



Daniel Webster
Magnet School
PTA Newsletter
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Issue 10

We are pleased to present our Holiday Issue of Webster Weekly featuring our *Webster Weekly Student Reporters*. Our reporters have demonstrated initiative and creativity. We trust that you will enjoy their work. If you would like to leave a comment regarding any of the articles, please feel free to e-mail us at websterweekly@yahoo.com.

Happy Hanukkah and Merry Christmas!

Karen Ireland and Deborah Burns
Webster Weekly



WEBSTER WEEKLY STUDENT REPORTER

Holiday Family Traditions

By Ryan L., 1V

I interviewed four people for this article. The first one was Doris, my babysitter. Doris celebrates Christmas by gathering with her family on December 24th at midnight. They eat turkey, drink chocolate and after midnight they gather around the tree to open presents.



My second interview was with Malin, my cousin. Malin and her family celebrate the holidays by cleaning the house, baking cookies for Santa Claus and wearing pretty clothes. When Santa comes to visit, the whole family gathers together and Santa passes out presents. Malin also celebrates Hanukkah, by lighting the Menorah and singing songs with her family.

My third interview was with Manu, my grandma. Manu lives far away from her sons and daughter so for Hanukah she and my grandpa Beto, call each of their sons and daughter to wish them a healthy and happy new year.



The last person I interviewed was Grandma Sandy. Sandy lights the Menorah, says a prayer and makes latkes. She also spends time calling her son and daughters to wish them well.



As we learned recently, families are all different and they celebrate the holidays in different ways, but the one thing that stands out is that everyone likes to be with family for the holidays, so we might not be that different after all.

Happy Holidays!

Ryan L.



WEBSTER WEEKLY STUDENT REPORTER

Christmas Traditions Around the World

By Matthew B., 2B

This month our family has been learning about how people celebrate Christmas in other countries. All around the world people celebrate Christmas in a different way. These are some ways they have fun in different countries:



In Germany children put their shoes by the fireplace, or outside the front door, and the next morning they are filled with candy.



In Venezuela children roller-skate in the streets early on Christmas morning.



In England children get a wrapped tube called a Christmas cracker. It makes a loud cracking noise when they pull it apart and inside there is a paper hat or toy. This is my favorite one. I wish I lived in England so I could get a Christmas cracker. I would like to hear it pop and scare big kids with it, and get a toy.

In Norway, children eat rice pudding and whoever finds the hidden nut in their bowl wins a marzipan pig or a piece of chocolate. My Dad lived in Norway for 2 years and can speak Norwegian. We started this tradition last year, and whoever finds the hidden almond gets some chocolate.



My favorite tradition that our family does on Christmas Eve is that we play games and we get to unwrap one present.



WEBSTER WEEKLY STUDENT REPORTER

Disney's: A Christmas Carol in Disney Digital 3D

By Zharia C., 5L



Humbug! This amazing movie, **A Christmas Carol**, is about Ebenezer Scrooge's life-- especially revolving around Christmas. The director of the movie is Robert Zemeckis. The cast is made up of Jim Carrey, Gary Oldman, Colin Firth, Bob Hoskins and Robin Wright Penn. It is rated PG (Parental Guidance) and lasts for 1hr and 36min. This flick contains science fiction, fantasy, action, and adventure.

In this film, the Scrooge meets the Ghost of Christmas Past, Present and Future. The Ghost of Christmas pPast showed him what had happened in his life previously, the Ghost of Christmas Present showed him what would happening at the time, and the Ghost of Christmas Future showed him what may come in his life in an attempt to change his mean and selfish ways.

This is a fascinating story about how a self-centered man changes the way he feels about Christmas-- and everything else, too.

A Christmas Carol is a must see movie to watch this time of the year. I highly recommend it for everyone.

Happy Holidays!

WEBSTER WEEKLY STUDENT REPORTER

Family Traditions

By Alexander M., 1V

I wanted to find out how my classmates in Mrs. Vallario's class and their families celebrate each holiday season, and here are some of the responses that I got.

Christopher C. and his family celebrate *Christmas Eve* with a large Italian dinner that begins with the antipasto and includes such yummy stuff as salami, ravioli, roast beef and many delicious pastries and cakes. Then his family gathers around the *Christmas tree* to find the "pickle" ornament. Whoever finds it, wins a prize.

Ryan L.'s and Dev A.'s family both celebrate *Hanukkah* by lighting the *Menorah* and exchanging eight gifts, one for each night. Ryan calls friends and family who live abroad to exchange holiday wishes, then he makes latkes and sings *Hanukkah* songs. Sometime in mid-October to mid-November, Dev's family also celebrates the Hindu holiday of *Diwali*, or festival of lights, in which they light oil lamps called *diyas*.

Danny Goday's family also celebrates by baking *Christmas* cookies and leaving them by the tree. Then they have a large dinner with family and friends. Secret *Santa* arrives at midnight and everyone gets to open presents.

In my family we like to sing *Christmas carols* or *kalanda* with the triangles that my Grandpa sent us from Athens, Greece. You can visit friends and neighbors and sing in exchange for candy or money. On *New Year's Eve* my mom bakes a special cake called *Vasilopita* or *St. Basil's* cake, which has a hidden coin. On *New Year's Day* my parents cut the cake to bless the house and bring good luck for the *New Year*. Whoever gets the coin in his or her slice is said to be lucky all year round. This is a very old tradition that began more than 1600 years ago.

No matter how you celebrate the holidays, this is a great season to spend time with family and friends.

Season's greetings and a Happy and Healthy 2010!!!



Webster School

Supports

New York Cares Coat Drive



Each year NY Cares collects and distributes 70,000 coats to homeless and needy men, women, and children.

Please bring your gently used coats to the school lobby.

December 14-22



Notes from Nurse Nora:

Although the weather has been playing games with us, it is clear that winter is on it's way. Don't let the the cold weather discourage you and the children from going outdoors to play and to get exercise. The cold fresh air is invigorating as long as you take a few precautions. These tips are recommended from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:

1. **Dress warmly and stay dry.** While this may sound like common sense, the real trick is to dress in layers. In fact, loose fitting clothing insulates. It traps the warm air created by your natural body temperature and the heat that is generated by your given activity. Be sure to wear gloves and a hat. To avoid the problem of frequent glove loss here is a tried and true suggestion. Sew a piece of wool or string from the cuff of one glove to extend through both sleeves to the other glove. The gloves can be left inside that particular jacket and will be available when needed.

2. **Take precautions.** When heading outdoors, eat nutritious foods before going out and take breaks, especially if you are out for long periods of time and if it is quite cold. These food breaks fuel your body and help you produce body heat. Drink water often, even when you're not feeling thirsty. Dehydration can increase your risk of frostbite.

Have fun, play, laugh, enjoy and keep warm.

Happy Chanukah,
Nurse Nora



Children For Children Westchester Service Days

- January 5th
Food Pantry Grocery Bag Stuffing

CAP Center, 134 Center Ave, Mamaroneck NY

Tuesday, January 5th - ages 10+,

5:15pm-6:30pm



Children for Children

Youth volunteers will help get the CAP Center by stuffing grocery bags for their needy families to pick up the same evening.

These are not drop-off events; a parent must accompany their children.

RSVP FOR ALL EVENTS (with the ages of your children) to:

Westchester@childrenforchildren.org

Important Dates:

December

12/24/2009- 1/1/2010- Schools Closed

Webster PTA Website:

www.ptawebster.org

Go to the website for news/information, and to sign up for the Webster Directory

Webster Weekly Submissions:

If you would like to submit news /current events, please e-mail your piece to

websterweekly@yahoo.com

Articles must be received by **6 PM, Monday evening** of each week for inclusion in the upcoming newsletter.

Please be advised that due to safety regulations, children MUST be accompanied by an adult when attending PTA events.