



HOLYOKE

# DRAGON TIMES

## Christmas Edition

### Family Traditions

## Ben Kleve and Mr. Balog



In my family, we do some fun Christmas traditions. One of them is to hide a pickle ornament and the person that finds the pickle gets a sweet treat. Another tradition is after we open our stockings we go feed the animals and then come back to have breakfast and open presents.

In Mr. Balog's house, he has many Christmas traditions and enjoys them. He enjoys all of the traditions because it was a very special time for him in his childhood and he wants to pass this time to his kids. Mr. Balog also has an elf on the shelf for his kids.



## Layna Wear and Mrs. Kleve



My family Christmas traditions is, we always wait until my littlest sister wakes up, which is pretty early, and we sort our presents into piles depending on who they are for. It gets chaotic when my littlest sister gets all of her presents because she immediately starts unwrapping them and there is wrapping paper flying everywhere. After everything is unwrapped, we spend all morning playing with the stuff we got.

Mrs. Kleve and her family always open one gift on Christmas Eve. Her kids used to think it was random, but not anymore. They finally realized that it is **always** pajamas. Mrs. Kleve used to make them all match, but as her boys started to grow up she decided it was easier just to coordinate than match. They sleep in those and wear them all Christmas Day or at least until they have to see other people.



# Isaiah Rueter and Mrs. Jablonski



Christmas. "It's the most wonderful time of the year!" It's the time for traditions. My family has some traditions. Our tradition is that we always have a prime rib on Christmas day for lunch. We always put up the Christmas tree on the day after Thanksgiving. Traditions are awesome and many families do them.

I did an interview with Mrs. Jablonski to find out what some of her family traditions were. First, Food! She said her "grandmother always brings pies, and her mother always brings the main meat." She spends Christmas Eve in Reagan Nebraska, and spends Christmas Day with her husbands family in Fleming Co. With her family their main Christmas meal is Fondue. They eat chicken,shrimp,and steak. The Christmas tree that Mrs. Jablonski and her husband put up is filled with joyful homemade ornaments from their childhoods and warm white lights. Another tradition is after Thanksgiving they make turkey enchiladas. Her favorite Christmas movie is Home Alone. Her favorite Christmas song is All I want for Christmas is you, by Mariah Carey. She buys her dogs beef bones from Bomgaars every year. She usually buys her husband something ranching related and he usually get her something from Maurice's . Her favorite Christmas scent is freshly baked cookies. And her favorite Christmas food is a pineapple and green pepper cheese ball.



# Karlie Martin and Mrs. Mosenteen



Does your family have any fun Christmas traditions? My favorite Christmas tradition is when we get together with the Martins. We open the presents youngest to oldest, but I have two year old twin cousins so we skip over them. My uncle reads the Christmas story out of the Bible before we can open any presents. On Christmas Eve, we go to our church services. Then, on Christmas morning, we wake up early and open our presents.

Mrs. Mosenteen has many traditions that she likes to do with her family. Her and her family normally decorate for Christmas the day after Thanksgiving. They have at least one piece of decoration in each room of their house. Another tradition that her family does is they go to church on Christmas Eve. Then, they wake up on Christmas morning and open up their Christmas. But, her favorite tradition of all, is making holly cookies. That is her family's favorite thing to do together and they eat way too many of them.

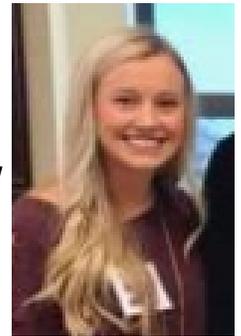


# Sawyer Sigler and Mrs. Strecker



The word tradition, to me, means a special doing that is meaningful to you or your family. One Christmas thing my family always does it we get up early-ish and open presents. We always go from youngest to oldest. Usually my mom and I cook dinner and we invite some neighbors over. We cook prime rib most of the time. My mom and I wear our matching Christmas pajamas and we drink hot chocolate, too. We always spend Christmas together. Tradition; def. "The transmission of customs or beliefs from generation to generation, or the fact of being passed on in this way." Although this is what the dictionary says, the word "tradition" has different definitions to each person.

According to Mrs. Strecker, tradition means doing something special year after year. There is definitely a lot or traditions around Holiday and I look forward to then Mrs. Strecker goes to her parents house on Christmas eve, they live in Castle Rock. Christmas day will unfortunately mostly be spent traveling. On Christmas Mrs. Strecker and her husband Bobby will go to his family's house in Virginia. On Christmas Eve she usually eats crab legs. Mrs. Strecker puts up a Christmas tree and sets out a few decorations. Her family doesn't have a specific tradition but the most important thing to her is spending time with family.



# Estrella Quintana and Mrs. Beiber



Many different families have many different fun traditions. However my family has a much more different traditions. Usually we always have Christmas at my aunt's house in Denver. First of all we all buy this ornament that represents each person. last year I got a little ornament with a tea cup and hot chocolate, I explained why I chose this ornament and hang it up the tree, and everyone follows along. After we are done everyone sits around the living room and watch Christmas movies with snacks. During 12 at night, we all gather around the tree and before we start to open our Christmas, we all close our eyes and begin to pray. Once we all are done praying we start to open our gifts. During the next morning me and my family all head out and go ice skating, or just go to malls and have fun. Just like Mrs. Beiber, she enjoys baking, caroling, and even driving around looking at Christmas lights. Her favorite feast at Christmas night, is full turkey, homemade cookies, and even candies. She explains how much she truly enjoys doing these traditions and how she loves to spread joy and love.



# Grace Whisenhunt and Mr. French



There are a lot of Christmas traditions in every family. There are popular ones, and there are personal ones. Two examples are of the Whisenhunt family and the French family. The Whisenhunt family, a.k.a. my family, has one tradition: white elephant. This is a very popular tradition in multiple families, but my family is very lively during this exchange. There is yelling involved, and there are quite a few moments where one person gets stolen from and throws a tantrum. This tradition in my family has been happening since before I was born. It's always been very dramatic, but it makes me happy because it reminds me of my early childhood.

Mr. French's family does the basic things. They decorate the tree together and exchange presents together. Him and his wife, on the other hand, get a new ornament every year when they go to a new or special place. Then, at Christmas, they hang it up together. This tradition has been going on since they got married in 2014. Mr. French says the tradition with his wife is fun because it helps them remember the fun times they've had as a couple.



# Anna Hayes and Mrs. Krening



Traditions mean different things to different people. Every year on Christmas Eve, my grandma comes to our house with the gifts she bought us. We open them youngest to oldest and thank her one by one. Then, the older family members stay up chatting while the younger ones eagerly go to sleep waiting for Santa. The next morning, our little siblings force us to wake up at 6 in the morning to unwrap presents.

I interviewed Mrs. Krening about her Christmas traditions and she gave me some good answers. For her Christmas tradition every year, she starts the day by going to church with her family, then heading home and having hot shredded chicken sandwiches for lunch. She ends the day with her family having a big Christmas family dinner and doing a white elephant gift exchange with everyone. Having traditions with your family is a great thing to have to do every year so you can get a sense of togetherness every holiday season.



# Elly Brown and Mrs. Dalton



My family and I love to celebrate Christmas! Every year we do something different for Christmas. Some years we stay at our house to play card games and open presents. Other years we go down to the Oklahoma and Kansas area to see my extended family. We usually go to a Christmas Eve service wherever we but we are going to stay in Holyoke to help with the Christmas Eve service for our church. One of our most consistent traditions is driving around while drinking hot cocoa to look at Christmas lights every Christmas Eve. Even if you don't have very many holiday traditions you can still enjoy and have Christmas!

Mrs. Dalton loves Christmas but have you ever wondered what makes her Christmas so special? Mrs. Dalton loves giving gifts but her favorite gift to give is a customized family calendar. She is very thankful that most of her family lives in Holyoke so they usually come to Mrs. Dalton's house for the holidays. She grew up going to the Christmas Eve service at her church every year and it has stuck with her and her family. On Christmas day her family usually eats prime rib while they exchange gifts. After they finish eating and gift-giving they always watch

*The Christmas Story*. I asked her what Christmas tradition(s) she would like to try that she has heard of and she said that she would love to attempt Elf on the Shelf with her family.



# Areli Murillo and Mr. Krammer



My favorite family Christmas tradition is spending time with my family and eating good food. We usually eat food like tamales, empanadas, cookies, mashed potatoes, and more. My family has been doing this Christmas tradition for as long as I can remember. We usually visit my grandma for Christmas every year. For Christmas, my family gathers around we play music and just hang around until the food is ready. This is my favorite Christmas tradition because I love when my family just spends time with each other and we just talk about random things that have happened to us. We also make each other laugh a lot.

Mr. Kramer does not celebrate Christmas in the traditional way most people do. He enjoys to staying in with his wife and watching television and simply not leaving the house. Instead of a traditional turkey Christmas with all he fixings, he and his wife have steak for their Christmas dinner and enjoy every bite. He has been celebrating with tradition for 23 years now and has no intention of changing it. He actually enjoys the quiet time with his wife. Mr. Kramer enjoys giving gifts to his kids and grandkids, but be careful when you open it because he is the king of gag gifts.



# Dahira Castillo and Mrs. Goldenstein



My family doesn't have one every year tradition because we like to switch it up every year but something my family does, is we always pick one random gift from under the tree, no matter whose it is, we open it, sometimes my sisters and I trade around gifts. Another tradition my family has is, my family on my mom's side will have a huge Christmas party. We do karaoke, play games, and occasionally my aunt makes

desserts with the older kids. Sometimes family will come up to Colorado and sometimes we go down to Texas, either way we always celebrate with family. Most of the time we open gifts on Christmas Eve since my younger cousins can't wait and they either open them anyway or they go to sleep. In the morning we eat and go out to do activities. If we're in Texas we go to my uncle's restaurant and eat there or if we stay in Colorado we make coffee then head out to play in the snow. Every year Mrs. Goldenstein plays the game "31" with her extended family. Since she made Christmas candy wreaths, like the one she has on her doors, with her mom, she now does it with her daughters. Her parents started these traditions and has been doing it for as long as she can remember. She likes to make and decorate Cookie Christmas Trees with her family. Mrs. Goldenstein stays in Holyoke for Christmas but goes out a couple days later to the mountains to ski and shop. She opens presents bright and early in the morning.

Every year Mrs. Goldenstein makes a photo album online and prints it out, her family then opens it on Christmas. Her and her family laugh and remembers memories from past years.



# Emma Sprague and Mrs. Mallari



Although families gather around the tree and grab their presents, my family waits. We wake up super early and get our parents, and we wait for our parents to hand out presents. My parents pick a present and hand it to whoever it goes to, we all see what they got and on to the next person. There's a difference when we go out to my grandma's house, we got out, eat food, then we just get our presents and open them then talk about them with each other after, but Mrs. Mallari doesn't celebrate Christmas normally like everyone else.

Mrs. Mallari starts her Christmas on November 1st! Both sides of Mrs. Mallari's family comes down; her husband and her side both come, she enjoys seeing her family during the Christmas time. She loves how festive everything is and having the chance to get closer with all her family. When I asked Mrs. Mallari what her family eats in this tradition she said "Anything sweet." Mrs. Mallari's tradition had started ever since she was young, she claims it's a **Filipino** thing.



# Krista Noffsinger and Mrs. Clayton

No Article Submitted

## Merry Christmas from our staff at the Holyoke Dragon Times

We are hoping that all of you have a wonderful holiday season. We are going to study for finals next week, so our next newspaper will be released when we come back from break in January. Merry Christmas from all of us to all of you!



Pictured Back Row left to right: Krista Noffsinger, Grace Whisenhunt, Layna Wear, Areli Murillo, Mrs. Kleve, Ben Kleve, Estrella Quintana. Front row left to right: Sawyer Sigler, Elly Brown, Daira Castillo, Isaiah Rueter, Emma Sprague. Not Pictured: Anna Hayes and Karlie Martin