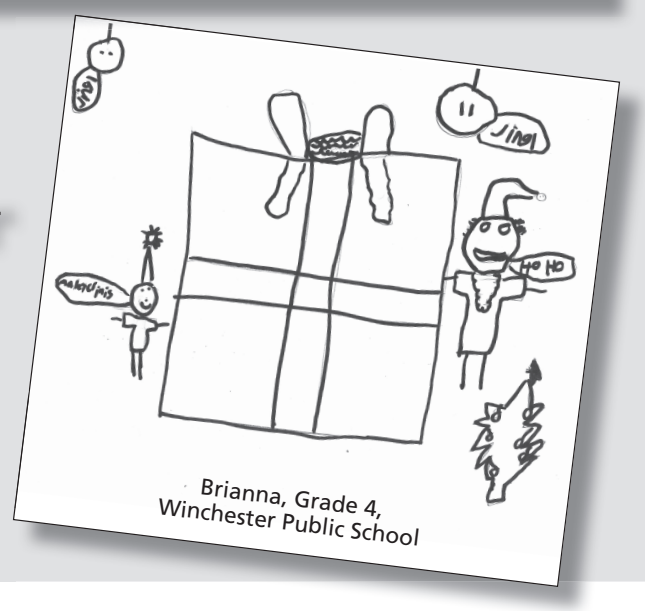
Anicka Kekanovich Holmes, Grade 1, Winchester Public School


Parker H., Grade 3, Winchester Public School


Cynthia, Grade 4, Winchester Public School

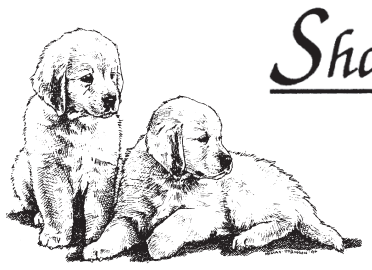

Matthew Johnson, Grade 2, Winchester Public School

Winchester Public School



Brianna, Grade 4, Winchester Public School

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year
Peter and Carole Brechbill and staff would like to wish everyone a healthy and happy holiday season.



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Merry Christmas!

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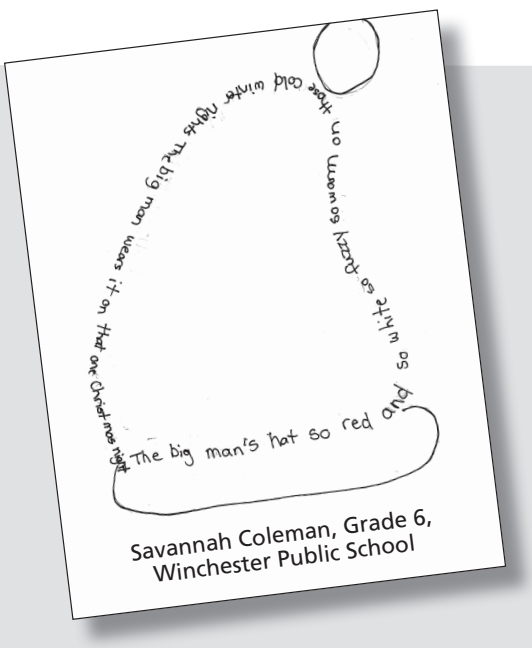

Savannah Coleman, Grade 6, Winchester Public School



Rylin S., Grade 3, Winchester Public School



Abbi C., Grade 3, Winchester Public School



Leland, Grade 4, Winchester Public School

❄

Winchester Public School

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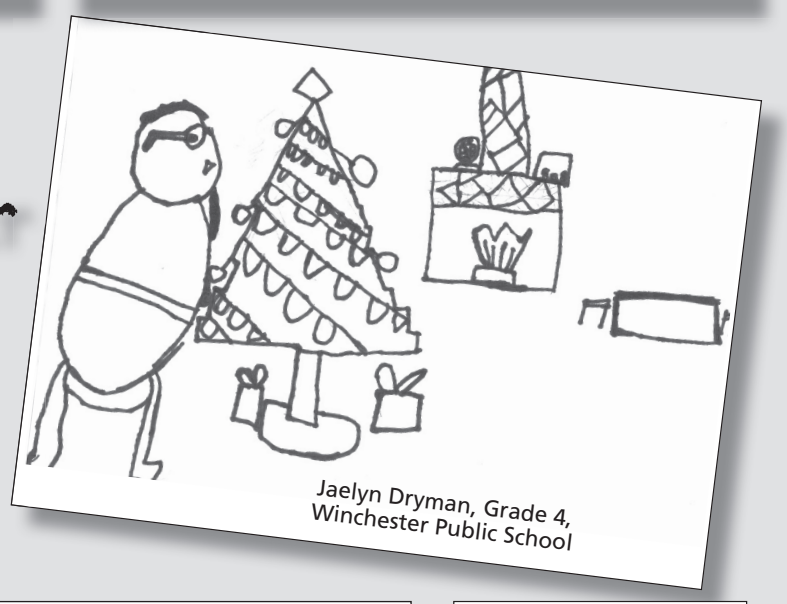

Jaelyn Dryman, Grade 4, Winchester Public School



Kaden S., Grade 3, Winchester Public School



Addison S., Grade 3, Winchester Public School

Christmas

The snow is white as a snow bunny. Roudolph is a raindeer. Roudolph has a red nose. Santa goes into his sled and gives kids presents.

Brooke E., Grade 2, Winchester Public School



SENDING OUR BEST

Here's hoping your holiday delivers a bundle of joy and good cheer!

Merry Christmas and sincere thanks for your support this past year.

– Peter, Helen, Family & Staff

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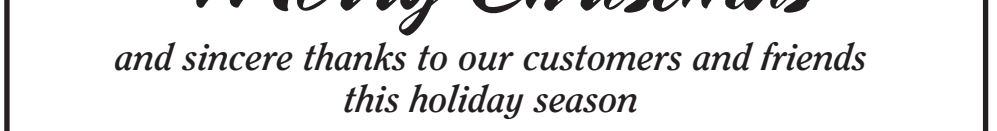

Merry Christmas

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Merry Christmas

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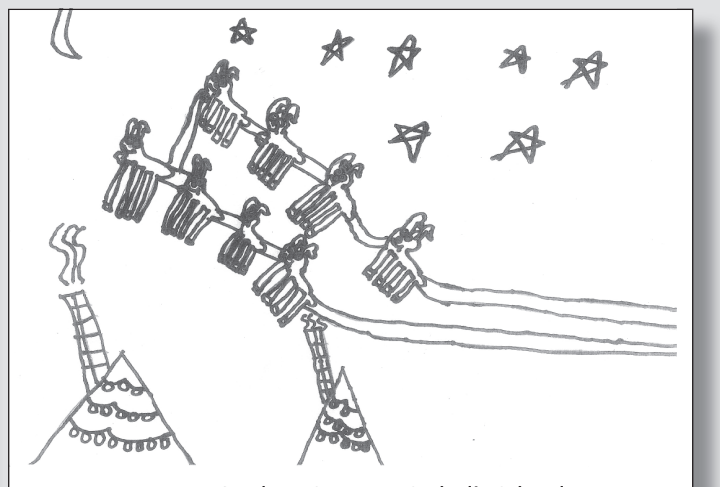
Casidhe B., 5 years old,
St. Mary Catholic School



Luke, Grade 4, St. Mary Catholic School



Ava B., Grade 4, St. Mary Catholic School



Jessi M., 5 years old, St. Mary Catholic School

St. Mary Catholic School, Chesterville

What Christmas means to me!

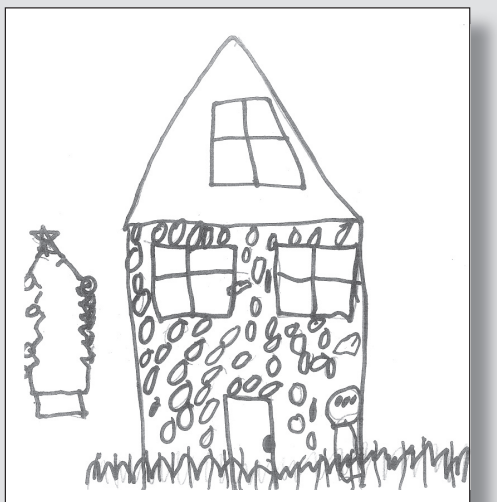
Family and kindness,
Crying of laughter.
Happiness and decorating,
And caroling after.

Finding the perfect tree,
Bring it home for the kids.
Getting all the decorations out,
Putting them on the tree.

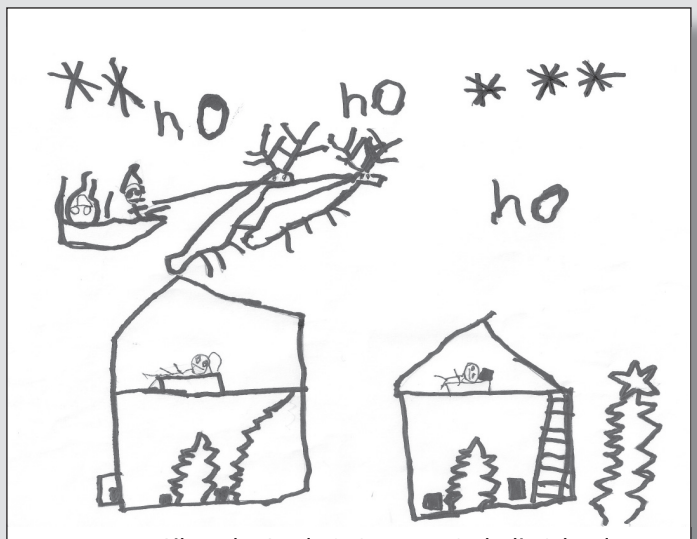
Kids helping out shoveling the snow,
Off the lane way.
Building a snow family,
Making snow angels.

Having hot coco,
Sitting before the nice warm fireplace,
Putting gifts under the tree,
Then waiting for St. Nick!

Paige, Grade 6,
St. Mary Catholic School



Ava H., Grade 4,
St. Mary Catholic School



James Gibeault, Grade 3, St. Mary Catholic School

My Holiday Time

Christmas is one of my favourite holidays. I see big presents under the tall Christmas tree. I smell the roasted turkey on the dinner table. I taste minty candy canes. I hear loud bells ringing out side. I feel snow flakes on my tongue.

Patrick Guy, St. Mary Catholic School



We wish all our friends and neighbours health, happiness and prosperity.
Thank you for your business.

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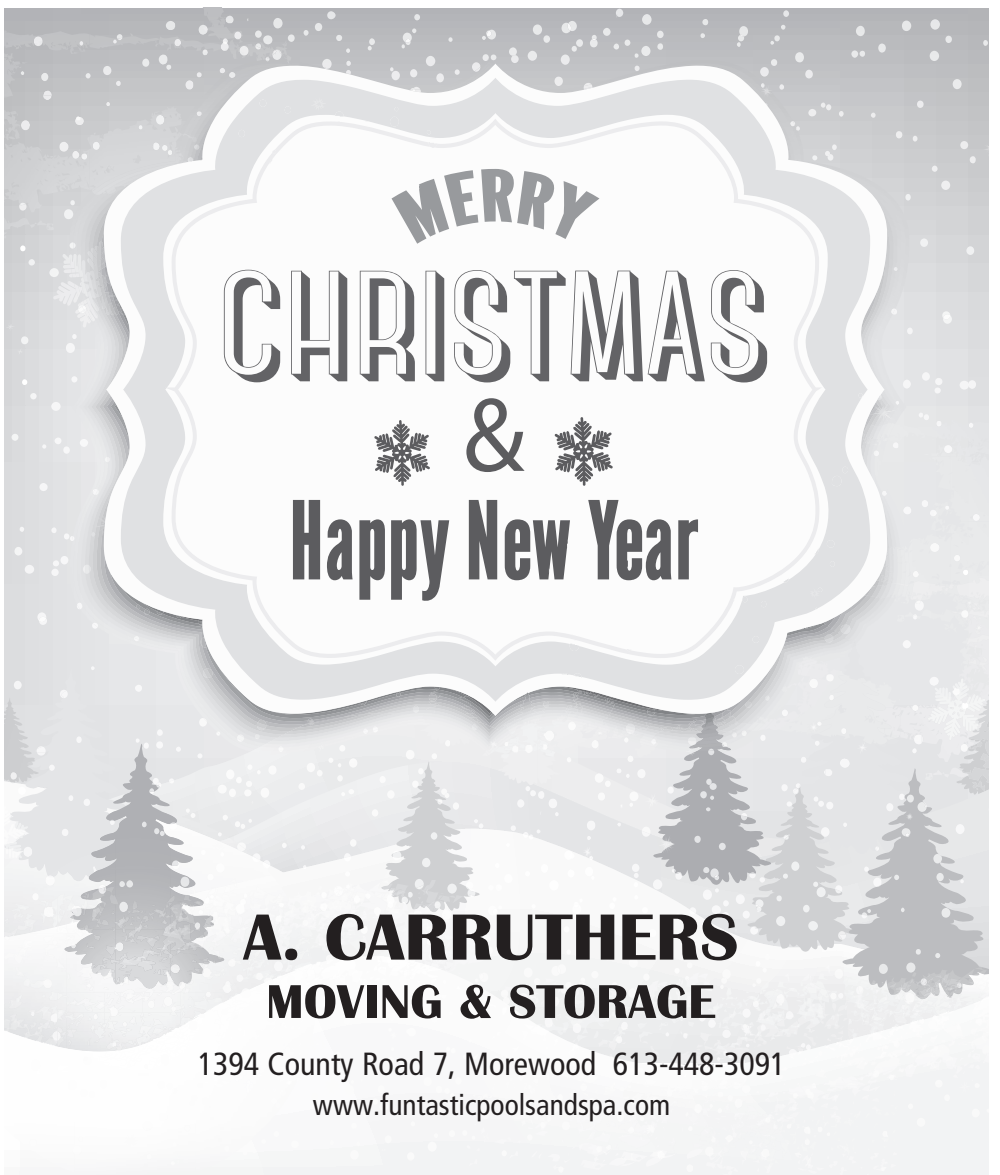

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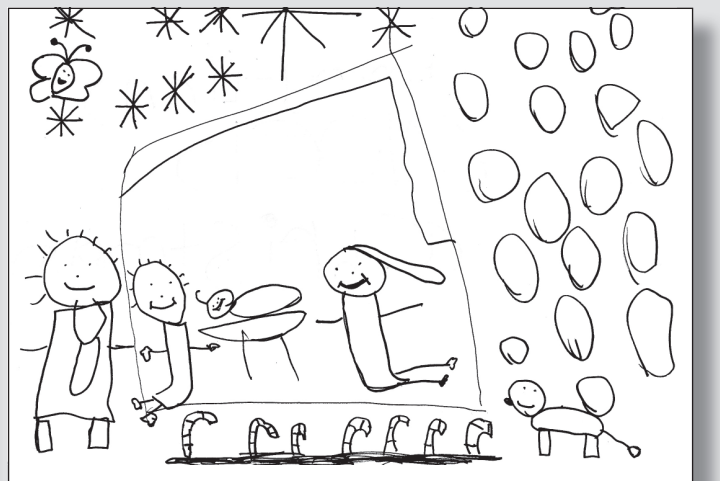
Savannah McKinnon, Grade 2,
St. Mary Catholic School



Eric Brebaum, Grade 3, St. Mary Catholic School



Emma-Lynn P., 5 years old, St. Mary Catholic School



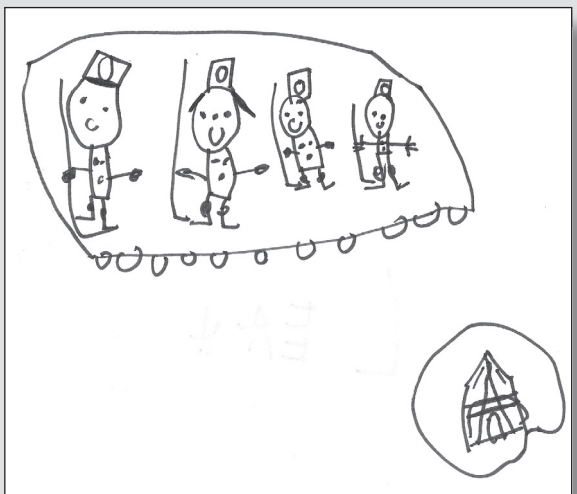
Marisa L., 5 years old, St. Mary Catholic School

St. Mary Catholic School, Chesterville

My Holiday Time

Christmas is the best time of the year to me! I see my loving family, my bright presents, and my sparkling Christmas tree. I smell love in the air. I taste juicy sweet candy canes. I hear ho ho ho. Jesus being born! I feel happy, excited, fantastic, because Christmas is coming.

Olivia Vannoppen,
St. Mary Catholic School



Leah B., 4 years old, St. Mary Catholic School

A White Christmas

On a white Christmas,
There's a white forest,
And in a white forest,
There's a white house.

And in the white house,
It is warm and full of joy,
There's a tree and a warm fire,
There's lights and stockings,
Decorations and food.

And St. Nick,
Who can see the children,
Waking up,
And is full of joy.

Damian S.,
St. Mary Catholic School

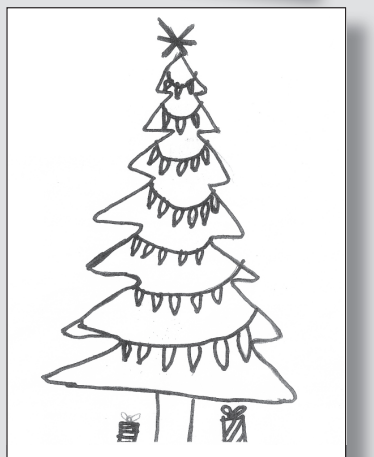
Christmas

It's Christmas day,
We all start in a special way,
By cheering with the word yay!
We all go to church to pray.

Time to put up the Christmas tree,
All the children help with glee.
They stay awake with hope to see,
The jolly man who doesn't use a key.

In the morning Santa left a toy,
For every single girl and boy.
And when they whoop with joy,
Everyone got a toy.

Alexander vanDelst,
Grade 6,
St. Mary Catholic School



Katie,
St. Mary Catholic School

All The Best!

May good times come naturally this season.

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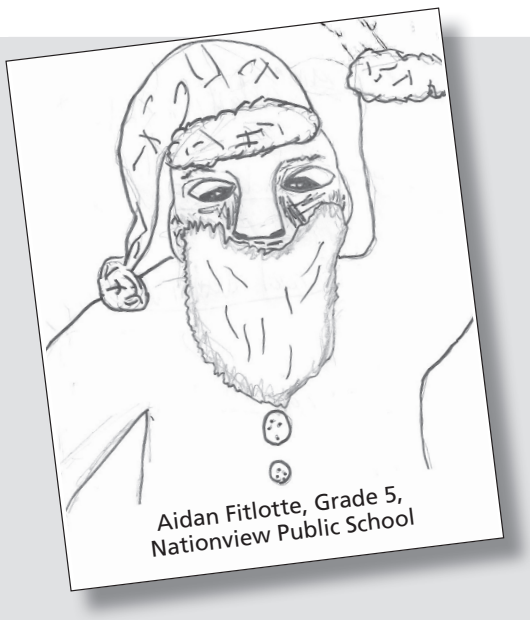
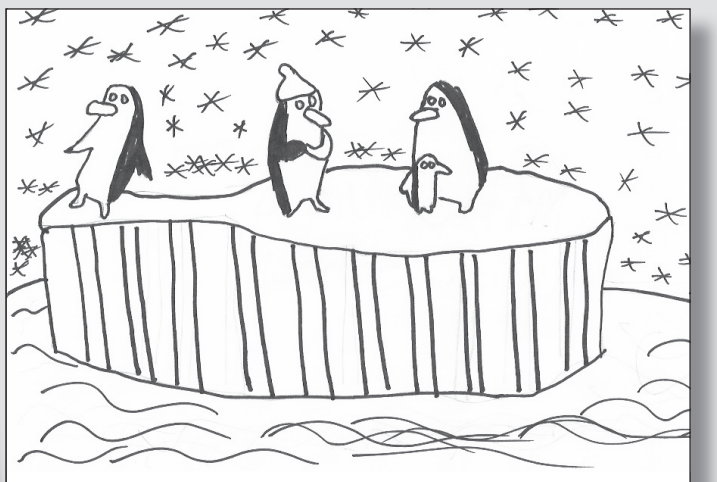
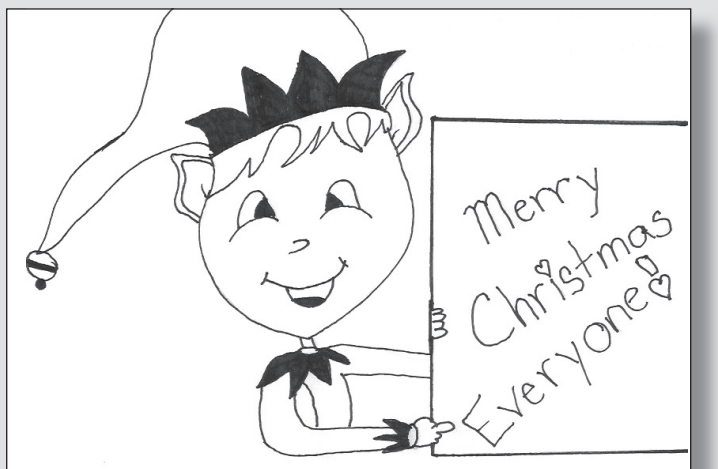


Aidan Fitlotte, Grade 5, Nationview Public School



Brooke Brennan, Grade 6, Nationview Public School

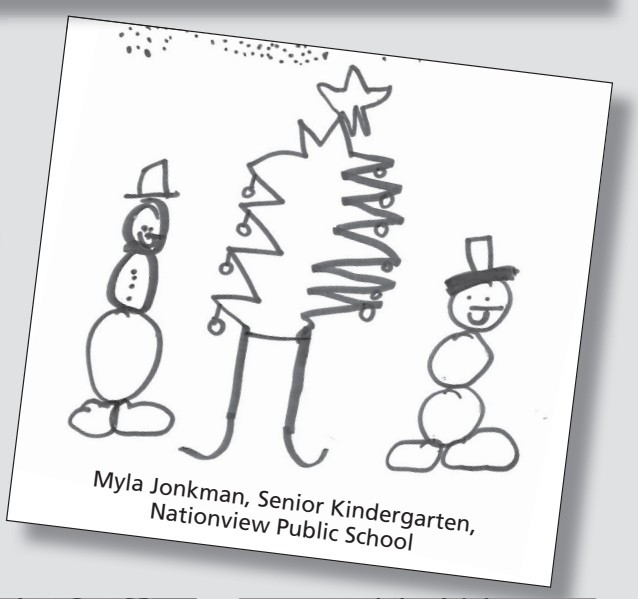


Ketana Ault Vandemheen, Grade 4, Nationview Public School



Gwendolyn Brown, Junior Kindergarten, Nationview Public School

Nationview Public School



Myla Jonkman, Senior Kindergarten, Nationview Public School



Aemilia Jones-Miner, Senior Kindergarten, Nationview Public School



Lily Constapel, Grade 2, Nationview Public School



Elizabeth McCormick, Grade 6, Nationview Public School

BEST WISHES AT
Christmas

Here's hoping you get out and enjoy the best of times in this festive season.

Thanks for your support.



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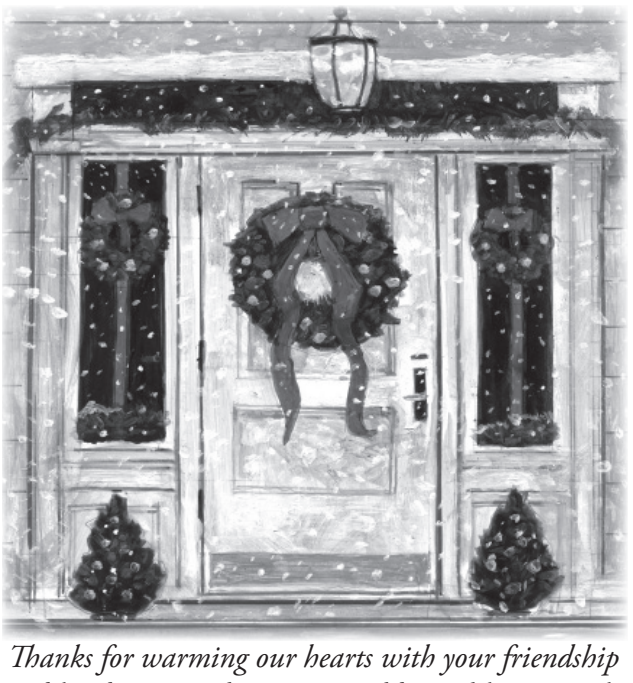
Home Is Where The Heart Is



Thanks for warming our hearts with your friendship and kind support this year. Neighbours like you make us especially proud to call this fine community home.
Merry Christmas!

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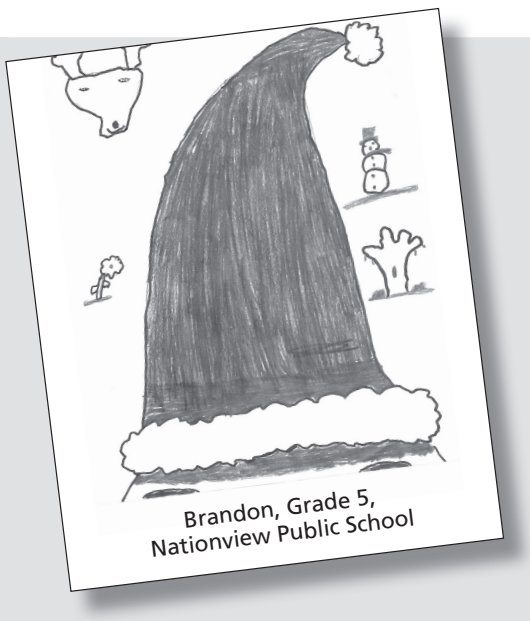
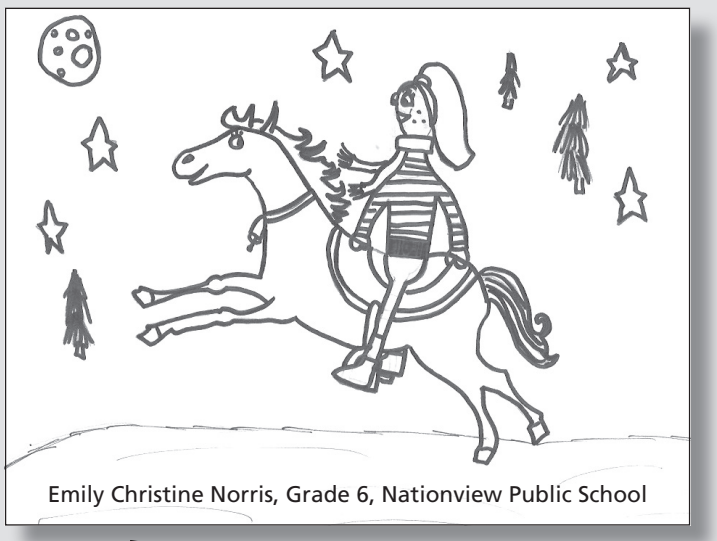


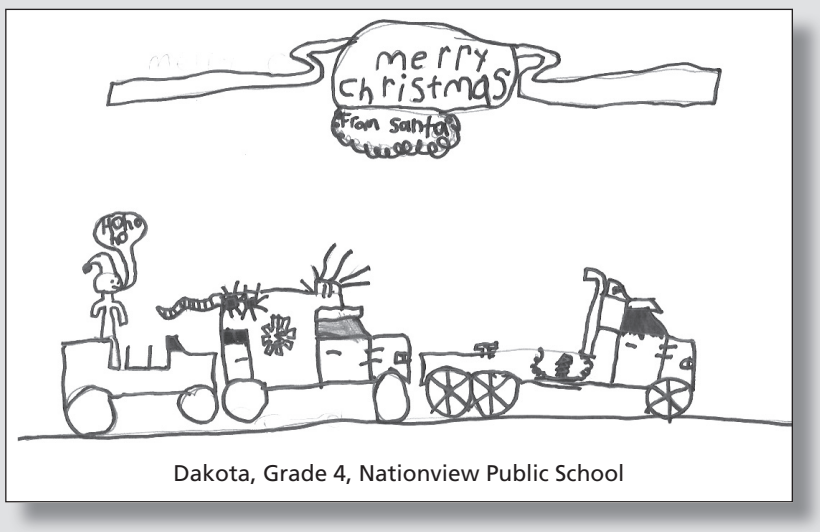
Brandon, Grade 5,
Nationview Public School



Georgia Priestman, Senior Kindergarten,
Nationview Public School



Emily Christine Norris, Grade 6, Nationview Public School

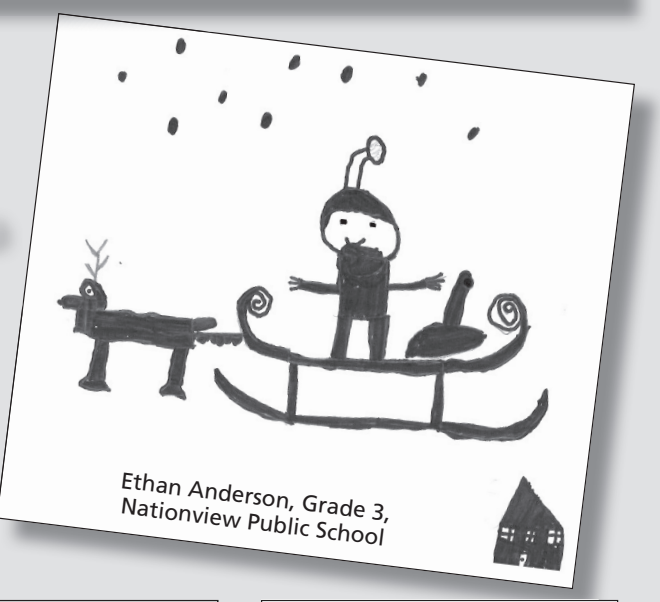


Dakota, Grade 4, Nationview Public School

❄

Nationview Public School

❄



Ethan Anderson, Grade 3,
Nationview Public School



Ava Haas, Senior Kindergarten, Nationview Public School



April Roberts, Grade 4, Nationview Public School



Rianna Campanaro, Grade 1,
Nationview Public School

To Our Valued Customers

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LETTERS TO SANTA

The Winchester Press is proud to present some of the letters we have received from our area children, sharing with us their hopes and dreams for Christmas and what presents they would like from Santa.

Dear Santa

How are you? How is Rudolph? I hope Rudolph's nose is really shinning really bright this Christmas! For Christmas (at my mom's house) I would like a puppy and some toys for it. Also, for my dad could you please get him another rope for the calves. I'm pretty sure that I have been good this year, but how can I be totally good if I see my brother Nick?

Emeline P.
Grade 3
Winchester Public School

Dear Santa

All I want for Christmas is one of your slay bells. I hope you like my cookies. I love went you give me a candy cane. I hope you do not get sick. How are the elfs, are they good.

Sophia M.
Grade 3
Winchester Public School

Dear Santa

I hope you're having a good year so far. How are the elves doing? I hope they are doing well. How is Mrs. Claws doing? Are the reindeer going along well? These are some of the things I hope you may be able to get me this Christmas: I would really like a note book because I love to write. I really need a new pair of skates because my skates are too small. Thank you and have a good year.

Jillian C.
Grade 3, Winchester Public School

Dear Santa

My name is Noah Wilson. I live just outside of Winchester. I go to Winchester Public School, although I would have gone to Nationview if I wasn't in French Immersion. My favourite sport is curling, which is actually the only sport I play. I used to play soccer, baseball and figure skating, but not anymore.

That should let you know about me. For Christmas, I want an iPad. I want an iPad because most of the people I know have one, but not me! I also want an iPad because I would appreciate it if I could play it more than at the arena, which is where some people are nice enough to let me use theirs. Finally I want an iPad because the video games on it are super fun.

I deserve an iPad because I'm a pleasant boy. I also deserve an iPad because I have done a lot of my homework. Next, I deserve an iPad because I have shared my pencils in school, although I don't anymore because I have lost them all. I now borrow pencils from my teachers. Finally, I deserve an iPad because I have been very cooperative in school.

Noah Wilson
Winchester Public School

Dear Santa

Hi Santa how you doing? Do you want to know what I want for Christmas? I want an i-Pad and the big big big blocks. Could you please make war disappear please. Have a Merry Christmas!!

Olivia Anabell Rutters
Grade 4
St. Mary Catholic School

Dear Santa

Hi Santa, how do you fit in chimneys? Hi can I please get an 8 foot teddy bear and a tablet. And can you bring peace to the world? Hav the best Christmas!

Damian
Grade 4
St. Mary Catholic School

Dear Santa

Are my cookies good? May I please have a stick! Can you give everyone what they want. Two more things. Can I have a Segway and a gint monkey. I hope my cookies are good!

Zander
Grade 4
St. Mary Catholic School

Dear Santa

Is it clod up in the north pole? You are the best man ever! You always get me the best stuff. Do you mind if you can get me some Shopkins, and a Newberry doll. And my mom wod like a dog and my dad wod like some trees.

Lilly-Rose, Grade 2, Winchester Public School

Dear Santa

Are you rested for Christmas! I hope your reindeer are rested too!
I would like your reindeers to come to my house to drop off some gifts for my famile!

Savannah, St. Mary Catholic School

Letters to Santa are as submitted.

Merry Christmas



Best Wishes for a Happy, Healthy Holiday Season from All of Us to All of You

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The staff of BGM Autobody Inc. would like to wish you all a safe and happy holiday and to thank you for your patronage.
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As we prepare to deck the halls, we'd like to display our appreciation for all the people who have helped make this past year a successful one for us, and wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy NewYear.

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LETTERS TO SANTA



Dear Santa

I hope I have been good enough that I do not get coal. I can not wait to get video that you send me every year. What I would really want for Christmas is a picture of every one please because I have a picture of Rudolph. I do not know what else I want for Christmas. I hope you don't get sick before it is Christmas Eve that would not be good. Looking forward to Christmas. Are you? It was an honour talking to you.

Georgia M.
Grade 2, Winchester Public School

Dear Santa

I hope Mrs. Claus is doing well. How are the reindeer? I hope they're doing ok. For Christmis can I please have a small animal that can snuggle with me in bed? I hope after Chrismis Eve you get some rest.

Alex C.
Grade 2
Winchester Public School

Dear Santa

Hi! How is Mrs Claues? Is Mrs Claues coming with you to deliver the presents? How is all your raindeers and elves? I hope this year you make it throuht the whole intire world in two day. I love last Christmas I got so many presents it's fun. I love Christmas.

Gabrielle
Grade 3
Winchester Public School

Dear Santa

Hi Santa my name is DJ. And I am a girl. All I want for Christmas is some toys. And you can give me anything you want. And I hope you have a good Christmas too in the North pole. Could you please bring some presents to my grandpa and cousins?

DJ
Grade 4, St. Mary Catholic School

Dear Santa

How are your reindeers doing? Please can I have an Xbox 360 and a Ipad. If you can get me hockey equipment. Thank you for the toys last year.

Jordyn
St. Mary Catholic School

Dear Santa

Hi Santa. Can I ask how old you are? You do not have to ansur if you want. Do you like being Santa? Is it fun or not fun. Can I plese have a Wii or an Xbox 360 because the Wii is good exercice and the Xbox 360 is good exercice for your hands!! Hope you have a nice trip to Canada. One of your many friends,

Bennett
Grade 3, Winchester Public School

Dear Santa

How are you doing with your deers? Are you feeling okay? Is Mrs. Claus okay to? What I really really would like for Christmas is Shopkins. And may I have a cat please? And may I please have a big dog that can stand up and you can bring me wetever you want. But I still wot the things that I want.

Lilah
St. Mary Catholic School

Dear Santa

How are your reindeer? How many reindeer do you have? Do you brush your teeth? All I want for Christmas is my family. I wish you a merry Christmas!

Taylor
St. Mary Catholic School

Dear Santa

What I want for Christmas is two puzzle balls, two loom kits, and a laptop. Santa can you please get me the puzzle balls and a laptop that's what I really want for Christmas.

Faith
Grade 4
Nationview Public School

Dear Santa

How are you doing with all the presents? Santa what do you want for Christmas? But I would like the pore people to get a $ 25 bill please. I need you as in a mini you for my next Christmas tree. I'll wear a Christmas jacket please. I'll read the book "Bone" please. Santa Claus if you could bring me a NHL 16 for the Xbox 360. Hope you have a safe ride.

Wyatt
Grade 2, St. Mary Catholic School

Dear Santa

How are the elves and Missies Clase doing in the North Pole? Wen you come to my house I will leave you some cookies and milk fore you. Please can you give me toy Zoomer Dino and a remote controlled helicopter. For my dad and mom could you bring them new smelly bait for fishing and new armour for my mom. HO HO HO! Merry Christmas!

David
Grade 4, St. Mary Catholic School

Letters to Santa are as submitted.

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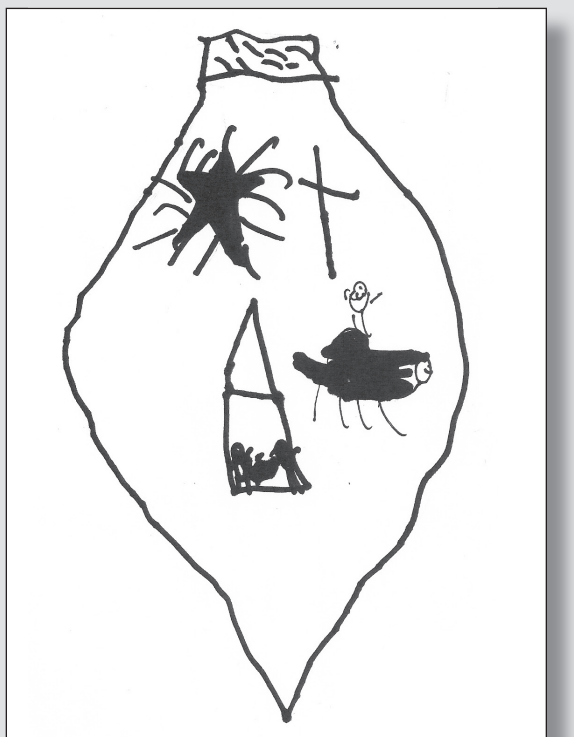
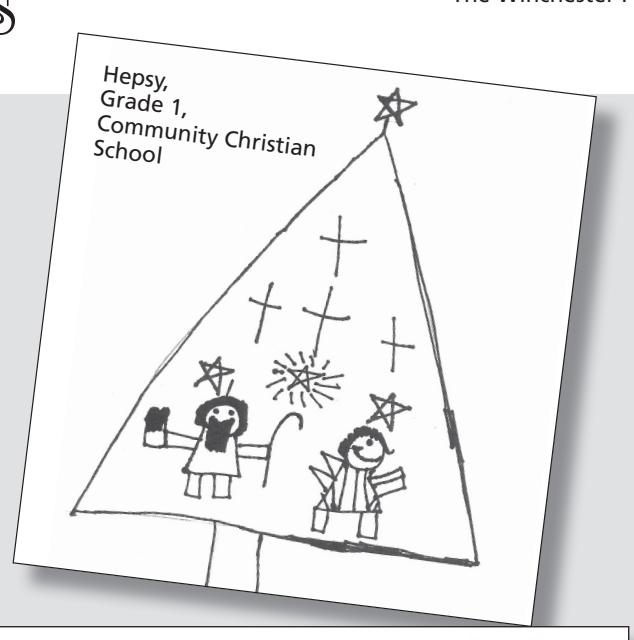
Community Christian School

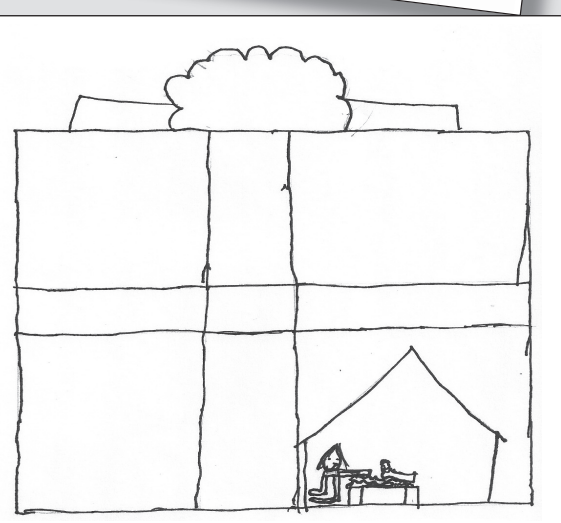


Gabriel, Grade 4, Community Christian School



Micah, Grade 1, Community Christian School





Andrew, Grade 3, Community Christian School



Sending Our Best at Christmas

With deep gratitude to our loyal customers and friends, we'd like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year. It's been a privilege and a pleasure serving you. Enjoy the season!

Stan & Betty, Greg, Brent & Deanna, Sawyer & Shaye Vanden Bosch

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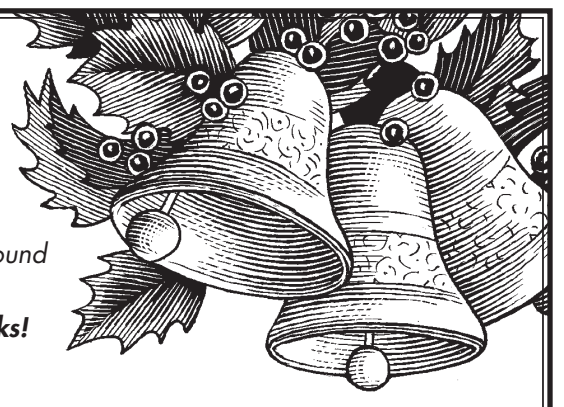

May peace, harmony and joy resound throughout the holiday season.

Merry Christmas and many thanks!

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Our Best Wishes

In the spirit of the holiday, it's only fitting that we say,
How truly grateful we are to be a part of this fine community.

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Merry Christmas from All of Us to All of You

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Jane, Grade 4,
Community Christian School

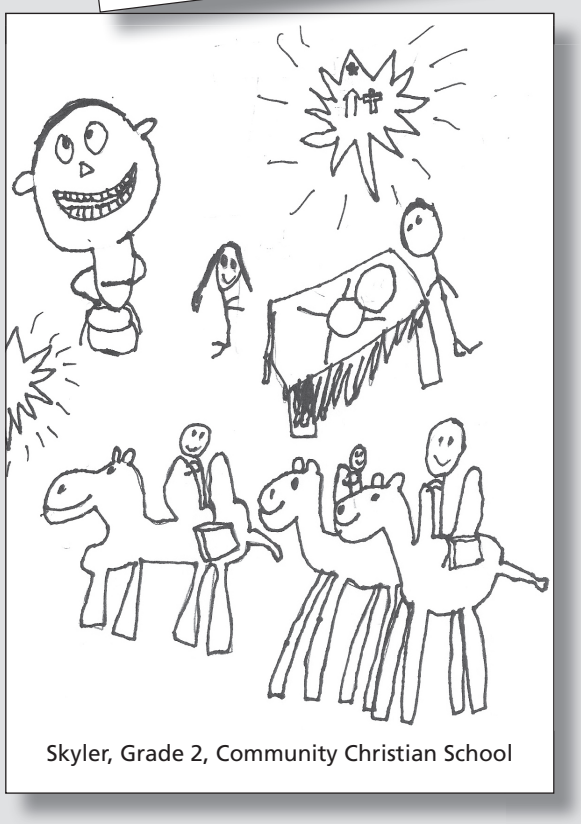


Seth, Grade 2, Community Christian School



Gabriel, Grade 4, Community Christian School

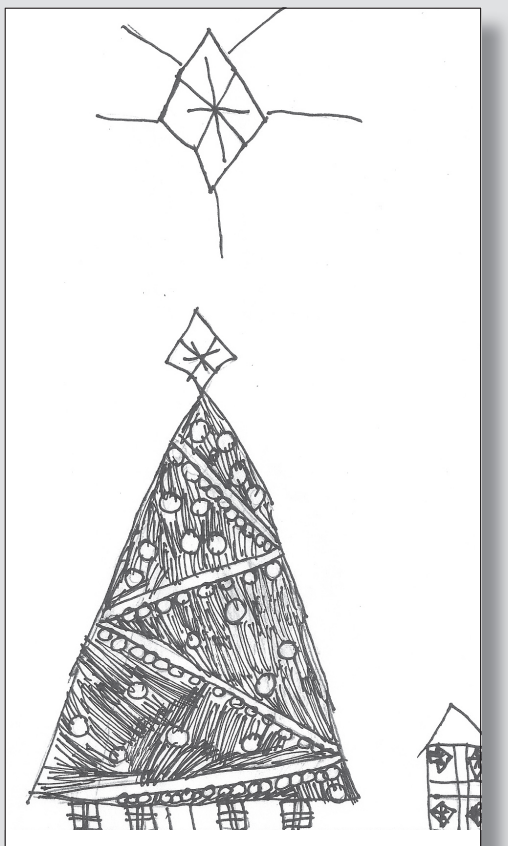
Community Christian School



Skyler, Grade 2, Community Christian School



Simon, Grade 3, Community Christian School



Amy, Grade 4,
Community Christian School

All Signs Point To A Great Season!



North, south, east or west ...
We're sending you our very best
Plus tidings of joy and peace and cheer
And the hope that we see you all next year!

Merry Christmas, everyone!

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HOLIDAY GREETINGS

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WITH BEST WISHES

For a fun-filled holiday season. Thanks, friends!

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Merry Christmas!

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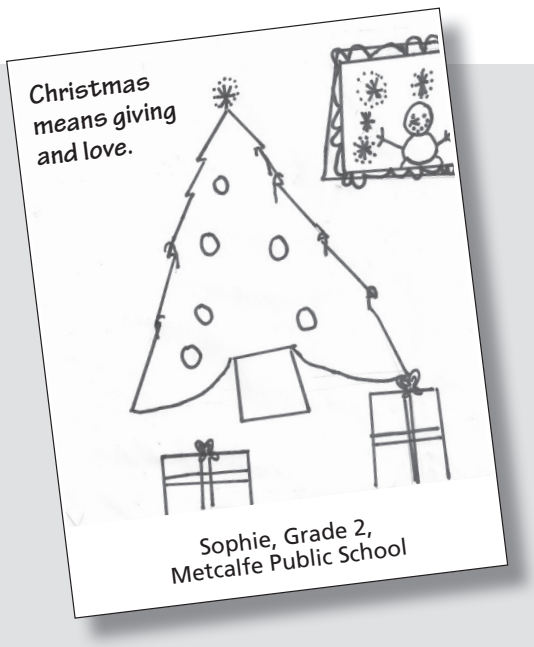
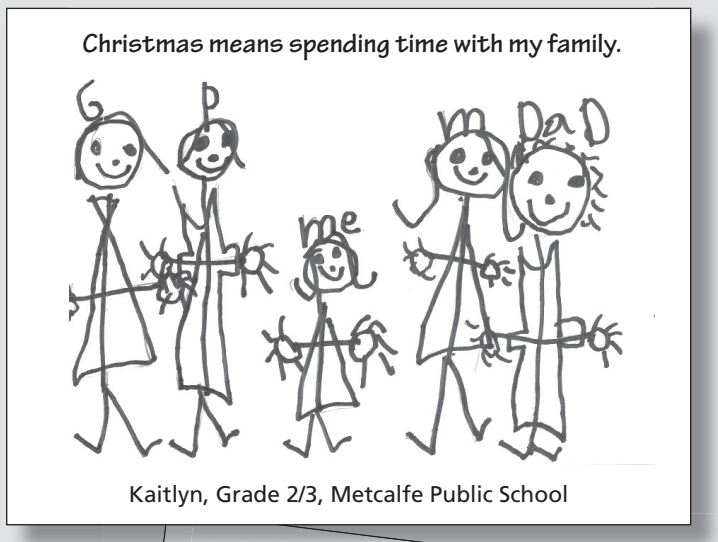


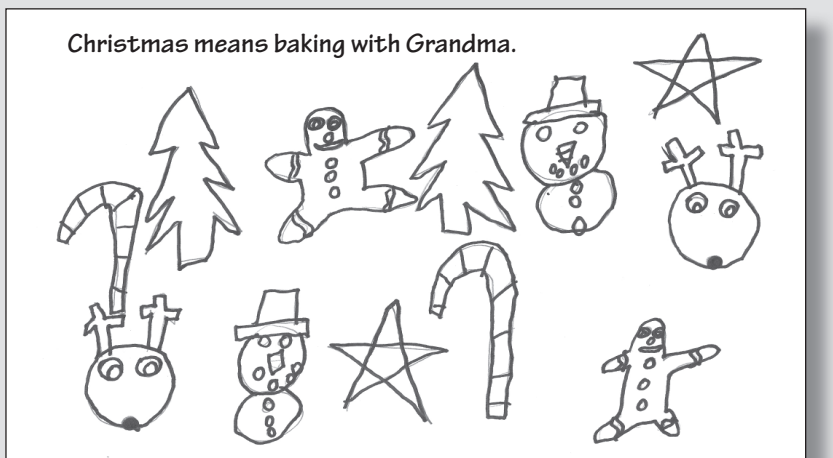
Sophie, Grade 2, Metcalfe Public School



Georgia, Grade 2/3, Metcalfe Public School

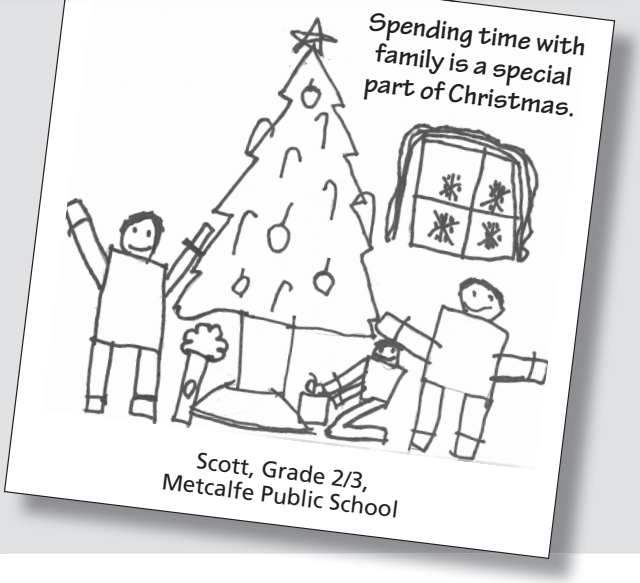


Kaitlyn, Grade 2/3, Metcalfe Public School



Katrina Powell, Grade 2/3, Metcalfe Public School

Metcalfe Public School



Scott, Grade 2/3, Metcalfe Public School

Glad Tidings Are On The Way!

North, south, east or west... We're sending you our very best,
Because one thing that we know is true, we wouldn't be here without friends like you!
Merry Christmas and many thanks from all of us.

North Pole

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Res. 613-774-2847
613-774-3323
or 613-774-2925
Toll Free: 800-267-8336

FEED & FARM Allison's DEPOT

Home for the Holidays

Wherever you may wander,
Wherever you may roam,
When it comes to celebrating Christmas,
There's just no place like home!

Merry Christmas & Thank You
from the whole team at

MACEWEN
Sales & Service
613-448-2574 • 1-877-984-2224



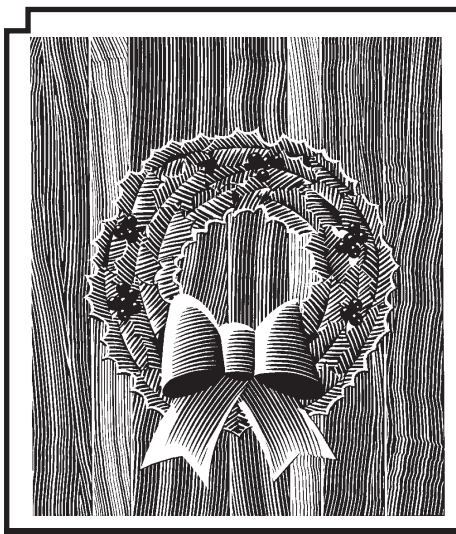
Merry Christmas

A world of thanks and best wishes to our neighbors, customers and friends. We feel fortunate to serve great folk like you!

Tile Drainage Ltd.



RR#1, Winchester, Ontario, K0C 2K0
613-774-3751 Fax 613-774-2999
Henry Doornwaard



Here's Hoping Your Holidays Measure Up!

Christmas is starting to take shape, and we'd like to wish all our loyal customers the happiest holidays ever. Thanks for being a part of our lives this year.

Merry Christmas
from the management and staff at

PAL
J & R Adam Ltd. tée
BUILDING SUPPLIES
144 Principale Street, St. Albert • 613-987-2112



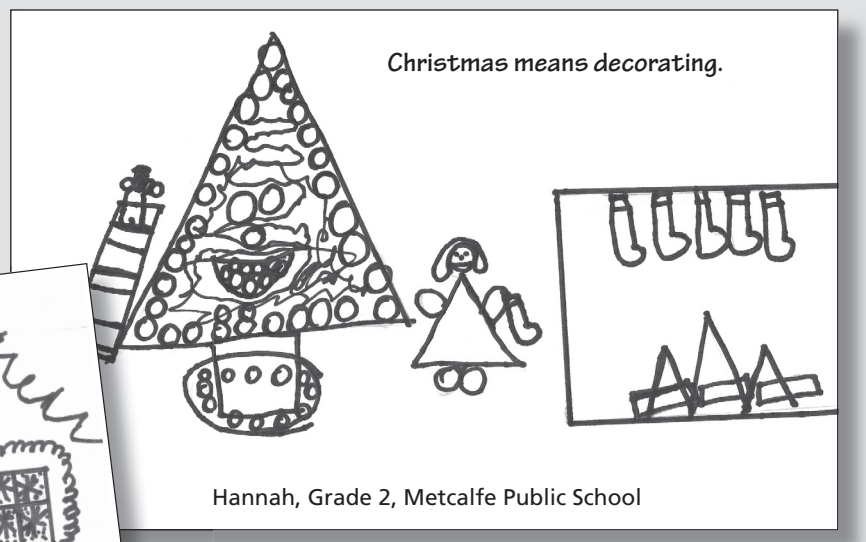
Bright holiday wishes to the best people around: our friends and customers! We wish you all the best at this special time of year. We appreciate your business.

JED EXPRESS LTD.

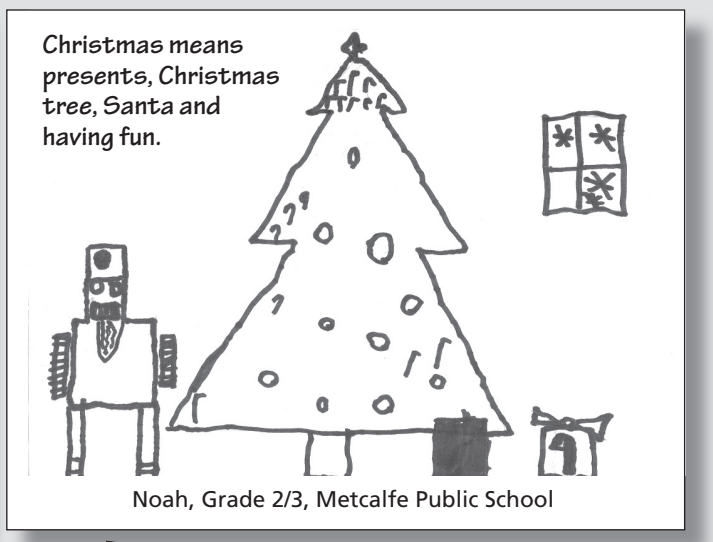
Ed Duncan
11060 County Rd. 3
South Mountain
613-989-2838

JED WEST

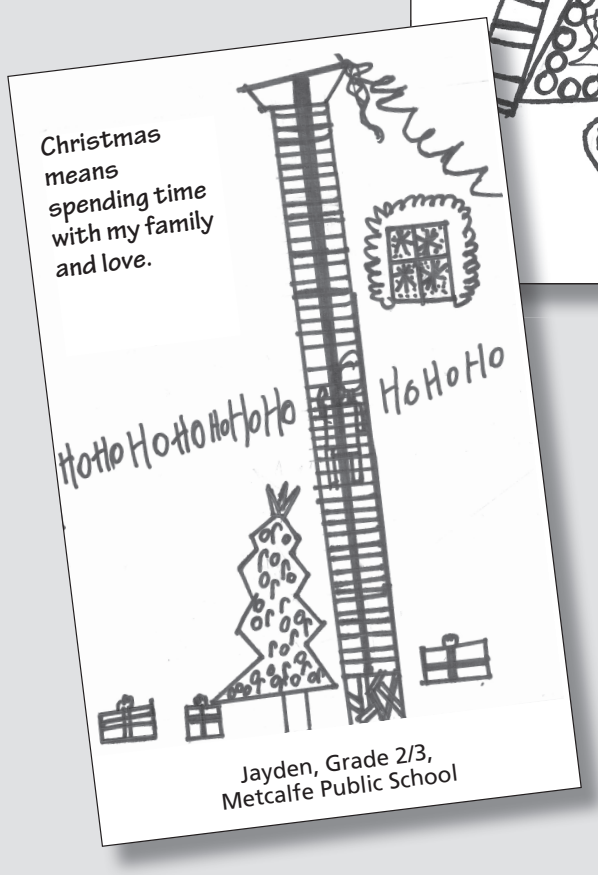
Metcalfe Public School



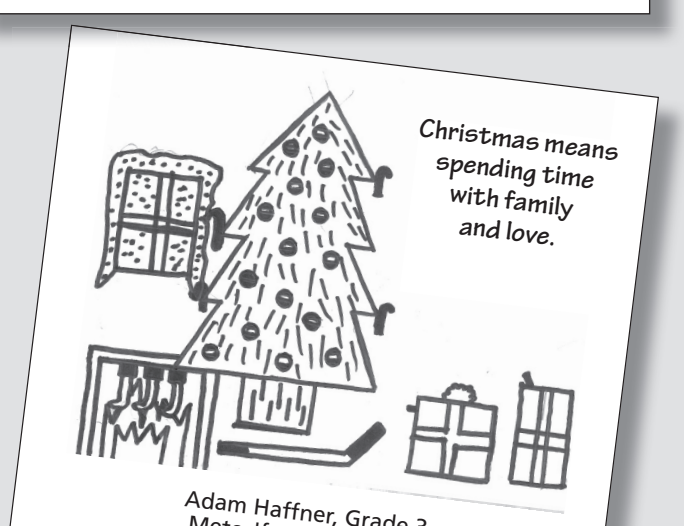
Hannah, Grade 2, Metcalfe Public School



Noah, Grade 2/3, Metcalfe Public School



Jayden, Grade 2/3, Metcalfe Public School



Adam Haffner, Grade 3, Metcalfe Public School



Mekenna Narraway, Grade 2, Metcalfe Public School



Eden, Grade 2/3, Metcalfe Public School



Aidan F., Grade 2/3, Metcalfe Public School

'Tis the Season

Best Wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from all of us to all of you!

Winchester Lions Club
Branch 108

Happy Holidays

BADGER EXCAVATING LTD.

We appreciate your business and wish you all the best in the coming year.
Sincerely,
Frank & Laurie
and the Badger Crew

613-448-3915
Fax 613-448-2246
www.badgerexcavating.ca

WELCOME • THE • SEASON

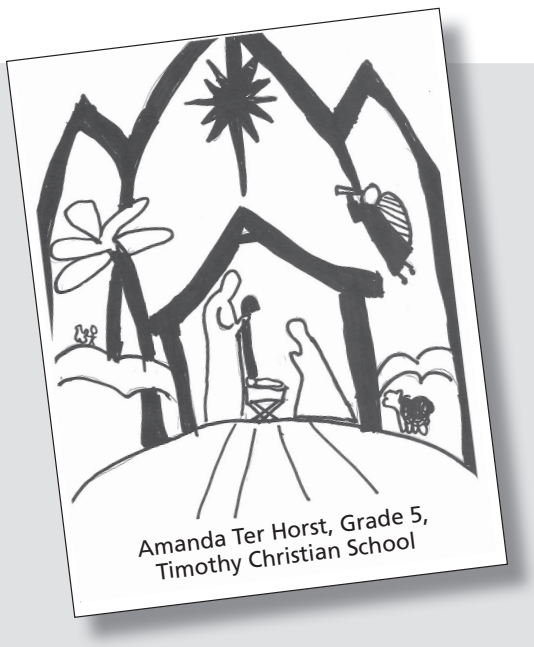
It may be cold outside, but we're sending the warmest of good wishes to our friends and customers.
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

KW&K
KEMPTVILLE WINDOWS & KITCHENS
613-258-7464
www.kwandk.ca
SALES & INSTALLATION
#2 INDUSTRIAL, SOUTH GOWER INDUSTRIAL PARK

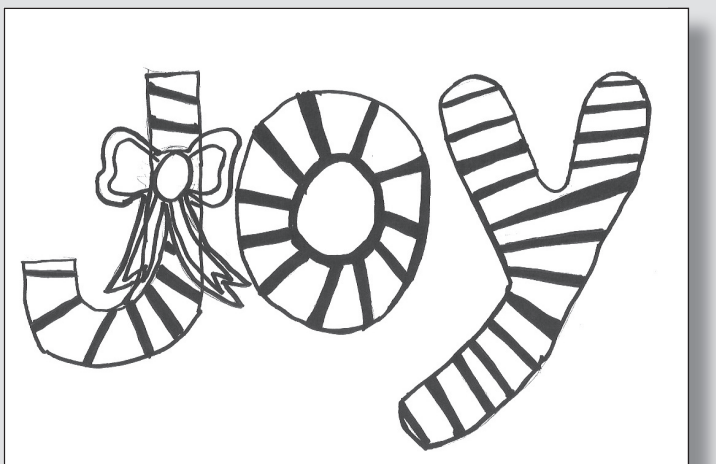
Season's Greetings

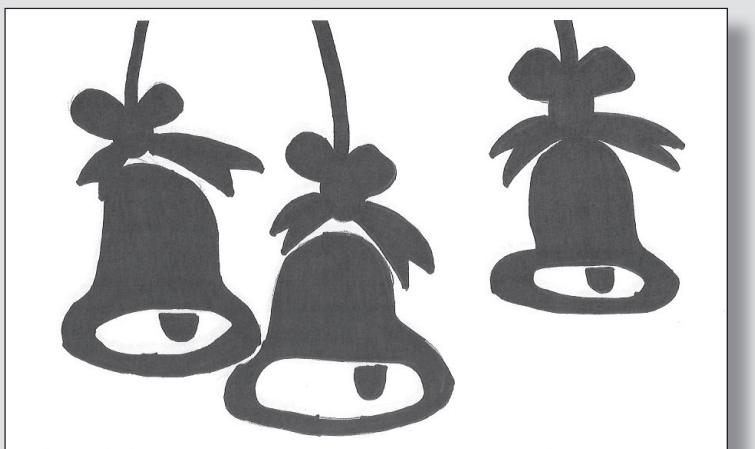
TRI-PRO
TRI-COUNTY PROTEIN CORP.

613-774-0141 Fax: 613-774-2013
Email: tricounty@bellnet.ca www.tripro.ca


Amanda Ter Horst, Grade 5, Timothy Christian School

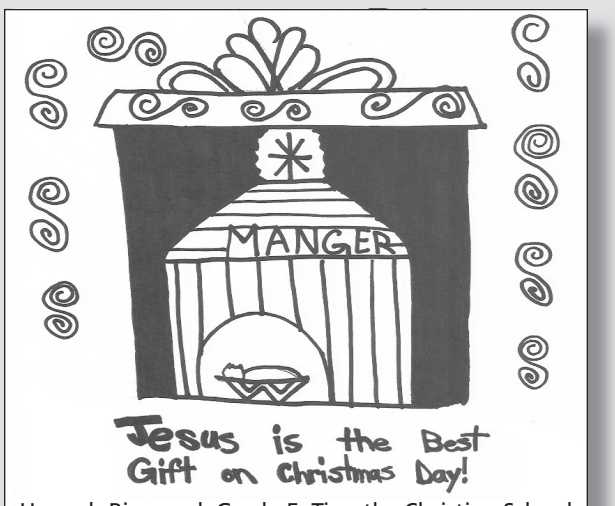

Samuel Dean, Grade 2, Timothy Christian School


Miram, Grade 3, Timothy Christian School


Lindsay Havenaar, Grade 8, Timothy Christian School

❄ Timothy Christian School ❄

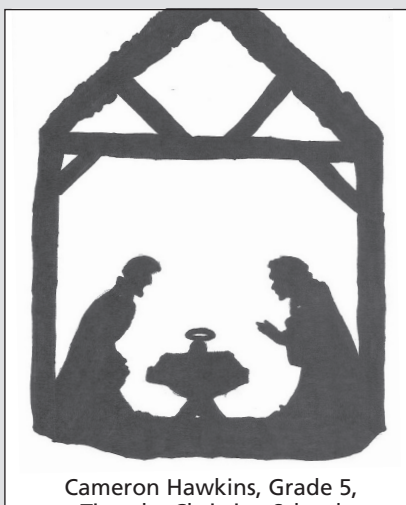

Rachel Geertsema, Grade 1, Timothy Christian School



Hannah Biemond, Grade 5, Timothy Christian School



Ben Dean, Grade 3, Timothy Christian School


Cameron Hawkins, Grade 5, Timothy Christian School

Christmas

Christmas comes but once a year,
Time to spread good love and cheer.
Sharing Christ's love for all to see,
That's what Christmas means to me.

Aislynn P., Grade 6, Timothy Christian School



RAYMOND KELLY'S GARAGE
557 St. Lawrence St., Winchester 613-774-2009



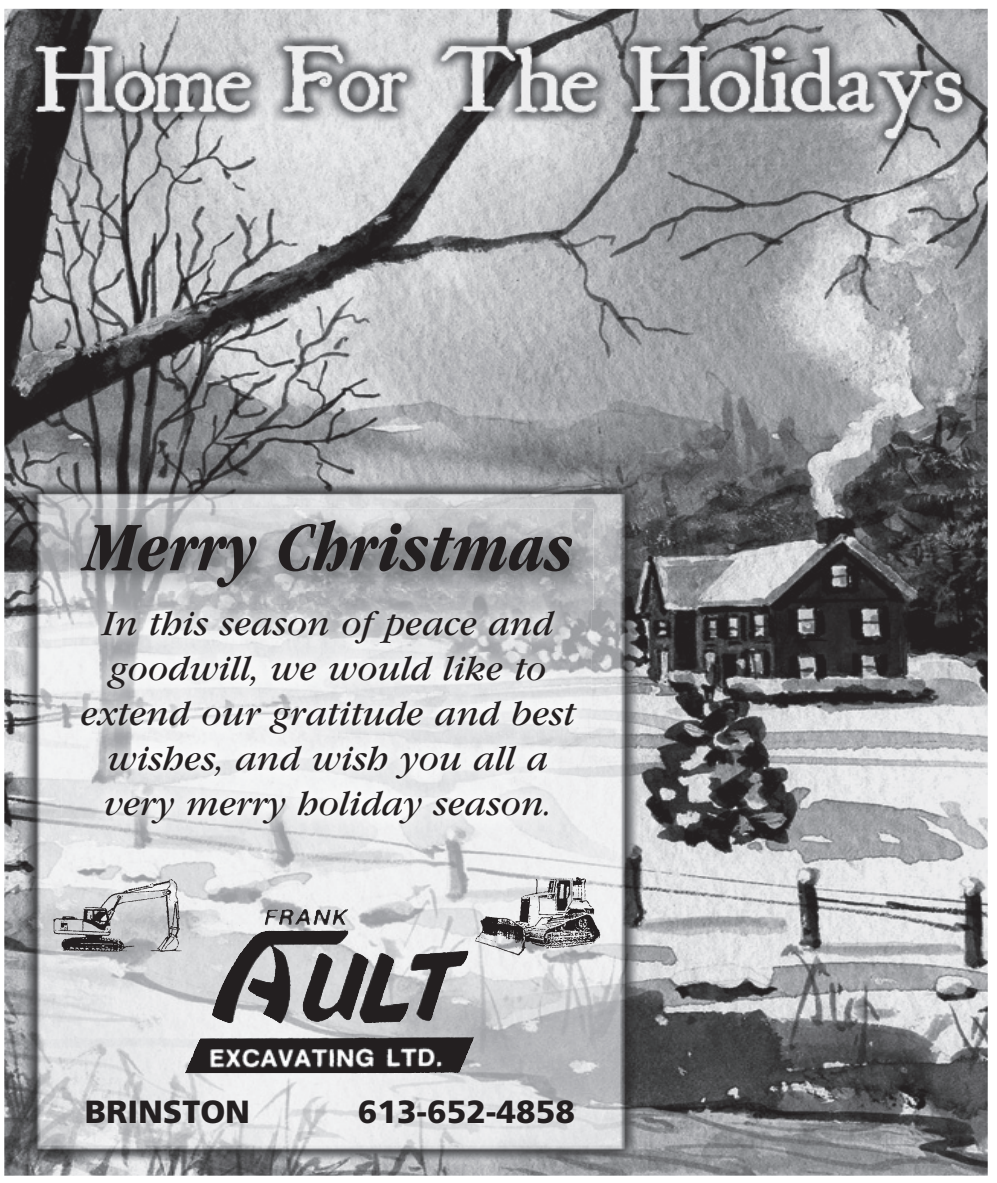
Season's Greetings

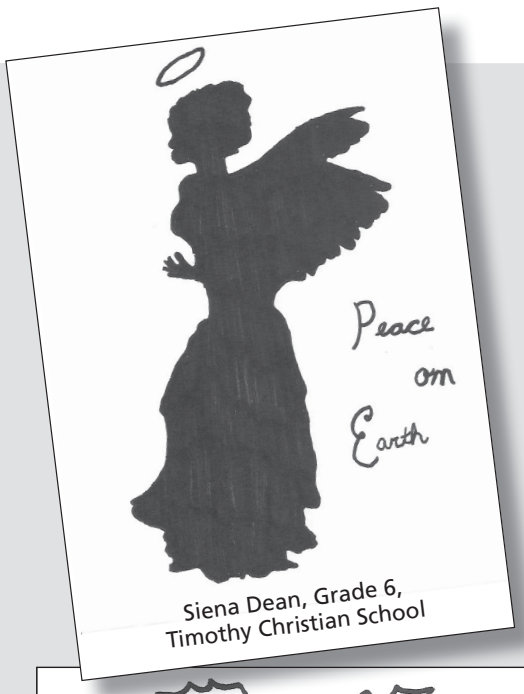
As the snow falls to the ground, we'd like to spread good cheer all around.
Since Christmas can't be far behind, here's to a season that's one-of-a-kind!
Thanks for your never-ending support.

W.J. JOHNSTON SURVEYING LTD.
ONTARIO LAND SURVEYORS
Member, Consulting Surveyors of Ontario

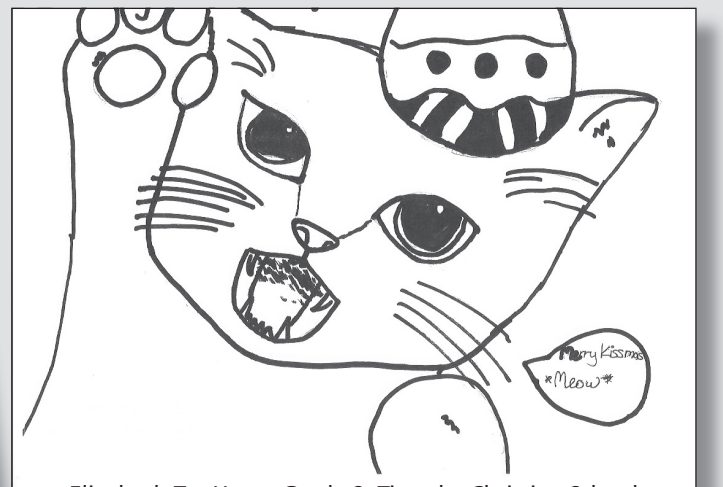
12050 County Rd. 3, Winchester
(Main Street)
613-774-2414
1-866-268-6915

WILLIAM J. JOHNSTON, O.L.S., O.L.I.P. (1934-2010)
WILLIAM J. WEBSTER, O.L.S.
WILLIAM A. (SANDY) JOHNSTON, C.S.T.





Siena Dean, Grade 6,
Timothy Christian School



Elizabeth Ter Horst, Grade 8, Timothy Christian School



Micah Van Gilst, Grade 2, Timothy Christian School



Leah Hawkins, Grade 8, Timothy Christian School



Camden Procter, Grade 8,
Timothy Christian School

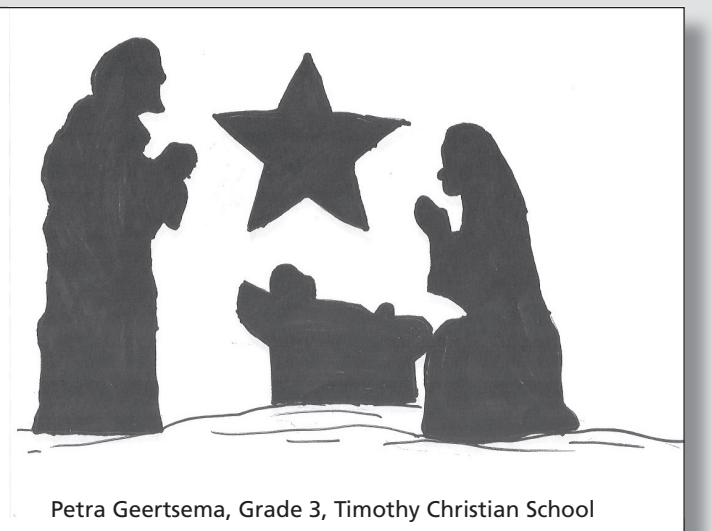
❄

Timothy Christian School

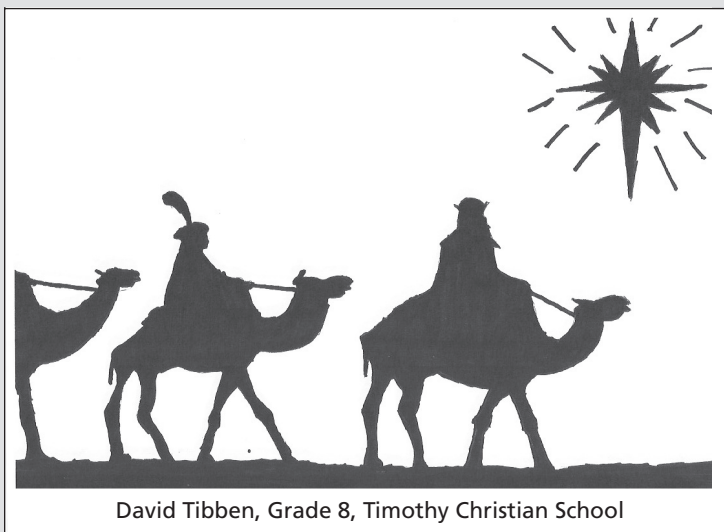
❄



Mark Dentz, Grade 5,
Timothy Christian School



Petra Geertsema, Grade 3, Timothy Christian School



David Tibben, Grade 8, Timothy Christian School

Silver Bells

Sweet silver bells,
All seem to say,
Throw cares away,
Christmas is here,
Bringing good cheer.

Laura Dentz,
Grade 6,
Timothy Christian School

Merry Christmas!



May the coming season bring peace, joy and harmony for you and your loved ones. For your trust, we are truly thankful.

Byers Funeral Home

South Mountain • 613-989-3836

...Tis the Season to be Thankful

We sincerely value your business and wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Fife Agricultural Services Ltd.

14740 County Rd. 43, RR#1, Finch
613-984-2059 • 1-888-557-FIFE



Merry Christmas & Happy New Year



B&B SMALL ENGINES

Thank you for the gift of your support over the past year. We wish you peace and prosperity in the New Year ahead.

Carl Berends and Sue Blaine

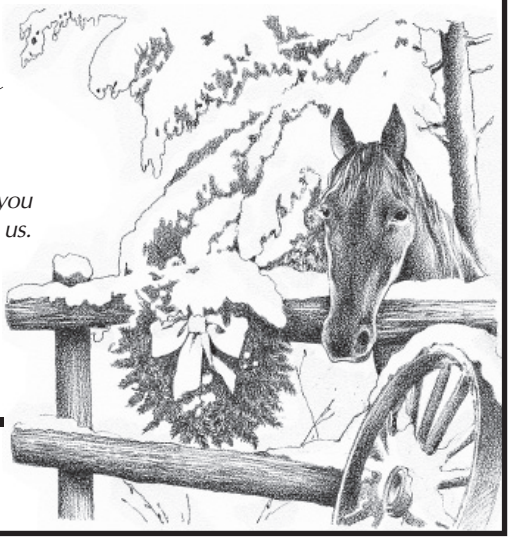
10510 Loughlin Ridge Rd., Mountain 613-258-8913

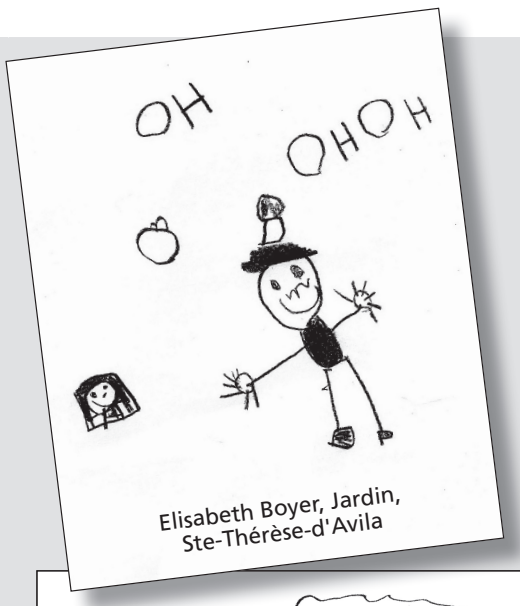
With Thanks for Your Business at the Holidays

We're rounding up our best wishes to thank you for being such good neighbors and friends to us. A very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all!

QUINTAN PRODUCTS INC.

P.O. Box 690, Winchester
613-774-3320

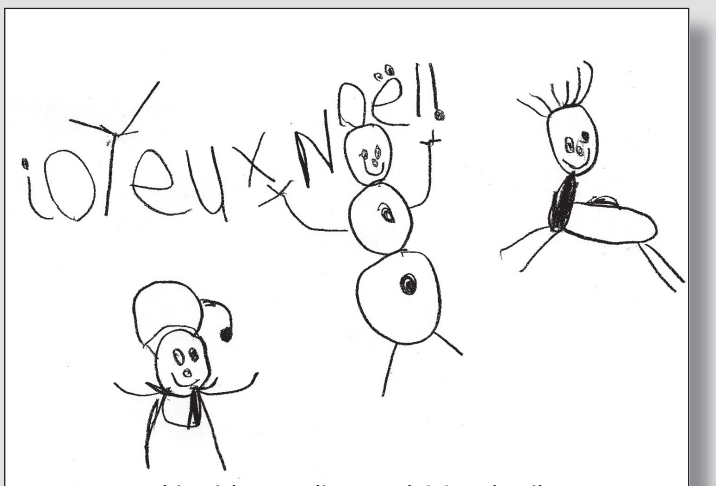




Elisabeth Boyer, Jardin, Ste-Thérèse-d'Avila



Marilow Richer, Jardin, Ste-Thérèse-d'Avila

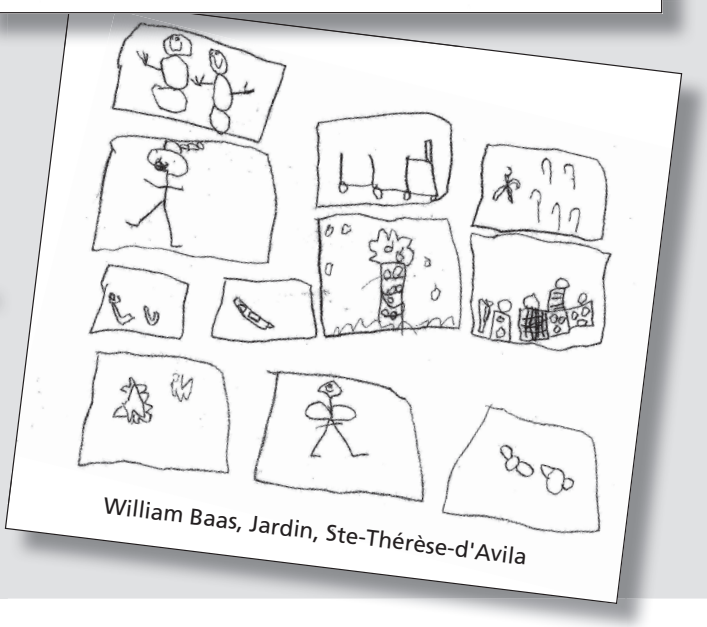


Tobie Richer, Jardin, Ste-Thérèse-d'Avila



Julien Carruthers, Jardin, Ste-Thérèse-d'Avila

❄ Ste-Thérèse-d'Avila ❄



William Baas, Jardin, Ste-Thérèse-d'Avila



PEACE ON EARTH

... And Merry Christmas to our many good neighbours and friends!

Cloverdale Meadows
Distinctive Community Living
613-989-6003

Best Holiday Wishes

It's been a privilege and a pleasure serving you this past year.
Merry Christmas!

Dundas Machine
The Fabrication Specialists
12205 Gypsy Lane, Winchester, ON, K0C 2K0
Office: 613-774-1672 • Fax: 613-774-6612 • Toll Free: 1-888-877-0714

season's greetings

SHEPPARD & ASSOCIATES LTD.
CORPORATE & PERSONAL TAXES
BOOKKEEPING & ACCOUNTING

Best Wishes to You and Yours from All of Us at Christmas

CATHY SHEPPARD
2672 County Rd. 43, P.O. Box 1687, Kemptville, ON, K0G 1J0
Tel. 613-258-4949 Fax 613-258-7537
www.sheppardandassociates.ca



You Deserve the Best

...and we hope you get it! Wishing all of our friends and customers a bright and wonderful holiday season, filled with good times and good fortune.

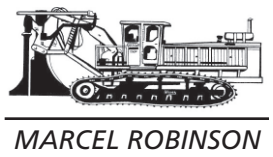
With gratitude and best wishes, Merry Christmas!

1-888-726-4545
613-448-1759

RLS Royalty Limousine Service Ltd.
Serving Eastern Ontario

With joy in our hearts, we extend our warm wishes to you and your family for a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

We appreciate your continued loyal support.



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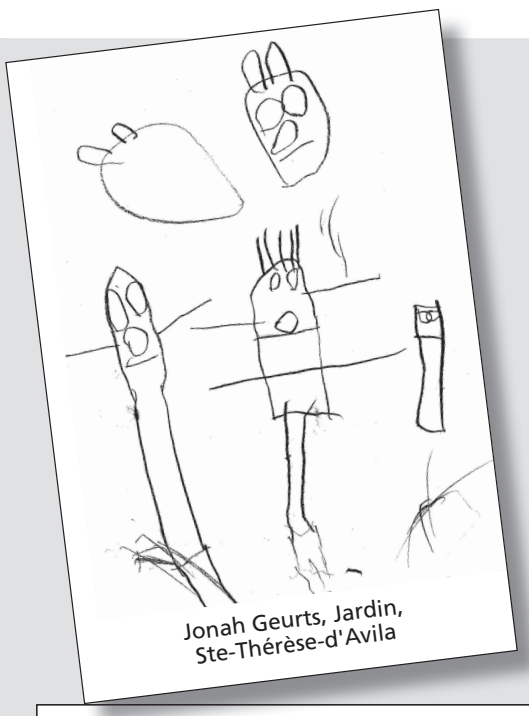
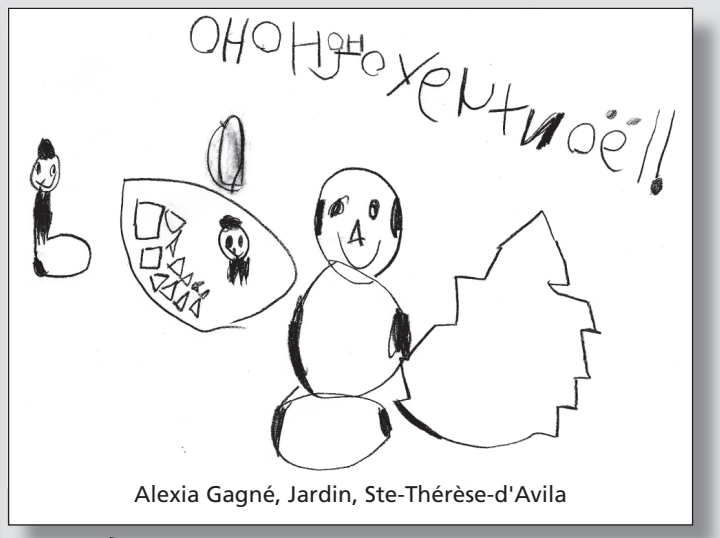
East-Ont Land Improvement
TILE DRAINAGE CONTRACTOR
Bulldozer • Backhoe • Floating • Grain Hauling
Home 613-984-2541 BERWICK
Fax 613-984-0088



Jonah Geurts, Jardin, Ste-Thérèse-d'Avila



Olivia Lewis, Jardin, Ste-Thérèse-d'Avila



Alexia Gagné, Jardin, Ste-Thérèse-d'Avila

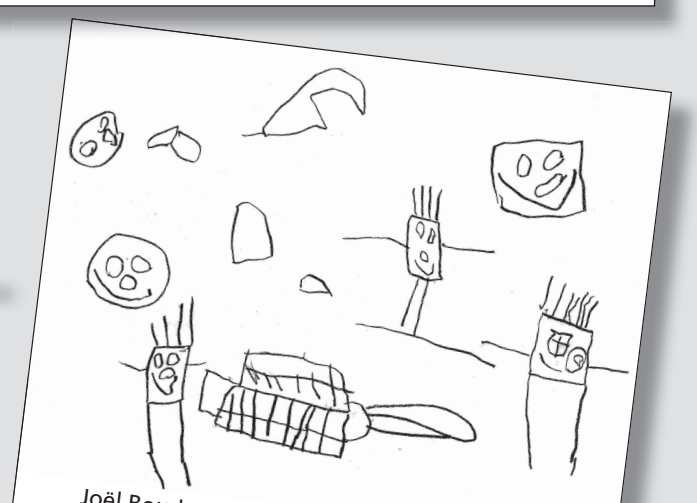


Ruby Hall, Jardin, Ste-Thérèse-d'Avila

❄

Ste-Thérèse-d'Avila

❄



Joël Boudreau, Maternelle, Ste-Thérèse-d'Avila



May you and your family be blessed with the gifts of health, happiness and harmony this Christmas and beyond.

It's been a pleasure knowing you and we look forward to serving you again next year.

Terry's Restoration Shop
RR3, Mountain
613-989-2773

Sandy's Restoration Shop
3142 Brinston Road
613-989-1764



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

Wishing a season merry and bright to all our patrons

Ritchie
Feed & Seed Inc.

WINCHESTER
St. Lawrence St. • 613-774-3538

DIXONS CORNERS
613-652-4875 • 1-800-267-8142

OTTAWA
1390 Windmill Lane
613-741-4430 • 1-800-267-1922

STITTSVILLE
Carp Rd. • 613-836-6880

BROCKVILLE
3043 Cty. Rd. 29 • 613-341-9343

RICHMOND
5901 Ottawa St. • 613-838-5959

Merry Christmas

It's shaping up to be a great season, and customers and friends like you are the reason.

Thanks for your support and friendship at the holidays and all year.

We wish you and yours all the best!

PIVOTECH DOORS INC.
1700 Cayer Rd., Winchester 613-774-1361

Here's hoping the Christmas Season fills your home with the warmth of joyfulness that you and your family deserve.

Best Wishes from the staff at

Merry Christmas

Neal's Heating, Cooling & Refrigeration
12095 Baker Rd., Winchester, Ontario, K0C 2K0
613-774-6446 Fax 613-774-6486

All The Best...

To the best bunch of people we know – our customers!
Our heartfelt thanks from all of us to all of you.

Merry Christmas, everyone!

Berends Automotive
Jason, Robin and Damien Berends
Stageoach at Belmeade Rd., RR#4, Osgoode
613-826-2304



With Our Thanks

When it comes to our customers, our gratitude runs deep. With best wishes and many thanks to all.

Dale Stewart & Sons

CUSTOM WORK AND EQUIPMENT RENTALS

- Manure Spreading
- Snow Removal
- Dump Truck and Hi Hoe available

613-989-5232
Cell.: **613-292-7742**

WISHING YOU A VERY

Merry Christmas

May this holiday season contain
all the makings of lasting memories
for you and your loved ones.

We're proud to serve this community
and we thank you for your loyal readership
and patronage.

WINCHESTER
PRESS

545 St. Lawrence Street,
Winchester
613-774-2524
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