

Gackle-Streeter School District
Newsletter
December 2022



### **Greetings from the Superintendent's Desk**

It is hard to believe that we are already moving towards the Holiday Vacation for the 2022-2023 school year! Things have gone quite smooth this first semester. This happens because of the great students and staff we have here at Gackle-Streeter. I am very pleased with the energy and enthusiasm of all the staff throughout this first semester. The Gackle-Streeter School is filled with great children and wonderful adults who work with them. I hope the second semester goes as well.

<u>Weather protocol</u>- With winter starting out with a bang, it is important that everyone understands my protocol when determining whether to have school or not or whether to have a late start. This decision is very subjective and at times it may seem to make very little sense, but we all live in ND and I think we can all agree that on any given the day Mother Nature can make no sense as well. The fo9llowing list of steps are what I follow prior to making my decision.

1) I am watching the weather along with many of the Supt. within about a 75 mile radius of Gackle. Well Penny is in Washburn and Gloria is in Strausburg, so we get a pretty good report on what is coming from the west. I try to get the day in if we can but don't want to take unnecessary chances with our students and staff either. Some of us (well most of us) drive a good distance to get here and I live 40 miles east of Streeter so things can be a lot different from your house to mine.

### My protocol when determining whether to have school or not is as follows:

- a) Listen to my "gut" on whether students/staff will be safe on the road
- b) Talk to area Supt. to get a feel for what is coming and what surrounding schools are doing. This usually starts the night before or by 4:45 am the moving of an event.
- c) Look at National Weather Service website and consider the forecast
- d) Refer to the DOT Road map and road closings
- e) Listen to the local radio reports
- f) Drive to Gackle myself. On the days it is yucky, I try to get to the school by 6 am.
- g) I consult with Jon Metz (bus superintendent)
- h) Consult with Dale Wittmier (bus driver in Streeter)
- i) Consider staff/student safety...

j) The order in which I contact people is as follows: Area Supt. Starting around 4:45 am, Mrs. Buckeye, Jon and Dale, Grace and Brian by 6:15 am, Teachers and staff by 6:30 am. Parents, radio stations, TV stations, etc.

On the questionable mornings I ask staff and bus drivers to WAIT UP A BIT. If we don't get school going right at 8:30 that's fine. If the weather continues to deteriorate as the sun comes up I will call off school. I will communicate via phone message recordings, Thrillshare on FB and texts. I also reach out to KFYR, KVLY and NewsDakota. I will make a call by 8:30pm the night before OR by 6:30 am the morning of. Again, please understand that if this timing and /or road conditions may causes your bus to run a bit late, that is fine. Please be patient. The #1 goal is that everyone stays safe.

The North Dakota Legislature has established guidelines for making up classroom time as well as contracted days for certified staff. Due to the length of the school day, GSPS does have some options for making up time. However, the State still expects a minimum number of minutes per school year. When we have storm days early in the season it becomes a concern that we may not have enough minutes to meet the required amount. For that reason, we may choose to use days from the calendar that were designated as days off to make up minutes. Please fill free to visit with me if you would more information on the State's expectations.

Switching gears, the winter sports seasons are upon us. Every new season brings enthusiasm and optimism. A lot of work from the athletes, coaches, and officials goes into each season. Gackle-Streeter has athletes participating in Jh boys and JH girls basketball, varsity girls and boys basketball and wrestling. Please come out and support our student athletes!

It seems the battle with COVID-19 continues and cooler weather tends to bring a spike in cases. Although the effects of COVID seem to have lessened, it remains important to stay vigilant in recognizing the symptoms and to quarantine if you someone tests positive.

I hope that the holiday season is a happy and joyful time for everybody in the Gackle-Streeter District!

Sincerely,

Supt. Mark Berg



# "Why Can't I Skip my Reading Tonight?"

Students who read 15-20 minutes outside of school each day are able to increase their reading proficiency. A frequently cited article helps break down the difference between students who make time to read outside of school and those who don't:

Student A reads 20 minutes five nights of every week; Student B reads only 4 minutes a night...or not at all!

Step 1: Multiply minutes a night x 5 times each week: Student A reads 20 min. x 5 times a week = 100 mins/week; Student B reads 4 minutes x 5 times a week = 20 mins/week.

Step 2: Multiply minutes a week x 4 weeks each month: Student A reads 400 minutes a month; Student B reads 80 minutes a month.

Step 3: Multiply minutes a month x 9 months/school year: Student A reads 3600 min. in a school year; Student B reads 720 min. in a school year.

Student "A" practices reading the equivalent of ten whole school days a year. Student "B" gets the equivalent of only two school days of reading practice a year. Sometimes the numbers help put the effort into perspective.



### Student Absences Reminder

Regular attendance is essential if a student is to be successful in school and the world of work. Parental cooperation in this matter is essential. Parents are asked to notify the school office at 485-3692 of an absence in advance or call in by 9:00 AM the day of their illness. In addition, if the student will be experiencing a long-term illness, students or parents should contact the teacher directly to secure assignments.

Teachers will also provide assignments and materials when an absence is planned.

### Learning Home Zone

Top 10 ways to support learning conditions at home:

- 1. Have high expectations for your child
- 2. **Encourage** your child to go to college
- 3. Read to your child
- 4. Take your child to the library
- 5. Help your child with his or her homework
- 6. Provide resources to help you child do his or her schoolwork
- 7. **Monitor** the time spent doing **homework**
- 8. Take your child to cultural events
- 9. Monitor the extent to which your child watches television
- 10. **Monitor** your child when he or she comes home from school and **what** they do after school

The beautiful thing about learning is that no one can take it away from you.

B.B. King

### PRINCIPAL'S NOTE

FROM THE DESK OF MRS. BUCKEYE



#### A Look From The Inside

We had the privilege of having Keith Bear speak to us, play his flutes for us, and share his stories with our entire student body. Although Keith's ability to play his handmade flutes was music to our ears his words truly spoke to the heart. Keith stressed the importance of getting along and looking for the beauty and the good in everyone and everything both on the inside and the outside. He played a flute that he constructed and created from the inside of a very old, tattered fence post that was going to be tossed to the waste pile. The lesson learned was you never know what is happening on the inside until you take time, listen, and believe that anything is possible if you put your mind to it. This really is true in so many aspects of life. Just like our school, our kids, our teachers, our parents, and our community members, we need to recognize the beautiful gifts we truly have. We need to walk in harmony, help one another out, and remember to lift one another up. I am so proud to be a part of this amazing community and school district. We truly have so much beauty in our school building and amongst these two amazing communities. Thank you to everyone who continue to help make our school so amazing.

### WHAT'S COMING UP

### **COFFEE W/ KIDS**

December 2<sup>nd</sup> at 9:00-9:30

### **MUSIC CONCERTS**

December 6<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30 Elementary Music Concert

December 20<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00 High School Music Concert

### JUNIOR HIGH GIRLS BASKETBALL GAME

December 12th at 4:30

Please come and support our girls and junior class will be serving concessions.

### **Winter Assessments**

We will be doing our winter assessments the first part of December. Elementary students will take NWEA and AIMS web assessments. Grades 7-12 will just take the NWEA.

These assessments are very important as we use the data collected to drive our classroom instruction. It is always exciting for both the students and the staff to show how much growth is taking place.

Please be sure your child gets adequate sleep the night before we test and a good healthy breakfast to get their days started right.

### COGNIA

The teachers, lead team, and administration have been working very hard preparing for our cognia accreditation that is due in February. Cognia is a forward-thinking organization focused on improving educational opportunities for all learners. The amount of time, work, planning, and dedication that has gone into this accreditation has been worth every minute. The collaboration and communication amongst our staff has been exhilarating. It is exciting to see the progress.

### **Coffee With Kids**

Student Council was very excited to have served over 80 people at our **November** Coffee with Kids event. Thank you to all the Veterans who made it to our special celebration to celebrate you. Next Coffee with Kids is set for Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup>. Please come and join us!

### **BOOKMOBILE**

December 13th 10:30-1:30

### **Junior High Boys Basketball Begins**

December 13th after school

### **Early Dismissal for Students**

December 21st @ 12:30

### Winter Weather Is Here

- With winter being here, please be sure your child is coming to school with warm clothing-hats, gloves, boots, snow pants, and a warm coat. Elementary kids will be going out for morning recess before school and noon recess after lunch. Teachers will be having the kids take everything home on the weekends to get washed.
- **REMINDER PARENTS...**.if your child is not going to be in school please contact the office. With the roads getting icy and snow compacted your child's safety is our top priority.

### MONTHLY SHOUT OUTS

The following students have been recognized this month for going out of their way to being **EXTRA AMAZING**. Thanks students and keep up the great work. **Teaches of GSPS, Eli C, Adrian, William, Payton, Sawyer, Keefer, Karly, Charlee N, Luke, and Brody.** 

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!
Winter Break begins Dec. 21<sup>st</sup> @ 12:30 and school resumes on January 3<sup>rd</sup>





November is Native American Heritage Month. Although we've been celebrating all month, we planned a week dedicated to learning more about the Native American Culture. Monday, we had Bismarck Public Schools Indigenous Director Sashay Schettler present Gackle-Streeter with Tribal Flags to display in the Gym. She delivered a great message and talked to us about what it means to be a good relative. Tuesday, we had the world-renowned musician, storyteller and flute maker Keith Bear perform for us. He shared some traditional stories along with some of his beautiful flute music. Wednesday, the elementary students learned about the Medicine Wheel and completed a Native American medicine wheel craft. Thursday, the elementary students learned about a traditional Dakota & Ojibwe game called Moccasin. The students played in teams against each other in the gym. Friday, we ended the week by learning about the different types of homes Native American tribes built and lived in. The students completed a stem activity by designing and building a Native American house using straws, construction paper, popsicle sticks and tape. This was a great team building activity where students had to be creative and work together to construct a house to withstand the weather elements. Windfan, Rain- spray bottle and snow from outside. Thanks to all the GSPS teachers who helped with the activities.

Mrs. Baker









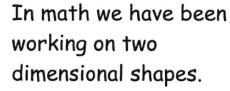








### Kindergarten News



In reading we have been learning about transportation.

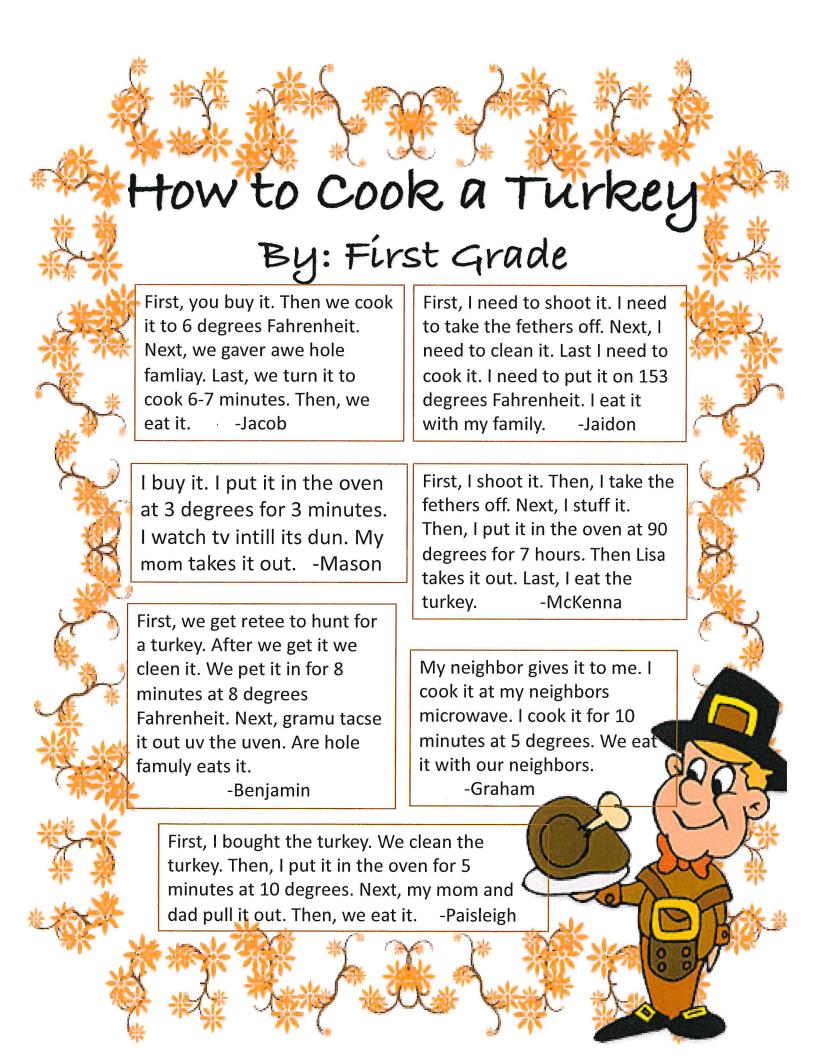
In phonics we have been working on letters, rhyming, segmenting sentences and beginning sounds.

In science we are learning about weather

In social studies we have been learning about communities and the first Thanksgiving.



Sight word
flashcards came
home with your
student. Please
make sure to review
them. Testing days
for sight words with
be Fridays!





# ELKS NATIONAL HOOP SHOOT® FREE-THROW CONTEST COMPETE. CONNECT. SUCCEED.

CONTEST LOCATION: <u>JAMESTOWN MIDDLE SCHOOL</u> (203 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave NE, east side)

DATE: SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2022

REGISTRATION: 9:00 AM - 9:30 AM

WARM-UPS: <u>9:30 AM - 10:00 AM</u>

EVENT START TIME: 10:00 AM

HOSTED BY ELKS LODGE: JAMESTOWN, ND #995

LODGE HOOP SHOOT DIRECTOR: <u>JEFF DOUTY 701-320-3282</u>

CONTACT: TRAVIS YUNCK 701-320-5925

### **FAST FACTS**:

The Elks Hoop Shoot® is free to boys and girls. Contestants
must be at least 8 and no older than 13 as of April 1, 2023, in
order to participate

www.elks.org/hoopshoot/ageGroupCalculator.cfm

- No basketball experience required
- Winners advance through district, state, and regional Hoop Shoot® contests
- Regional winners qualify for a trip to compete at the Hoop Shoot® National finals held April 22, 2023, in Chicago, Illinois.
- National champions will have their names permanently inscribed on a plaque in the Basketball Hall of Fame.
- Learn more at www.elks.org/hoopshoot







# December 2022



	Saturday	Wrestling-G & B: V @ NHS-TBD GBB: JV/V @ Linton-11am & 12:30pm	GBB: JH @ Hazelton HS-TBD GBB: V@ Jamestown Givic Center-TBD Wrestling-G & B: V @ Carrington HS- TBD Wrestling-B: JH @ Horizon Middle School.TBD BBB: JVIV @ Linton HS-zpm & 3330pm	17 Wrestling-G: V @ Ashley HS-TBD Wrestling-B: JH @ Minot HS-TBD Wrestling-B: V @ Linton HS-TBD	24	31
	Friday	2 Coffee with Kids: 9a-9:30a Wrestling-B: JH @ Jamestown HS-TBD GBB: JV/V @ Linton-5pm & 6:30pm Wrestling-B: V @ NHS-7pm	Wrestling-B: V @ Carrington HS-TBD GBB: V @ Jamestown Civic Center-TBD BBB: JV/V @ Linton HS-4pm & 5:30pm GBB: JH @ NHS-4:30pm	16 Wrestling-B: V @ Linton HS-TBD	NO SCHOOL	30 NO SCHOOL
•	Thursday	Н	8 GBB: V @ Jamestown Civic Center-TBD GBB-JH: @ Medina HS- 4:30pm	15 GBB: JH @ NHS-4:30pm GBB: JV/V @ NHS-6pm & 7:30pm	NO SCHOOL GBB: JV/V @NHS-4pm & 5:30pm	29 NO SCHOOL BBB: JV/V @ NHS-6pm & 7:30pm
	Wednesday		7	14	21	28 NO SCHOOL
	Tuesday		6 Wrestling-B: V @ Edgeley-TBD Elementary Music Concert @ 6:30pm	HBB: JV/V @ Linton HS- 6pm & 7:30pm Bookmobile 10:30a-1:30p	20 High School Music Concert @ 7pm	27
	Monday		5 GBB: JV/V @ Lisbon HS- 6pm & 7:3opm	12 GBB: JH @ Gackle- Streeter-4:30pm	19 BBB: JH @ TBD GBB: JH @ Kulm HS- 4:30pm BBB: JV/V @ Ellendale HS-6pm & 7:30pm	26 NO SCHOOL
	Sunday		4	111	11 80	25

### Message for the World or Food Preference?



Entomology students have been working with mealworms to see if they will break down polystyrene. Polystyrene waste (Styrofoam©) is toxic and from our reading we learned that researchers decided to test if mealworms would eat it and not be toxic themselves. Those that have performed this experiment had great success in breaking down the polystyrene

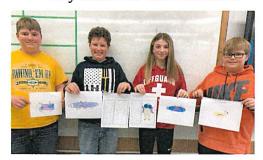
and having the mealworms be a nontoxic source of food.

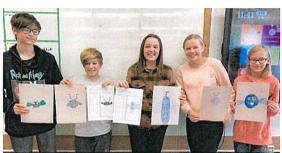
In our experimental set up, the worms are given apples as a water source. The polystyrene covers the apples in the experimental group and they don't dehydrate as quickly as the control group. We decided to try covering the control group's apples with aluminum foil. After which the mealworms sent us this message. However, we aren't sure if the message is to love each other or that the mealworms love the foil. Until they send us another message, we may have to assume both are true.

### Mutant Doohickey Bugs take over Science Room!

In the last couple of weeks, mutant Doohickey bugs have been invading science! At first, we were interested in the bugs' genetics and what traits parents would pass on to offspring. What was the probability of each trait being passed on? Then students changed the bugs' chromosomes or genetic codes. Bugs ended up with mutated wings or bodies or antenna or legs or other parts. Some of the mutations were harmful to the bugs but some were helpful. Others did nothing at all. Now we are debating whether its genetics or environment that has more of an impact on our traits.

Stay tuned for more news!!!!











# Emphasize that your child has the ability to learn and get smarter

It's likely your child will find learning some concepts or subjects more challenging than others—most students do. Your child's response to a learning challenge will affect the outcome.

Help your child develop what researchers call a growth mindset. This means that students believe that even if they don't understand something now, they will be able to learn it and get smarter if they



keep trying. When a concept is confusing, these kids don't say, "I'm not a science (or math, or grammar) person" and quit. Instead they say, "This is a challenge and I can do challenging things!"

To help your elementary schooler develop this outlook:

- Be a role model. Your example influences your child's mindset.
- **Explain that there are no limits** to how smart your child can become. The brain is like a muscle that can get stronger.
- **Encourage your child to brainstorm** more strategies to try if something isn't working. These might include rereading the instructions, looking for an explanatory video online, asking the teacher for help, etc.
- **Praise your child's effort.** "That was a challenge, but you kept trying things until you got it! And now you'll know how to do it next time,"

Source: C. Cornwall, "How to Instill a 'Growth Mindset' in Kids, U.S. News.



## **Encourage feelings of gratitude** with a writing project

Research suggests that feelings of gratitude are linked to increased happiness and school satisfaction.

Help your elementary schooler think about gratitude with a writing project. On a relaxed afternoon, give your child a sheet of paper. Ask your student to:

- **Think of things** that make life better, or that your child would not like to do without.
- Write one thing at the top of a sheet of paper. Your child might write: "I am grateful for my dog."
- **List reasons** for feeling grateful for it. For example, your child may enjoy having the dog for company at night. Or love being greeted by the dog's wagging tail on arriving home from school.
- Illustrate the ideas on the list.

Repeat this activity once a month—gratitude is not just for one day!

Source: S. Allen, Ph.D., "The Science of Gratitude," Greater Good Science Center, UC Berkeley.

### **Practice math vocabulary**

Mastering math involves learning math words (*quotient, product,* etc.) as well as numbers and formulas. To build your child's math vocabulary:

- **Play Math Concentration.** Write a math term on an index card. Write its definition on another card. Repeat with several terms. Mix the cards and place them face down. Take turns turning over two cards to try and make a match.
- Combine words and pictures. Your child could write the word circumference around the edge of a circle.
- **Make connections.** Many terms share a common root. Talk about how there are 100 *cents* in a dollar, 100 years in a *cent*ury, and 100 *cent*imeters in a meter.

### Give your child your time

One of the best ways to influence your child's behavior is simple: Spend time together. The more low-key moments you share, the more time you'll have to talk about your values and model positive behavior. This month, take a few minutes to:



- Admire a colorful display together.
- Have your child help you fix something.
- Watch people as you take a walk.

### Avoid a learning freeze

The winter vacation is a break from school routines. But learning can continue anywhere, anytime. To encourage it over break:



- **Brainstorm ways** your family can help the less fortunate.
- Have your child interview older family members about the past.
- Read a book together that was made into a movie. Then watch the movie. Talk about the similarities and differences.





# What should I do about a bad attitude toward school?

Q: My child has been complaining about school. I've heard "I hate it" more than once. I'm not sure how seriously to take this. How should I respond?

**A:** Sometimes, kids say they hate school when they are really looking for attention or a chance to vent or put off doing work. The feeling is temporary, and they don't actually hate school. However, since your child has said this more than once, it's important to figure out why.

Here are five steps to take:

- 1. Choose a time when you and your child are both calm to start a conversation. "You've said you hate school a couple of times. What's making you feel that way?"
- **2. Listen closely** to your child's answers. Don't try to change them. Ask follow-up questions if your child can't identify the problem. Is a subject very challenging? Are kids being mean on the bus?
- **3. Help your child think of possible actions to take.** For example, if math is a struggle, your child could spend more time studying it each day and write down questions to ask the teacher.
- **4. Remind your child** that nearly every situation has positives and negatives. Ask what your child likes about school.
- **5. Talk to your child's teacher.** Explain how your child is feeling and ask for suggestions and support. Plan to follow up to see what's working.



### Are you teaching time management?

It takes time for students to develop the time management skills that support success in school and life. Elementary schoolers are the right age to start! Are you helping your child learn to use time wisely? Answer yes or no below:

- \_\_1. Do you help your child create study schedules and adjust them as necessary?
- **2. Do you show** your child how to use a calendar to keep track of due dates and commitments?
- \_\_3. Do you maintain a balance in your child's schedule? Kids need time for exercise, sleep, and family time.

**\_\_5. Do you have** your child time how long tasks take?

### How well are you doing?

More yes answers mean you are demonstrating techniques for making the most of time. For each no, try that idea.

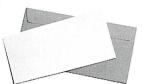
### **Set learning goals for 2023**

What areas would your child like to improve in during the second half of the year? What can your student do to make that happen? Help your child establish some specific, realistic, measurable goals. Then, be supportive. If your child slips up, say "Falling short once doesn't mean you can't get back on track."

### Offer fun ways to read

Students strengthen their reading skills when they read often. Encourage frequent reading with enjoyable reading activities. You can:

- **Follow current events.** Is there a developing news story that interests your child? Read the latest reports together.
- Sign your child up for a pen pal. Ask a teacher or librarian how to get involved.



 Listen to audiobooks.

Have your child follow along in a printed book while listening.

• **Give reading coupons.** Some might be for 30 minutes of reading with you. Others might be good for a new book.

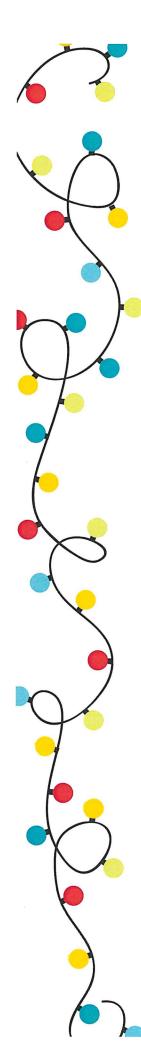
### Plan on family meetings

Family meetings encourage communication and help your child learn key school and life skills like responsibility, negotiation and cooperation. For effective meetings:

- Meet regularly—every week or two.
- Create an agenda. Ask what ideas and issues family members want to discuss. Include time to talk about successes.
- **Brainstorm solutions** together. Make sure everyone has a chance to be heard. Parents should have the final say.
- **Write down decisions.** Evaluate how they are working at future meetings.

### **Helping Children Learn®**

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# CHRISTMAS Privia

- 1. Who is the singing chipmunk known for his Christmas songs?
- 2. What is the magic signal Santa gave before he went up the chimney in the poem "A Visit from St. Nicholas?"
- 3. What do Christian churches call the 28 days before Christmas?
- 4. What is another name for the log you put on a fire at Christmas?
- 5. Who is "nipping at your nose" when you go outside in winter?
- 6. Name the three spirits who visited Scrooge on Christmas Eve.
- 7. Name two food items that people often string together to make Christmas tree garland.
- 8. In 1895, Ralph E. Morris, a New England telephone company employee, was inspired by his switchboard to make what popular Christmas decoration?
- 9. In 1939 Robert May created this Christmas figure as a Christmas promotion for Montgomery Ward Department store in Chicago.
- 10. What are the names of Santa Clause's eight reindeer as named in Clement Moore's poem "The Night Before Christmas?"
- 11. What was the name of the dog that belonged to the Grinch in Dr. Seuss' book "How the Grinch Stole Christmas?"
- 12. What Christmas picture book of a little angel first appeared in 1946?
- 13. What best selling Christmas song did Gene Autry record in 1951?
- 14. What hotel is mentioned in "It's Beginning to Look A Lot Like Christmas?"
- 15. In the 2nd verse of the song "Jingle Bells" who was "seated by my side?"
- 16. In "The Holly and the Ivy" what color is the blossom?
- 17. In A Charlie Brown Christmas, what winter recreation is the cast of characters doing in the opening scene?
- 18. In the song "Silver & Gold" how do you measure its worth?
- 19. Who wrote all the music for Holiday Inn?
- 20. In Frosty the Snowman (movie), what were Frosty's first words?
- 21. What type of poultry does Scrooge send to Bob Cratchit on Christmas?
- 22. What carol contains the threat "We won't go until we get some?"
- 23. What day is the most popular for watching holiday football on TV?
- 24. Which reindeer's name is also the name of a kitchen cleanser?
- 25. According the Buddy the Elf (from the movie Elf), what are the four main food groups?

