

Wishing You & Yours a Merry Christmas

Santa Explains "The True Meaning of Christmas"

Special Thanks to Pastor Diane Barnes

Around this time of year, there is often talk of keeping Christ in Christmas. There are arguments about putting up nativity scenes. Well, actually, there's no way to keep Christ out of Christmas! While a nativity scene may be the most obvious reminder of what Christmas truly means, there are other reminders all around us!

I guess one of my favorites is the mistletoe (because my trees are full of it!). Have you ever considered how mistletoe can only exist as long as it is attached to a tree? Cut it off, and it will die. It is the same with us. In order to live, we must be attached to God. Like the mistletoe, we may not even be aware of this fact, but it is nevertheless true.

I'm sure you have probably heard the story of the candy cane. Candy canes remind us of the Good Shepherd's staff, with the red representing Christ's blood and the white representing His purity.

The following story (author unknown) continues this thinking:

Just a week before Christmas I had a visitor. This is how it happened. I just finished the household chores for the night and was preparing to go to bed when I heard a noise in the front of the house. I opened the door to the front room, and to my surprise, Santa himself stepped out from behind the Christmas tree. He placed his finger over his mouth so I would not cry out. "What are you doing?" I started to ask him.

The words choked in my throat, as I saw he had tears in his eyes. His usual jolly manner was gone. Gone was the eager boisterous soul we all know. He then answered me with a simple statement, TEACH THE CHILDREN! I was puzzled: What did he mean? He anticipated my question, and with one quick movement brought forth a miniature toy bag from behind the tree.

As I stood there bewildered, Santa said, Teach the Children! Teach them the old meaning of Christmas. The meaning that a now-a-day Christmas has forgotten!

Santa then reached in his bag and pulled out a FIR TREE and placed it on the mantle. Teach the Children that the pure green color of the stately fir tree remains green all year round, depicting the everlasting hope of mankind. All the needles point heavenward, making it a symbol of man's thoughts turning toward heaven.

He again reached into his bag and pulled out a brilliant STAR. Teach the Children that the star was the heavenly sign of promises long ago. God promised a Savior for the world, and the star was the sign of fulfillment of that promise.

He then reached into the bag and pulled out a CANDLE. Teach the Children that the candle symbolizes that Christ is the light of the world, and when we see this great light we are reminded of He who displaces the darkness.

Once again he reached into his bag and then removed a WREATH and placed it on the tree. Teach the Children that the wreath symbolizes the eternal nature of love. Real love never ceases. Love is one continuous round of affection.

He then pulled out from his bag an ornament of HIMSELF. Teach the Children that Santa Claus symbolizes the generosity and good will we feel during the month of December.

He reached in again and pulled out a HOLLY LEAF. Teach the Children the holly plant represents immortality. It represents the crown of thorns worn by our Savior. The red holly berries represent blood shed by Him.

Next he pulled out a GIFT from the bag and said, "Teach the Children that God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son. Thanks be to God for His unspeakable gift. Teach the Children that the wise men bowed before the holy babe and presented Him with gold, frankincense, and myrrh. We should give gifts in the same spirit as the wise men."

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Churches of Itasca

<u>Bethlehem Missionary Baptist</u>	W. Spurgeon 687-2800
<u>Central Baptist Church</u>	401 E. Monroe 687-2343
<u>Church of Christ</u>	200 N. Aquilla 687-2774
<u>First Baptist Church</u>	107 S. Lamar 687-2783
<u>First Presbyterian Church</u>	106 N. Lamar 687-2243
<u>First United Methodist</u>	Main & King St. 687-2475
<u>Loveview Baptist Church</u>	FM 2959 East of I-35
<u>Second Baptist Church</u>	120 W. Marrion 687-9134
<u>Shiloh Community Church</u>	254-582-0487
<u>St. John Missionary Baptist</u>	506 S. Weaver 687-2821
<u>3rd Day Worship Center</u>	107 E. Adams 214 564-2185
<u>Itasca Nursing Home</u>	Sunday - 10:00 a.m.
Everyone Welcome	Monday Evening 6:00 p.m.

Central Baptist Church

200 E. Monroe St.

Sunday School 9:45 Worship 10:50 a.m.

Youth (7th - 12th grade) 5:00 p.m.

Sunday Evening Worship 6:00-7:00 p.m.

Tuesday - Ladies' Bible Study 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday Adult Bible Study and Prayer 7:00 p.m.

Youth (7th-12th) 7:00 p.m. website - itascacbc.org

First United Methodist Church

401 E. Main St, Itasca, TX 254-687-2475

E-mail: itascaumc@digitex.net

APPLICATION PREACHING!

Sermons for the REAL WORLD that we live in.

What good is a wonderful sermon on Sunday if it cannot be applied to the concerns of your life when Monday morning rolls around?

Find the fun, joy, and comfort you were promised. Bring an open heart and mind.

Sunday School 9:30 a.m.-10:30 (All ages)

Sunday Worship Service 10:50 a.m.

Refreshments between Sunday School & Church Services 10:30 a.m.

Itasca Church of Christ - 200 N. Aquilla St.

Light The Night By Being Right!

Obey Jesus Become A Nightlighter!

Join us for worship at the Itasca Church of Christ

All are welcome

303 E. Monroe Sunday 9:45 & 10:45 a.m.

Itasca, TX 5:00 p.m.

254-687-2774 Wednesday 7:00 p.m.

Second Missionary Baptist Church

120 W. Marrion St. Itasca TX 76055

Rev. George Demmeritte Jr. (Pastor)

Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Worship 11:00 a.m.

Wednesday Bible Study 5:30 p.m.

2BC*2 Youth Meeting 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. Wednesday

The Christmas Story

Continued from page 1

He reached in again and pulled out an ANGEL. Teach the Children that it was the angels that heralded in the glorious news of the Savior's birth. The angels sang 'Glory to God in the highest, on earth, peace and good will.'

Suddenly I heard a soft twinkling sound, and from his bag he pulled out a BELL. Teach the Children that as the lost sheep are found by the sound of a bell, it should bring people to the fold. The bell symbolizes guidance and return.

Santa looked at the tree and was pleased. He looked back at me and I saw the twinkle was back in his eyes. He said, "Remember, teach the Children the true meaning of Christmas, and not to put me in the center, for I am but a humble servant of the One who is, and I bow down and worship Him, our Lord, our God."

The Christmas story is all around us! Christ is here with us! Just look around this Christmas season! Worship Christ, the newborn King!

First Presbyterian Church

106 N. Lamar Itasca 254-687-2243

"In mission to and with the Presbyterian Children's Home to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ."

Sundays - 9:30-10:00 Fellowship in Barton Hall

10 - 10:45 Sunday School 11 a.m. - Worship Service

6 pm - Praise/Worship - 6:30 KFC/Hour of Power

Wed. 6:30 Vespers Service Chapel - 7:15 Choir practice

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service First Presbyterian Church

You are invited to join us in worshipping our Savior, the newborn King, this Christmas Eve, and here are 10 good reasons to join us:

***You remember Christmas services from your childhood and would like to re-connect with those memories.

***You would like to make the beauty of the Christmas story a part of your annual Christmas activities.

***You want your children to hear the Christmas story and be reminded that Christmas is about more than getting gifts and leaving treats for Santa.

***You want to be with people during this emotional, and often lonely, season.

***You want to be somewhere peaceful and holy as you meditate on the significance of this special time.

***You enjoy singing those beautiful Christmas carols in the glow of candlelight.

***You've been thinking about going to church anyway, and this would be a good time to do it.

***You've been wanting to get to know other Christians in our community.

***Being in church on Christmas helps you relax from the stress of the season.

***You've been longing for a touch from God and it seems like this would be a great time to reach out to Him.

Come, Let Us Adore Him

Merry Christmas from Elementary

May peace, hope, & love be with you this holiday season. Merry Christmas

Elementary Principal Mrs. Karon Farquhar

PPCD

Dear Santa, I would like to have:



Airplane, Spiderman & a Princess and the Frog Xavier Fontanez
Toys and games Billy Watts
Toys with lights/music and cars Justin Baskett
Binoculars, games and Spiderman Hector Duron

Pre-Kindergarten

Dear Santa, I would like to have:

Black pony & a play gun Jordan Valentine
Make-up & fingernail polish Gabi Edgar
Pink unicorn & a new pink ring Lilli Anderson
Hot Wheels & a dinosaur J.T. Bottorff
Motorcycle toy & some candy Adan Garcia
Pillow Pets (Ladybug & Pony) Emily Persons
Pillow Pet (Dog) & fake fighter Christan Marshall
Mario game & a Nintendo Jesus Castillo
Real cell phone & pink Nintendo DS Madison Cooksey
Ball & a game Lizbeth Morales
Jack in the Box & a Pillow Pet (Dog) Triston Upton

Kitchen & a play horse Jacey Hubbard
Bumble Bee game & another game Deryk Caraway
Princess car & a pink Nintendo DS Alyssa Houston
Bike & a horn Landen Mitchell
Barbies & a Pillow Pet Taylor Arellano
Tractor & a necklace Ronnie Diaz
Nintendo DS & a DS game Tory Brooks
Toy horse & Hot Wheels Frank Arellano
Motorcycle & a bicycle Colt Rhea
Batman Cave & Christmas tree with a Star Tyler Griffith
Play phone & a Transformer Colton Stanford
Monster truck game Jake Comer
Barbie & a dress Lillian Johnson
Microphone & a Chi Kaivdance Olson
Cinderella Dress & Rupunsal's red hair Analicia Leal
Candy & a ZuZu Pet Makayla Nieto
Skateboard & a camera Payslie Stephenson
Unicorn Pillow Pet & play cookie sheet Alyssa Upton
Princess game & a Barbie Ashley Zavala
Fishing pole & a shotgun Wesley Stinemetze
Pony & a dog April Battleson
Barbie Doll House & a new puppy Makala Rodriguez
Princess fishing pole & glitter Hailie Swanson
Skateboard & cars Justin Holder
Monster truck & a T-Rex Joseph Willman
Dinosaur T-Rex & a computer Jesse Camarena
Nintendo DS & a ConZu Ezra Hale
Helicopter & toys T.J. Hunt
Tangles Barbie & a stuffed elephant Jocelyn Renfrow
Train & a toothless big pickup Kale Forester

Bicycle & a little monster truck Coldyn Horn
Game & skates Lynnashia Brooks
Guitar & a Cinderella camera Gabi Ross
Doggy & ice skates Parisia Dyer
Toy robot & new shoes Dominik Alford
New dinosaur set & new train set Jackson Eaddy
Candy cane machine & a scooter Tyran Jackson
Remote control car & a motorcycle Colten Brandstetter



Kindergarten

Zhu Zhu pet and Zooplers Alley Baskett
Go cart and a dirt bike Wyatt Beam
Pillow Pet and a teddy bear Cole Billingsley
Bed and a green hat Landon Botello
Stuffed puppy and a stuffed tree Gwen Brown
Pillow Pet and Christmas lights Michelle Chavez
Hamster in a ball and a stuffed Christmas tree Tyra Crawford
New clothes and new shoes Cadence Edward
Blizzard maker and a motorcycle Jose Gutierrez
Cookie mama doll and a jewelry box Casey Hernandez
Computer and a car Mason Hyder

Dear Santa, I would like to have:

Kindergarten



Small pink Christmas tree & Go-Go Walk Pup Haley Jenkins
 Nintendo DS & a Mario game Cash McIntyre
 PSP & Princess baby doll Kierstyn Moore
 Barbie House & karaoke machine Gracelyn Walker
 Barbie doll & Cinderella doll Amiya Wills
 Nintendo DS & a remote control car Omar Zavala
 TV & card games Quentin Seward
 Zuzu Pet & a TV Hannah Brackin
 Fujigi & green Power Ranger Costume Alex Andrade
 Horse & a bicycle Kirstyn Sword
 Transformer & a GPS Damon Caraway
 4-Lane Dragway & a Go-Kart Joseph Davis
 Little pretend walking dog & make-up with lipstick Lori Johnson
 Pillow Pet & fake 4-wheeler to ride Brayden Cole
 Little tiny Lego's & stamps Hayleigh Arellano
 Real pet bulldog & an X-Box 360 Braylon Stafford
 Trampoline & a black puppy dog Alexsandra Comer
 Bicycle & a toy playing horse Samantha Forbus

Barbie & a real baby puppy Seianna Massey
 Teddy bear & a bicycle Daisy Morantes
 Baby buggy & a baby doll Gabby Rodriguez
 Punching bag & roller skates Gavin Grisham
 Doll & a toy dog Jada Kellum
 Baby doll that can stand up & walk & a real toy Chihuahua Laney Bell
 Cat Pillow Pet & a Barbie doll Alyssa Botello
 Remote control car & a remote control airplane Tomas Castillo
 Stuffed doggie & new clothes Gracee Cole
 Nintendo DS & a Violin Kaden Cordell
 Toy puppy that walks by itself & a baby doll that has food, drinks, & a stroller Heaven Gonzales
 Bike & a book Alyssa Jackson
 iPod & a new phone Kayd Lightsey
 Computer & a Nintendo DS Aliyah McGill
 Doggie & a cat Dakota Ostic
 iPod & a Barbie house & a Barbie Alondra Ramirez
 Wolf Mountain & a Criss Cross Crash Canaan Richters
 iPod charger & a Bible Ava Rugh
 Nintendo DS & American Girl Doll Becca Salinas
 Mario vs Donkey Kong game & Pokemon cards Ryan Volcik
 Race car & remote control dinosaur Alex Watkins
 Remote control airplane & a remote control Transformer Victor Garcia
 Dragon Pillow Pet & remote control Buzz Lightyear Jaedon Fain
 Playstation & a Connect DeReyon Mayberry



1st Grade



Puppy & I Phone EJ Montez
 DSi & DS Jacoby Searcy
 Bike & a DSi Colt Horn
 DSi Nintendo & iPhone Oscar Alvarado
 Princess mermaid costume & DSi Abby Weaver
 DSi & a book Grace Anderson
 DSi & Super Mario Brothers Wii Brendon Heath
 Barbie doll & Mermaid Yakziry Garcia
 DS & a Hannah Montana Anyah Villarreal
 iPhone & a bird Daniela Chavez
 Car & a DS Garrett Slagle
 Nintendo DS & games Michael Battleson
 Bird & Fin Fin friend Mackenzie Hernandez
 Buzz Lightyear & a green DSi Brinden Johnson
 iPhone & a DSi David Arellano
 Doll & a DSi Madison Rodriguez
 Nintendo DS & a fish Kodey Benitez
 Two big boots Cameryn Hyles
 Pillow pet & Barbie Andorra Thao
 DS & a Barbie Kristen Vaughn
 DS & a computer Abby Salinas
 Mini markers & a Wii Rose Edgar
 Play station & a computer Mario Martinez
 Truck with a tractor & trailer & a little trailer Chase Price
 Computer & a PSP Natalia Savala
 Dinosaur & a computer Ismael Garcia
 Legos & a Zu Zu pet Naomi Chavez
 iPod Touch & a computer A'Leaciyah McGee
 DSi & a Pillow pet Jasmyn Rodriguez
 DSi & a Pillow pet Morgan Holliday
 Bike & a PS3 Carlos Ortiz
 Motorcycle & a X box Miguel Gamez
 Transformer & a race track Gabriel Dyer
 Wii Twist & a Paper Jam Willie Bible
 Barbie Swimming School with a puppy & a Nintendo DS Kylie Savers
 iPod touch & a Pillow pet Kendall Bryan

Santa Letters from Elementary

2nd Grade



Nintendo DSi & a laptop
Anna Anderson

Barbie & baby clothes
Tempest Arellano

Nintendo DS & Zhu-Zhu pets
Susie Balch

Jessie doll from Toy Story 3 & a Go-Go puppy
Felicity Cockerham

Bakugan game & an Xbox 360
Angel Diaz

Barbie & a doll house
Chloe Fain

Nintendo DSi & a Beyblade
Freddy Gonzales

Bow & arrow & a toy from Toy Story 3
Davonté Grisham

Transformer & a Beyblade
Juan Hernandez

Lego's & a Wii
Orlando Hernandez

Beyblade & an Xbox 360
Kyle Kirkpatrick

Beyblade & a trampoline
Dustin Latray

Easy Bake oven & cotton candy maker
Ashley Tetreault

Nintendo DSi & a real cell phone
Courtney Upton

Beyblade & iPod touch like my sister's
Marshall Woods

Real phone & games & Nintendo DS
Bradford Wright

Real Shiatsu puppy & Go-Go puppy
Arly Zavala

Cute boots & fun with my family
Mrs Volcik

Ten cars & ten pajamas
Erick Diaz

Dog Pillow Pet & pajamas
Desiree Rasco

Nintendo DS & a PlayStation 2
Rafael Martinez

Room of candy & baby Zhu-Zhu pet
Jesse Harris

Ball that I can walk in & Legos
Marcus Yanez

Legos & a Kung Zhu-Zhu pet
Ashton Tinklenberg

Nintendo DSi Mario & a house
Brenda Morales

Boy Kung Zhu-Zhu pet & girl Zhu-Zhu pet
Yeni Delgado

Nintendo DSi & a dirt bike
Daniel Burns

Halo Reach & two Zhu-Zhu pets
Allison Strickland

Donkey Kong game & cool Lego City Legos
Logan Strona

Fluffy Zhu-Zhu & Wendy Walker
Elizabeth Lynn Brown

Mario DS & a Zhu-Zhu pet
Alanna Jeffers

Laptop & a Nintendo DSi
Joshua Cardona

Kung Fu Zhu-Zhu pet & a Zhu-Zhu pet
Lane Burt

iPhone & a Wii
Bernardo Garcia

Nintendo DSi & games for Nintendo DSi
Aleesia Sarli

Toy school bus & big books
Leu Thao

Six whole train tracks & more trailers for my train
John Wesley Rhea

Ipod & a real Computer
Mercedez Castillo

DS & DS games (Girl ones)
Hannah Whitlock

Call of Duty Black Ops & Halo Legos
Braeden Castro

Ipod & a Jacob Toy
Jaedyn Campos



My SIM Sky Heroes & an X-Box
Jimmy Heath

X-Box 360 & a PSP
Raymond Arellano

DS games & a new dress
Kalee Payne

DSi with Games & a Bible
Zamaria Christopher

Bulls Eye & a Slinky Dog
Aidan Sargent

Pair of Roller Blades & a DS
Justin Seward

Game Boy game & a sled
Anahi Botello

Walkie-Talkies & a Skate Board
David Hernandez

Yugio cards & a PSP
Eli Jacks

Puppy & make up
Emmersyn Cardona

Doll house & Barbies
Elizabeth Wright

DSi & a PSP
Joe Gonzales

3rd Grade



Beyblade & parts for my dirt bike
Gavin Botello

Go kart & a DSI
Anthony Salazar

Barbie & a movie about the Twilight Saga Eclipse
Jessica Rojo

Easy Bake Oven & holiday craft stuff
Niccona Olson

Guitar & Beyblade-Rock Series
Donavon McGill

Beyblade & an MP3 player
Michael Kirkpatrick

Phone & a bike
Dakota Price

New bike & an electric scooter
A'Leayah Hogan

Easy Bake Oven & Aqua sand
Trinity Jacks

Lego Soldiers & Lego Soldier Guns
Parker Richters

Hedgehog & the second season of Dukes of Hazard
Weston Helms

Play Station 3 & the Black Ops game
Jared Persons

Wii & a Roamin' Rabbits Travel Through Time game
Patrick Runyon

Dear Santa, I would like to have . . .

3rd Grade



Sigma DS game & an Xbox with a DJ game
Percy Jackson & the Lightning Thief game on DS & a PS3

Damian Sanders

Heels & Bendaroos

Morgan Ward

Camera-doll that has the necklace & you can take a picture with & the Back Shaws

Breona Castro

Tattoos & candy

AnnaLisa Marquez

Clothes & a football

Thomas Walker

Football game & another football game

Terry Harris

Laptop & an Iphone4

Alexsandra Gonzalez

Bumblebee car & a remote control motorcycle

Danny Molla

Games & Star Wars games

Trevor Cockerham

The best Christmas ever & roller skates

Reyes Gamez

New phone & a Wii with games

Andrew Arellano

Dry erase board & high heels

Destini Ramsey

iPod touch & a Wii for the family

Nathalie Willman

Touch screen laptop & a Yorky puppy

Toriah Brooks

Ipod touch & Sonic Colors

Clay Pittman

Nintendo DS & an Ipod touch

Kverra Rockuemore

X-Box Kinect & an mp3 player

Antonio Arellano

DSI-XL & Sonic Colors

Hannah Verhaagen

Puppy & a DSI

Kaylei Cole

Call of Duty Finest Hour & a Wii

Travis Abbott

DSI & DSI games

Alicia Whitlock

Air Hogs Helicopter & Sonic Colors

Dionicio Cruz

Toy puppy & a doll house

Brisia Garcia

Nerf Sniper & every Call of Duty game

Deacon Lair

Dairy Queen Blizzard maker & a Bop it Bounce

Avery Barfield

DSI & an Xbox 360 with ten games & a PSP

Nicky Johnson

Four DS games & a Ben 10 watch

Mason Griffin

Call of Duty Black Ops & Gears of War 3

Ethen Agreda

iPod Touch & boots

Krystin Botorff

Apple computer & an iPhone 4

Eric Mozon

iPod & a DSI XL

Sammy Bonds

TV for my room & a DS

Gillian Brackin

DSI & a DSI game

Lily Cleveland

Barbie coloring book & a dog collar

Jennifer Martinez

Dirt bike & a PSP

Cahl Horn

Lakers basketball & NFL football

Dylan Jones

iPod Touch & a PSP

Bree Brown

NCAA Football 11 & Madden 11

Ryan Markwardt

PSP & a new Bratz house

Fayth Searcy

DSI & a dog Pillow Pet

Vanessa Ramirez

PSP & a PS3 game

Devin Gorman

Bike & games for Xbox, DS & PSP

Chris Diaz

Boxers & a dune buggy

Chase Rutherford

4th Grade

Playstation 3 & a football

Kobe McGruder

Playstation 3 games & money

Austin Karr

New 3D HD TV & Kinect for my Xbox 360

James Savala

iPod touch & a new bike

Maddie Reyna

Books to read & a notebook

Jesse Edgar

Books & Wii Games

Kenzie Boyd

Halo Reach & Madden 2010 for Xbox 360

Brandon Sifford

Xbox 360 & Xbox 360 games

Fabyan Hernandez

Pet weasel & some Texas Longhorn stuff

Rowdy Rhea

PSP & PSP games

Timothy Jacks

Pair of boots & a laptop

Bethany Kirkpatrick

Kinect & Cabal's North American Adventures

Samuel Sulak

Smart Phone & an iPod Touch

Alyssa Andrade

New DSI game & a computer

Meadow Valeriano

Xbox & a Wii

Whitley Alverson

Baby bunny & a bike

Isabel Avila

NOW T-shirt & NOW boots

Bo Barnes

Metal detector & remote control gator

Dylan Beam

iPod Touch & ABS

Cameron Brandstetter

Hot Wheels & an Air Hockey Table

Nolan Davis

Toys & clothes

Aileene Diaz

New bike & a new Wii game

Wesley Frederick

Pokemon cars & Star Wars movies

Alan Freeman



Dear Santa Letters from Elementary

More 4th Grade



Large Dune buggy & a large gas

power car Ethan Greeson

Hello Kitty Phone case & a pink

Apple Laptop Malacia Guy

iPhone 4 & a Fluffy Chair from Justice

Sophie Hennig

Droid-X & an iPad

Hallie Runyon

Pink Wii remote & for my dog's foot to heal

Rachele Wood

Laptop & a Hamster

Haley Hubbard

Xbox 360 & a PS3

Jeff Knight

Justin Bieber doll & a Justin Bieber

CD Sabrina Massey

Happy holiday with my family & a new saddle

Brenna Barnes

DS & to have the best Christmas ever

Brianna Bolden

DSi & a horse

William Barns

Nintendo DS & girly games for the Nintendo

Kirsten Clary

New four wheeler & a new phone

Harley Finley

DSi & a dress up pack

Ariel Gonzales

22 pistol & a Plaid jacket with a cream fur collar

Wyatt Helms

Nintendo DSi & clothes

Imelda Hernandez

iPhone 4 & a Dairy Queen Blizzard maker

JaMesa Long

Laptop & an iPhone 4

Itzayana Pacheco

iPod touch & Hot Wheels

Blaze Payne

New golf cart & a new Xbox 360

Jonathan Ramsey

Nintendo DSi & a dirt bike

Jerry Watts

DSi & a phone Mariah Whitlock

Xbox 360 slim & an electric scooter

Armando Yadez

DSi & a new game for my DS

Katie-Lynne Younger

Doll & a puppy

Evelyn Garcia

New Dee-Dee & a trampoline

Garrett Cox

Blue fortune skull & a yellow fortune skull

Brooklyne Soward

Lord of the Rings game & a fake spy car

Stephen Upton

Monster truck & a Ben 10 game

Jacob Farquhar

Wii & a dirt bike

Keilan Harris

Yu-Gi-Oh cards & a gun

Jordan Shelby

Remote control helicopter & an Ultima Tricixs

Cameren Hight

Xbox 360 & Star Wars

Nathan Dean Adams

Phone & a huge cheesecake

Chasity Roberson

Nintendo DSi & a flat screen TV

Justin Basye

Xbox 360 & the Call of Duty: Black Ops game

JT Cardona

"Lala Loopsy" & Deer stuffed animal

Katelyn George

iPod & a Nerf gun

William Marks

Bike & a doll

Lady Bug Mayberry

DS or DSi & Pixie-Hollow membership

Angelina Thao

Computer & an iPod

Lupita Gobellan

American Girl stuff & movies

Samantha Faries

iPod & a laptop

Anistashia Rockuemore

Nintendo DSi & a Playstation 3

Neo Arellano

Barbie Fashion Sweetie & a fortune skull

Kaylie Soward

Littlest Pet Shop & Camera Barbie

Elisa Persons

Dear Santa, I want a big dinosaur,

big hoop, big blanket, flowers, big

balloon, froggie, two more small

cups, big pony, big tiger, monek bar

and a Fri Fri.

Codie Johnson

Paw Print Press

Working for You All Year & Especially at Christmas to Get Your Letters to Santa

Cartoon by Cory Bourland ('04)



Dear Santa, I would like

Oakleys and money for guitar stuff

Aren Barton

Xbox 360 and a hippo

Hannah Johnson

Boots and to be with my family

Ashley Spain

A puppy and money

Shelby Ledwig

Laptop and new phone

Brittany Reid

For everyone to remember what the true meaning of Christmas is

Brittany Bourland

Sony camcorder and to see my sister, Emily

David Maddox

For my sister to be home for Christmas and lots of good food

David Corbitt

Xbox 360 and boots

Brandon Duby

Purple bulldozer

Martin Martinez

Money and world peace

Emma Orr

To have 90 more years as good as the last 90

Mr. Carl Sweeney

A box of chocolates and a Harlequin Romance novel

Mrs. Sally Crouch

For a happy family Christmas & all of IHS students to pass

Mrs. Barbara Petrash



2011 Seniors' Christmas Letters to Santa from Years Gone By



Chris Carlson

K – Wish I could see a humpback whale

1st – Football, pads, shirt, pants and a football locker with #21 on it

2nd – All the Goosebumps Books including Night of the Living Dummy 1, 2, & 3

Hali Carranza

K – New puppy, doll house & Barbie

1st – Roller skates

2nd – Poo Chi, Barbie, Meow Chi and dancing Debbie

Kendrick Carranza

K – Dog

1st – Go cart, motorcycle, puppy, talking car & talking motorcycle

Rebecca Cisneros

K – Some bells for my tree

1st – Britney Spears poster, Christina Aguilera poster, skateboard, kite & Scooby Doo shirt

2nd – N*Sync Joey doll and lots of presents

Marie Coronado

K – Barbie doll, Star & little chair

1st – Spice Girls & Barbies

2nd – Dancing Debbie Barbie, 2 more Barbies, Game Boy Color, Barbie jeep and house

Chan'Tira Diggs

K – Teddy Bear & truck

1st – Doll clothes, shoes & games

2nd – Barbie and VCR

Cody Dominick

K – Go cart & mud go cart

1st – Race track, truck, shoes, skates & toy airplane

2nd – Road for my car, boots, TV, VCR with a Nintendo

Jasmine Guy

K – Doll set

1st Grade – Barbie cash register, Play Doh, Wrestling doll & a Spice Girl

2nd Grade – Dancing Debbie, Game Boy & Piano

B.J. Jackson

K – Go cart

1st – Stone Cold watch, Pokemon watch, radio, CDs, tapes, tops, books & markers

2nd – Try your hardest to get me a horse

Garrett Johnson

K – Pump Up Plane, Remote control car & cat

1st – Big red ball & new pistol

2nd – Scooter and football

Shelby Jones

1st – Doll, bike, skates & game

2nd – Doll, bike, piano and a new baby

Dillion LoSciuto

K – Big Bad Bow, house & real bullets

1st – Pokemons, Big bag Pokemons master balls

2nd – Shotgun shells, Nintendo 64, Tekno, Gameboy, low rider bike & electric bike

Christina Manasco

1st – Pokemon poster & Charzord Pokemon toy

2nd – All the Goosebumps Books but not in Spanish & Digimon cards

Catherine Olivas

1st – Pokemon car & book

2nd – Barbie jeep, Gameboy and Dancing Debbie

Jack Panting

K – Play Station, Teddy Bear & Legos

1st – Toys, Play Station, Batman & train

2nd – Ten Goosebumps Books



Autumn Pelham

K – Dog

1st – Pokemon movie, game, cards, balls & bike

2nd – All the Goosebumps Books including Night of the Living Dummy 1, 2, & 3

Jose Ramirez

1st – Pokemon & hockey toys, Power Ranger movies, baseball & real house

2nd – Nintendo 64, Low rider car, monster truck, Pokemon game & new roller skates

Nancy Reyes

1st – Barbie with baby & remote control skate doll

2nd – Scooter, doll, TV with a game

Jocelyn Saldierna

K – Barbie doll & Bear

1st – Doll with baby clothes

2nd – Scooter, CD player N*Sync, 10 Goosebumps Books

Brekin Shuffield

K – Barbie doll, puppy & new bike

1st – Robe, cash register & Barbie phone

2nd – PooChi, Gameboy, Barbie and a Tekno





Remember When . . . “Christmas”

Columnist Carl Sweeney

Well folks, Christmas is upon us again and we invariably hear people say “Christmas is here again, seems like yesterday when we were taking down our decorations from last year.” Few holidays have more tradition than Christmas, whether it is putting up the tree as a family, family decorating the tree on Christmas Eve, singing carols at home or at an institution, attending church holiday functions, live nativity set ups, home and yard competition decorations, or going to the tree farm or the woods to select a tree with the kids. Sending cards to friends and relatives is one of my favorites.

When we think of Christmas the older folk seem to want to reminisce about the old days and what simple and practical gifts that were given. Many of them were homemade. There has been a long period when those practical gifts have not been as prevalent. Now we have swung back to the practical because of our current economical situation all over the globe. With wars and some parents overseas and the unemployment situation, we have had to re-think our gift giving. However it seems that the toys and video games are doing well. Let’s hope by next Christmas our wars will be over and our economic situation will be resolved.

I thought we should just ramble around with some things related to Christmas and other holidays. In the past when we ran out of money the gift buying was curtailed. Now we use the credit card and keep on buying, quite often with very negative results. Do you remember when the grocery stores delivered to your home? They usually did this a couple of days each week, and ran ads in the Item as to what day they made deliveries and what times. The biggest orders to be delivered were on Christmas Eve and the day before with all the stuff for the Christmas dinner.

Do you remember the Western Union Telegraph Co. and the young men who delivered the telegrams? Some people sent these instead of cards. But quite often in those days a telegram meant sad news. In West Texas, the land of few trees sometimes they decorated tumbleweed for a tree.

There is a funny story connected to holiday cooking, maybe some of you haven’t heard it. This young woman was preparing her turkey to cook and her husband asked why she was cutting the legs off the turkey. She said, “I don’t know, that is the way my mother did it.” He suggested they ask the mother, she said, “Because that was the way my mother did it.” When the old grandmother was asked, she said, “I did not have a cooker large enough for the whole turkey, so I had to cut the legs off.”

It has been established that the most popular Christmas holiday ad of all time was the television ad where Santa Claus sledded down the snowy hills on the rotating heads of a Norelco electric shaver. I enjoy reading columns in the *Waco Tribune* written by psychologist Dr. Hap Locrone. He has good advice presented in usually a light hearted interesting way. Recently he said, “One problem effecting individuals this time of year is holiday season stress syndrome.” He said the problem manifests itself in psychological difficulties related in part to excessive spending, eating and unrealistic expectations of a perfect holiday.

Have you noticed that Santa is looking younger? Must be that we are getting older. Here are some other observations and experiences connected to Christmas activities. Shirley Temple said she was wised up at six years old when Santa Claus asked for her autograph. Dr. Locrone said, “Remember to laugh, maintaining a sense of humor is important in coping with holiday stress syndrome.”

Christmas carols and holiday songs have always been a part of our lives. Did you know that the most famous Christmas carol is Silent Night? It was written by an Austrian priest Joseph Mohr in 1816. Some other carols and holiday songs were: #1 White Christmas by Bing Crosby in 1941 (written by Irving Berlin), Little Drummer Boy-1941, Santa Clause is Coming to Town-1934, I’ll be Home for Christmas-1943, Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas-1944, Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer-1949, Silver Bells-1950, It’s Beginning to Look a lot Like Christmas-1951, Rocking Around the Christmas Tree-1958, The Christmas Song-1944, Here Come Santa Claus-1947, The Chipmunk Song-1958, Sleigh Ride-1948 and O Christmas Tree-1958.

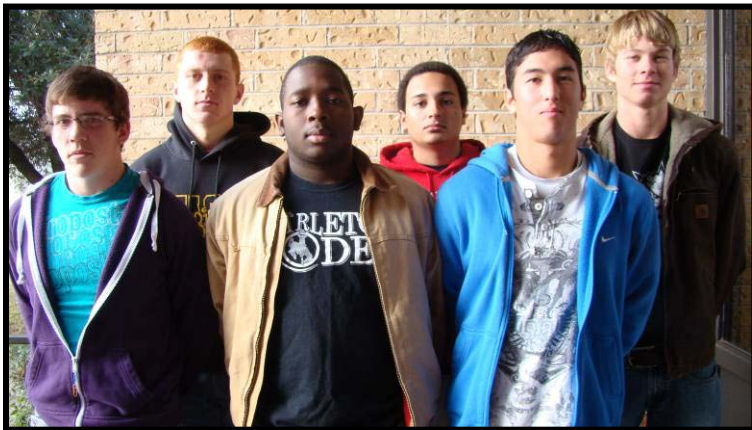
Now to pursue our “Remember when” with toys because of limited space, we can list only a few. Monopoly-1935, 3D viewer-1939, Slinky-1940’s, Tonka Toys-1947, Scrabble-1948, Candy Land-1949, Silly Putty-1950’s, Mr. Potato Head-1953, Play Doh-1956, Frisbee-1957, Hula Hoop-1958, Etch-a-Sketch-1960’s, G.I. Joe-1964, Hot Wheels-1968, Madame Alexander Doll-1923, Shirley Temple Doll-1936, Sweet Sue and Ginny Dolls-1950’s and the most popular of all time Barbie-1959. Brings back memories doesn’t it?

The Christmas memories and traditions our parents created wove a rich tapestry against which to build our lives. The repetition they honored each year provided us with a profound sense of who we were and are. It helped to define our family. Now we try to make our kids and grandkids holidays special, and enriched with traditions from our family’s past. We hope someday they’ll say, “I remember Christmas” and pleasant memories will well up in their hearts. “Merry Christmas!”

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Wampus Cats of the Week

District All-Academic Football Team



The Wampus Cats placed six players on the District All-Academic Team. Making the team were (front row l to r) sophomore lineman #75 David Corbitt, senior lineman #64 B.J. Jackson and senior lineman #62 Jack Panting.

Back row – Sophomore quarterback #12 Cole Coleman, junior lineman #56 Aaron Rodriguez and freshman quarterback #6 Fisher Hennig.

Special of the Week



"Please remember to help out those that are less fortunate than you!"

The staff at Lloyd Ford wishes everyone a very
"Merry Christmas!"
May your holidays be filled with blessings.

Lloyd Ford – Proud Supporter of the Wampus Cats