



The BLOB

Best Literature on the Block

WESTON MIDDLE SCHOOL

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Athletes of the Month
- Sports Recaps
- Theo's Thoughts Comic Strip
- Dear Bloberta Advice Column
- Mystery Stories
- Poems
- Game Reviews
- Celebrity Look-a-likes
- Students of the Month

2ND ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

On December 6, Weston Middle School students participated in the 2nd annual Christmas Celebration at Weston-McEwen high school.



WMS band students play for passers-by at the Christmas celebration.

As cars drove through the high school parking lot they would stop by three different booths. The first booth they stopped by was our own

caroling booth that the kids of journalism participated in. The kids that participated were Cole Glover, Charlotte Hansell, Annika Holden, Hailie Burns, Megan McLouth, and Koen Hastings. Mr. Bryant led the group with his guitar. When asked about the event Cole Glover replied, "It was wet. The night was very wet."

The next booth was hot cocoa with several teachers helping at that booth. The last booth in the parking lot was the cookie booth which was run by several other middle school teachers.

After leaving the high school, cars were to head over to the elementary school which was where Santa was located along with some helpers. Finally, visitors were treated to the school bands playing



Athena Weston staff dress up to celebrate the 2nd annual Christmas Drive-through

Christmas songs. 6th grade played first and then 7th. Last were the 8th grade and high school bands.

Overall, the Christmas celebration was very fun, very cold and we were glad to have it. A big shout out goes to Mrs. Fun who set it all up with some help and worked very hard to organize it.

-Megan McLouth

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NEW COVID VARIANT PASSES THREAT

Have you heard of the new Covid-19 variant? It was recently discovered in Australia, Belgium, Botswana, Britain, Denmark, Germany, Hong Kong, Israel, Italy, The Netherlands, France, and South Africa. As of early December, several cases

have been recorded in the United States and Canada.

Experts are saying that this new variant is likely to be more contagious and more resistant to vaccinations. Although this variant is more easily spread and is quickly contagious it seems

that it does not cause as extreme symptoms as previous variants. Now you know about the new Omicron Covid-19 variant quickly spreading around.

-Addy Hall

Creative Writing

The Sunken Ship (Thanksgiving Night)

I did not want to go back to that pirate ship, but Conya really wanted to. It was going to be Thanksgiving tomorrow and I just wanted to have a normal day. But Conya really wanted to go see the ship. I have no idea why because the pirates were terrifying and I didn't want to go see them. Even the thought of going back there sounded like a bad idea.

At school, that was all Conya could talk about. I was just zoning out, thinking about how mad our friends would be if they found out we lied. We never lied to them but ever since we found that ship that all Conya would do was *lie, lie, lie*. She lied to her friends and her family.

"I think on Thanksgiving night, we should go to the ship and talk to the pirates." Said Conya. I snapped back into focus.

"No, Conya, I'm tired of putting this ship in front of everything! I'm staying home to hang out with my family for Thanksgiving day!"

Conya was mad at me for the rest of the day and showed it by ignoring me. I was sure she would talk to me on the way home and we would make up. I waited outside of school like I always do so we could walk together but she never came out. I waited and waited until the sun started to set and I had to go so I ran all the way home.

I went to Conya's house to see if she'd be home but when I knocked her mom said she hadn't come home yet. I didn't know what to do. Thanksgiving night arrived and mom called for dinner but I was worried about Conya. She still wasn't home. I ignored my mother out of concern for Conya and I went to the ship to go look for her.

When I arrived I peeked around the corner and I saw her tied to a pole of the ship surrounded by every pirate with their swords out. To be continued... -Megan McLouth

P O E T R Y

A Christmas Poem

As Christmas is coming
Snow will soon follow
As all the hollow hearts get full
Remember this holiday is not dull.

There shall be gifts and food
That doesn't mean you can be rude
Do not be a grinch
Or else Santa will give you a pinch.

As the chickens arise
Sipping their vegan eggnog
They mustn't forget to check their stockings
And hope for more than a prize
But they are crying
For Santa hadn't been flying that night.

The big man had crashed
And bashed his head
On the reindeers horn
So no more corn for Christmas
Instead he went to bed
-Addy H. & Charlotte H.

Christmas Poem

As the sleigh bells are ringing
And all the kids are skiing
You're inside loving the scenery
Hanging out with all your family.

Outside it's snowing
While the wind is a blowing
The ground covered in a thick white coat
And all the families taking out all their holiday totes.

Decorating for Christmas with all their lights
And all their decorations in sight
With lots and lots of glee
Of presents underneath a dead tree
It's finally Christmas.

-Hazel Hammersla



Athletes of the Month

- Annika H., Michael W., Megan M.

C Team Basketball:

Angel Romero is the athlete of the month for C Team. He is supportive to his other teammates and always tries his best at basketball.



B Team Basketball:

Dayton Monaco has received athlete of the month for B Team because he is respectful to his coaches and teammates. He is very hard working and has good sportsmanship.

A Team Basketball:

Jacob Shurtz received athlete of the month for A Team. He is a good team player and gets many rebounds and assists.



Boys' Basketball

Tuesday November 30th, Weston Middle School played Central Middle from Milton-Freewater, OR.

C team: The game was going very well because C Team set up a strong defense. They were very close except the other team finished with a buzzer beater. The final score was 16-19.



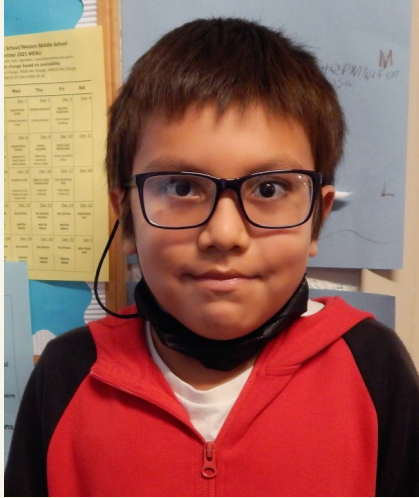
B team: B team was doing great but lost by only 2 points. The final score was 24-26. Their offense was successful and their defense was good.



A team: A team won with a score of 38-12. They stopped the ball when they were on defense. Their offense was working so they took the win.

Students of the Month

(For the month of November)



Aiden Guardipee 4th Grade



Brianna Romero 5th Grade



Brooklyn Brainard 6th Grade



Coleman Giger 7th Grade



Nash Sasser 8th Grade

Students of the month consistently demonstrate Weston Middle School's values of being safe, being respectful, and being responsible. Congratulations!

Creative Writing

I woke up and looked at the clock. It was 7:00 in the morning and I was about to go back to sleep for another half hour when I realized I was going to be late for my flight at 7:30. In a panic, I rushed out of bed and got ready. When I was done getting ready, I ran to the airport and got there 25 minutes early.

“Great, I’m early. Well, at least I’m able to eat breakfast now” I said, upset.

I walked over to the food stands.

“Um, I’ll have the, strawberry-chocolate milkshake and the cinnamon twists.” I said, looking at the menu.

“Ok, let me get that for you” The worker replied cheerfully.

After I ate, I walked around until my flight got ready to board. I was ready to go to Hawaii to escape the winter. After boarding

the plane and getting situated, I fell asleep. When I woke up, we were landing! I got really excited until I realized that there was snow on the ground. I thought it might have just been my eyes since they needed to adjust to the light but then I gathered my stuff and stepped outside. An icy chill hit my skin. “So much for escaping the cold winter, did I get on the wrong plane?” I mumbled under my breath.

I walked around for a bit until I found a tiny town. ‘Welcome to the North Pole!’ the sign read. I walked through town for a bit until I found a building that looked like the town hall, and walked inside. “Oh, goodie, we’ve been waiting for you! Oh, elves!” A cheerful elderly lady said. Suddenly, the ground is moving beneath me and I’m being escorted by tiny people who looked like cartoon elves you’d see in Christmas movies. Then, next thing I

knew I was in an office being forced into a red chair. Across the desk sat an old fat man.

“Ho ho ho, thank you for coming, Liam. We need your help! Christmas is in danger! My sleigh is broken and we don’t have any more duct tape!” The fat man who I recognized was Santa, explained.

“Wait! The man who supplies all the toys and gifts in the world, yearly, can’t find any duct tape? “Seriously, can’t you just make a new sled or just make some duct tape?” I burst out laughing.

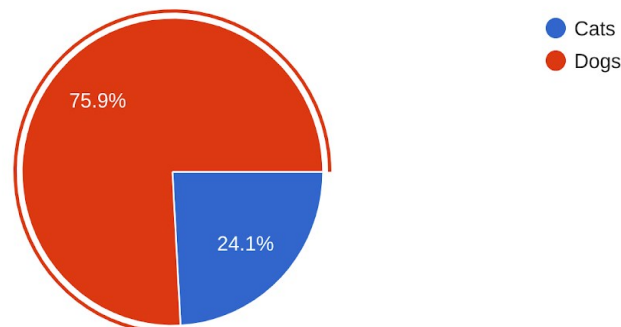
“Oh. Wait we can.” The jolly old man said. And then we both burst out laughing even harder. After the new sleigh was made we hopped on with the toys and I helped deliver presents and then I got dropped off at my hotel in Hawaii.

- Hazel Hammersla

Do You Prefer?

We asked a question of all the kids in the school to see whether they preferred dogs or cats. Here are our results with an overwhelming response for dogs:

Are cats or dogs better
58 responses



Making snowflakes is a craft that even younger students can do, but older students can spend extra time making really intricate patterns. They are a beautiful addition to any window and can make the holidays even brighter. –Staff

Start with a square piece of paper. (Tip: To cut a perfect square from a standard 8-by-11-inch sheet of paper, fold paper into a right-angled triangle; trim off excess.)

Fold paper in half diagonally to make a triangle.

Fold the paper triangle in half so that the pointed corners meet.

Fold paper triangle in thirds, overlapping the left hand pointed corner over the triangle.

Overlap the right hand pointed corner over the triangle. (Note: You may need to adjust these folds a little to get the sides to match up, so don't crease the paper until the folds are just right.)

Trim the pointed ends so the paper triangle looks

Cut your folded paper with variations of cutouts. (Tip: The ones with straight lines are easier to make than the ones with curvy lines.) Optional: If using one of our downloadable templates: scale to your paper size, print, and cut out. Staple template to fold paper in areas to be cut out and use craft scissors to cut off uncovered portions and along all solid lines.

Unfold it gently. Don't worry if your snowflake isn't exact: No two snowflakes are ever alike. (Tip: To smooth out any creases from folding, lightly iron one paper snowflake at a time on a low setting. You can also spritz a little spray starch to stiffen and flatten out the snowflakes.)



-Hallie Burns (sourced from MarthaStewart.com)

Making Paper Snowflakes

How to Tack a Horse

It takes a lot of effort to correctly tack a horse. Here's how I accomplish this.

First you'll need a saddle that is sized to fit your horse. There are many types of saddles for different disciplines: Show Jumping, X-Country, Barrel Racing, Roping, Track Racing, Dressage. There are three main saddles for these categories, English Saddles, Western Saddles, Australian Saddles. Australian saddles aren't used for any of the categories above but mostly are used for trails or trick riding.

Once you have your saddle you need a saddle pad. There are many different materials to choose from. Some are: open and closed cell foams, synthetic felts, needled felts, pressed industrial felts, woven blankets, gel packs, synthetic cloth, and air bladders. I use a simple woven wool saddle pad for my horse Zeus. For my mule, I use a fleece that is very thick and has a lot of comfort padding.



After finding which saddle pad and saddle to use you need to start tacking up. Brushing before you tack your horse is important. That is always my first and last step. Put your saddle pad on the withers but make sure that it isn't pinching. Set your saddle a few fingers away from the withers to ensure no pinching. Once your saddle is in your desired spot, bring your cinch behind their legs and tighten her up. Make around three loops around to make sure your saddle doesn't move. I always use bell boots on my horses to make sure they don't kick their heels with their back feet.



Daffodil fully tacked and ready to rock and roll.

Next you need to figure out a bridle that they respond to best. Some horses respond best without a bit. I use one which is called a hackamore. You can also use a different kind of bit called a snaffle or a leverage which are the two basic and most common kinds. Some horses don't like the metal in their mouth, so a bitless bridle is the best choice. There are also different headstalls that you can choose from bozeal, one ear, two ear, and browband.

Those are all the different things needed before deciding to tack up. So next time you see someone riding take into consideration all the time and effort it takes to tack up.

-Addy Hall

Mr. Neal



Daniel Radcliffe



Mr. Funderburk



Drake

Celebrity Look-a-Like

Theo's Thoughts

Original Comic Strips by Theo Sprenger (Guest Artist Branson Rabb)



GAMING CORNER

Cookie Clicker Game review

In my other game reviews I have reviewed action packed games but in this issue I will be looking at a clicker/idle game. From the very beginning of the game, the first click is ever so satisfying but what should you be spending your cookies on? Grandmas make cookies automatically and they do it rather quickly. Don't question the morality of buying grandmas to make cookies for you.

One of the best parts about this

game is the story on the very top of your screen. There is what the game calls "news" and this "news" tells you some of what is happening in the game world. One of the things it says is "Cookie manufacturer down sizes, sells own grandmother".

One very interesting aspect of this game is that when you buy your bakery, it gets a random name. This clicker game is much different than the average clicker game because unlike them this game actually possesses some plot although the way it is delivered is very unique. Gameplay wise it can get repetitive but

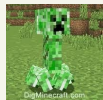
trust me it's a game much worth the five dollars. I promise that you will never find a game quite like this one.

-Hunter Carey



Iconic Gaming Characters

No.5



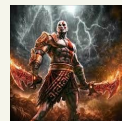
Everyone knows about the Creeper from the very popular game Minecraft. I won't say much about it but what I will have to say is make sure to have a cat on standby.

No.4



All the retro gamers know this one. Mr Bryant is a very well known gaming mascot. Only true gamers know this one.

No.3



Behold the God of War. Kratos is from a pretty old franchise that is still popular to this date.

No.2



The doom slayer AKA doom guy. He is an iconic character who has been in plenty of games and has recently made his way to the current gaming industry

No.1



Here is the best gaming mascot of all time in my opinion. Master Chief or John-117 is a hyper elite super soldier and part of a branch known as "Spartans" which were used to fight against The Covenant Empire.

-Hunter Carey



Top Ten Lists

Top 10 Songs of 2021

- 1: Shivers
- 2: One Right Now
- 3: STAY
- 4: Easy on Me
- 5: Cold Heart
- 6: Heat Waves
- 7: INDUSTRY BABY
- 8: Love Nwantiti
- 9: Escape Plan
- 10: Money

Top 10 Kids Movies On Netflix

1. The Christmas Chronicles 2
2. Over the Moon
3. A Series of Unfortunate Events
4. Beethoven
5. White Christmas
6. A Monster Calls
7. Stuart Little
8. Zathura: A Space Adventure
9. Kluge
10. Yes Day

-Hailie Burns & Annika Holden

Fashion Trends:

10 colors that are in style during autumn and winter.

- Marine Green
- Dusky pink
- Brilliant yellow
- Powder blue
- Pale peach
- Muted yellow
- Barbie pink
- Electric magenta
- Show-stopping orange
- Lime green

-Hailie Burns

Creative Writing

The Day That Christmas Got Saved

Two days before Christmas, Santa found out that he wouldn't be able to deliver Christmas presents to all the boys and girls in the world because three of his reindeer got sick. They couldn't fly with the others on Christmas Eve. Also his elves were lacking on making the presents. So then Santa had to step in and help with gifts.

Mrs. Claus found out and helped for 45 minutes and then went to the kitchen and baked some sugar cookies for everyone. The reindeer were not doing any better. Meanwhile Santa was gathering all the gifts and was loading up the sleigh. Mrs. Claus was making medicine for the reindeer. The reindeer drank it up and they were all better off flying.

Some of the elves went with Santa to deliver the presents to all the boys and girls all over the world. Mrs. Claus waved goodbye and off they went to deliver the presents. The next morning all the kids were happy and got up super early.

-Hallie Burns



THE HISTORY OF SANTA

Have you ever wondered when or why Santa became a part of Christmas? I mean, should you really trust an old man who watches you while you sleep and breaks into your house and leaves stuff in your socks? He even steals all your cookies and milk.

Santa was believed to be "born" around 280 A.D. in Patara near Myra in modern-day Turkey. The creator of Santa was a monk named St. Nicholas. The name Santa Claus evolved from the Dutch nickname Sinter Klaas which was a shortened version of Sint Nikolaas which translates to Saint Nicholas in Dutch.

As he became more popular he was described as a rascal. He wore a



Stores began to advertise Christmas shopping and by 1840 newspapers had separate newspaper sections for Christmas advertisements, much

with the "new" Santa Claus. He wore a blue three-cornered hat, red waist coat and yellow stockings, but then grew to a man wearing a broad-brimmed hat and a huge pair of Flemish trunks.

with the "new" Santa Claus.

In the early 1890s The Salvation Army needed money for the Christmas meals they provided for families in need so they dressed up unemployed men as Santa and they are still doing that to this day.

Here we are in 2021 and Santa is used for advertising and found in malls and shops all over the world. He has changed a bit from the original Sint Nikolaas, but he is loved just the same.

-Hazel Hammersla

New Teacher Interviews

This year we have four new teachers at Weston Middle. For two of these teachers, Mr. Neal and Mrs. Stewart, it is their first year teaching. Mr. Bryant and Mrs. Moore have taught before but this will be their first year teaching at Weston Middle School. Our staff took a few moments to interview these teachers and find out a little bit more about them.



Charlotte interviewed Mrs. Stewart. Mrs. Stewart attended BMCC and EOU. She majored in English Writing and she graduated in 2021. Her dream job as a kid was to be an archaeologist. She did see herself as a teacher when she was younger. Some hobbies Mrs. Stewart likes are snowboarding and hunting. She also likes other outdoor activities.

Annika interviewed Mr. Neal. He went to Whitman college in Walla Walla. He majored in chemistry and he graduated last year. Mr. Neal's dream job as a kid was to be a travel writer or a food critic. In answer to the question "Did you see yourself as a teacher when you were a kid?" he responded "No, I didn't see myself being a teacher until very recently." Mr. Neal likes to cook, bake, and play around in the kitchen in his free time.



Megan interviewed Mrs. Moore. She attended Western Oregon University. Mrs. Moore majored in elementary education and she graduated college in 1992. Her dream job as a kid was to be a teacher or a nurse. Some of her hobbies are to travel, hike, quilt, and exercise.



Addy interviewed Mr. Bryant. One question that was asked was, "What college did you attend?" Mr. Bryant attended Andrews University in Michigan. He majored in Elementary Education and he graduated college in 1998. His childhood dream job was to be an architect. He said he could see himself as a teacher because he loved summers, recess, and kids. Some hobbies Mr. Bryant likes are playing all kinds of sports, snowboarding and trading stocks and cryptocurrency.



THE STORM PT 1

My brothers and I were running outside when we felt a sudden rumble coming from the beach. On our way to the beach, a sudden wall was closing in. It was very, very tall, rushing at us like a freight train. As we were running back to home, the wall had perpetually grown taller and had gotten faster. My brothers had fallen behind as they were watching in fascination and worry. I got to our house and warned my parents, but they weren't home. When I went back outside, I noticed that my oldest brother, KB, was limping. But at that moment, it was the least of my worries. The wall was getting taller and taller the closer it got, but something seemed... off. As it made contact with the beach, the wall had disappeared.

The rumbling stopped. Everything disarranged, as if the wall was still here. The destruction coming closer and closer. We ran and ran as we were running from the mess. When running, I heard a sharp cry, and stopped as suddenly as it came. It sounded inhuman, but not unfamiliar. We went over to see if we could find the source, ignoring the wall as we were quite some distance away.

It turned out that I was hearing things, so we continued on inward. When we heard the noise again, I turned around, seeing KB on the ground. Me and Tyler, my other brother, went to get him up off the ground, we froze. It was dark and black and purple tendrils were everywhere. KB had a parasite in his back, growing rapidly.

We didn't know what to do. It was spreading quicker and quicker, the

substance devouring him in a pool of darkness. We didn't know what to do, as we didn't know the antidote to fix him. "This is great," I said. "We have to do someth—" A metallic scream came from behind. We had forgotten about the one thing we had been running from: The wall. It was right behind us, and closing in fast. We were too slow to try to outrun it, even without KB, who, at the moment was crying for help. We picked him up, but we were afraid to touch him, considering we didn't know anything about the parasite. As we were running, KB had completely transformed into this thing. KB was doing this thing with his hands. But somehow, he was controlling the wall.

Continued in January 2022 -
Anonymous

Nightmare In November

It was the night of November 23, 1982 and the waves on the beach were crashing against the gigantic rocks. Everyone was indoors and was watching the news to see if there were any warnings to evacuate. People were starting to pack because the waves started to increase. Everyone was leaving and the traffic was horrible. It was backed up for about an hour.

A kid named Joshua, was not afraid to do anything; he was a daredevil. That night Joshua walked outside and he took his surfboard with him. He had no fear of just jumping right into the water knowing that it was dangerous. His mom woke up and saw that the backdoor was open. She went to check his room and he was not there!

Right when she noticed she called 911. There were helicopters, scuba divers, and police officers. Everyone was surrounding there, caution tape everywhere. Parents and kids were screaming Joshua's name, the waves slowly increased

so everyone was up on the hill. The dad earlier in the year was on a ship when a storm came and the ship tipped over and sank. Mom was heartbroken and did not want Joshua to die either, she couldn't stand the thought of losing both. Early the next morning mom went outside to see if she saw anything. The waves were dissipating but there still was a high tide. There was no sign of anything. Mom went back up to the house and she started crying again. Later that week there was a knock at the door. Mom jumped right up to the door hoping it was Joshua, right when she opened the door she wiped her eyes so they were not watery. When she opened the door it was one of Joshua's friends at the front door with a bunch of flowers and balloons.

Mom could barely go out to walk on the beach anymore. She went down to send flowers out for her husband and son. In the distance she saw something going in and out with the steady waves. She anxiously ran over to see what it was. She sprinted down the beach and when she got down there, there was a... To be continued.

-Charlotte Hansell

Creative Writing

Dear Bloberta

(Advice Column for Weston Middle School)

Dear Bloberta,

I am losing a lot of my sweatshirts and my water bottles and I don't know where they are. My mom is getting mad because I don't have my stuff when I get home. She is saying I am irresponsible.

**Sincerely,
Irresponsible**

Dear Irresponsible,

The first thing I would do if I were you is to go check the lost and found. It is in between the 6th-grade hallway and the HUB hallway. The lost and found is overflowing with sweatshirts and water bottles. I recommend going and checking for your lost items. For each class period, have a checklist of things that you need to remember and begin to make a habit of looking at your checklist at the end of class.

Dear Bloberta,

My friend keeps touching my Chromebook and messing with it. What should I do?

**Sincerely,
Annoyed**

Dear Annoyed,

You should probably ask him/her to stop or move so you do not have to constantly worry about them. You could also ask the teacher to move you. As much as it may feel unpleasant to talk to a teacher about it, you don't want to have to be responsible for any damage your friend might cause to your Chromebook.

*Sincerely,
Bloberta*



Name: _____

Date: _____



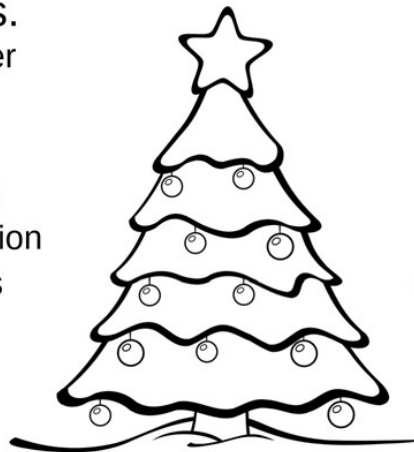
Giant Christmas Word Search



b g y p y r u d o l p h s c f u l w a r r u o r z
 f d z f v b z l q x j k l t u r k e y l y h f e s
 s s l j j c o w q n n j e j g a r l a n d a f i l
 a n w o o v a p p r e c i a t i o n m p w i d n e
 l o t y l s a m c f s p e s t o c k i n g s g d i
 f w g t l y c h a v c h e g g n o g k a e d i e g
 a d w t y u v g e l i d o i k p h b z s d f f e h
 m w o c o w l k t i n s e l e n s c b m u y t r v
 i s v r h y k w b n s q v h l p x s a g q c s s j
 l n l o t r s j c t s h s w r y q k f r e e n f i
 y o v s t k i q w r q q d a i w y t u e o z b t n
 z w a n u r k s g e l d x u n q m i f l c l y r g
 q f e o w i p x t e a n f x s t k n y g z i s a l
 x l b w g o r n a m e n t s w x a u g a k q c d e
 u a v m q c q n b o a j h a l c g t y t r l z i b
 j k b a v k c i e j f s s b l a y c s h u i z t e
 d e c n t x a p v l p w d q z u l r k e a g i i l
 t b h h t g y a s o f d d f c e v a k r b h p o l
 c f w l e t h a n k f u l k f a w c n i d t r n s
 c d o h j e z r h s v c t r g u j k q n f s c s v
 u r v d e z r o m q q p u m u d x e w g y z i x g
 n o r t h p o l e e j s d f s n a r s v b k q a n
 k g s o b n q w x j x d g r a t i t u d e w v s a
 t r e e s k i r t j f r o s t y d t e h i p q g d
 s i p m i s t l e t o e d y r m b w o e g b q g j

Find these **Christmas** words.

- | | | | |
|------------|-----------|--------------|--------------|
| North Pole | Santa | ornaments | nutcracker |
| family | reindeer | tree skirt | mistletoe |
| joy | toys | jingle bells | traditions |
| tinsel | snowflake | eggnog | gathering |
| thankful | Frosty | gratitude | appreciation |
| garland | holly | carols | christmas |
| snow | lights | sleigh | Rudolph |
| turkey | stockings | snowman | tree |
| cheer | jolly | gifts | elf |



(The words may be hidden vertically, horizontally or diagonally.)

BLOB Staff Now & Then



Charlotte Hansell (Newborn)



Charlotte Hansell (Current)



Addy Hall (Age 2)



Addy Hall (Current)

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If you have suggestions for content or would like to submit a creative writing story, please email our

editor at: 27rabbb@athwestsd.org

“Unless we make Christmas an occasion to share our blessings, all the snow in Alaska won’t make it white.” -Bing Crosby