

The

# Pen With No Ink

The Saint Dunstan Newspaper

What's going on in Saint Dunstan?

## Page 2

Trish's Chips and Tips  
Read ideas for wonderful homemade presents to give to family and friends.

Sports Center  
GO KNIGHTS!

## Page 3

Inside the Classroom  
Grades K- 5

## Page 4

'Tis the season for Christmas Vocabulary!  
Find out the meaning of many Yuletide terms.  
Tech Talk with Simon  
All about video games and new electronic, and educational, devices.

## Page 5

Inside the Classroom  
Grades 5-8

Kitchen Corner  
A Christmas Snack!

Teacher Interviews  
Have a look inside the life of Mrs. Pallari and Mrs. Pacheco!



## Welcome to the Pen With No Ink!

'Tis the season to be Jolly! Welcome to third issue of the Pen With No Ink! Our classes are ready for a cold holiday season with chocolate milk and some Christmas cookies. We'll be keeping up the holiday spirit with handpicked Yuletide stories and movies. Don't stop learning during the holiday season! Let's look at the Christmas Vocabulary to understand the meaning of the jolly terms we frequently use this time of the year. Need ideas for a present? See our advice column for Christmas. Have a laugh at this issue's comic. Happy Holidays!

-Danielle S., Editor-and-chief

## Trish's Chips and Tips: Holiday Special

Christmas shopping has always been a challenge for many people, including our family. You've got to pick out the right gifts for your family and friends, without accidentally (or rudely on purpose) excluding a person from your gift list. Well, if you're in a rush this holiday season, I've got some quick and homemade holiday gift ideas. If you're a fan of arts and crafts, baking, or taking the "easy way out", this article is for YOU.

There's a lot of homemade gifts to choose from, so I chose two that I thought were really cute yet simple and easy to make.

### REINDEER LOLLIPOPS



#### Materials Needed:

- Large round lollipop
- Plastic wrap
- Clear and double-sided tapes
- Brown pipe cleaner
- Tiny bell
- Red ribbon
- Self-adhesive googly eyes
- Red pom-pom

#### Instructions:

1. Unwrap the lollipop and cover it again with plastic wrap. Secure it at the base with clear tape. Bend the pipe cleaner in half around the base of the pop and shape the ends into antlers. Thread the bell onto a 10-inch length of red ribbon and tie it around the reindeer's neck. Stick on the googly eyes and attach the pom-pom nose with double-sided tape.

### TIME CAPSULE ORNAMENT



#### Materials Needed:

Double-sided tape

- Ribbon

Old family photos and other memorabilia (optional)

A clear ornament

#### Instructions:

1. Separate the two halves of the ball. Apply a strip of tape around the outside of the wider half. Carefully press the ribbon to the tape so that it's close to but not touching the outer edge.

2. Write notes on the strips of scrap-booking paper, then roll them up and tuck them inside the ball. Add pictures, a photocopy of your child's newborn footprint, and other mementos, if you like. Put the ball back together, tie some ribbon and a tag with the year written on it onto the plastic loop.

Hope you enjoy!

-Patricia H.

### Sports Center

Volleyball and baseball have ended and now basketball is about to begin! The 7th grade boys have played in a tournament, for basketball and placed 3rd in the Flame Tournament. The 8th grade girls Varsity placed 2nd in their tournament, the Ray Herold. Now, we are looking to next year's season!

-Amanda G, Tupou F, and Raul G.

## Inside the Classroom...

### Kindergarten

The little kindergarteners are so excited for Christmas and New Years. They can't wait for Santa Claus to come and give them their gifts. Many are leaving to Disneyland, L.A., New York and Lego Land for their Christmas vacation. Most of the kindergarten girls are asking for girls and princess costumes. Also, they have recently done a project with Braden's dad. Everyone participated in making cupcakes with different kinds of sweets. They also wore chef hats that they made themselves. Most of the boy kindergarteners are asking for legos and milkshake machines. These kindergarteners are very grateful for their families and can't wait to spend a great Christmas morning with them.

-Jacqueline A. and Tatiana G.

### First Grade

"Christmas is here!" the 1<sup>st</sup> grade cheers. The first graders are excited to sing the "First Noel" at the Christmas Pageant this week. They can't wait to watch their favorite holiday movies like the "Polar Express", "Frosty the Snowman", and "Rudolph the Red-nose Reindeer". Maya and Isabella can't wait to give their button Christmas trees, hand print reefs, and their Santa Claus drawings to their parents. First Grade has been extra nice this year and are all probably on Santa's nice list. We want to wish the first grade a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

-Isabella T. and Chloe D.

### Second Grade

The second graders are looking forward to a fun Christmas! Lots of them are going to either their grandparents house for Christmas or to Disneyland. Sophia, however, is going to Tahoe and Yzabella to New York. As for presents, most of the girls want custom-made American girl dolls from Santa Claus. Other toys include the Nintendo DS and *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* books. This Christmas season, the 2<sup>nd</sup> graders love to sing "Jingle Bells" and "Ruldolph the Red-nose Reindeer," but they will be singing "Little Town in Bethlehem" for the Advent Mass. Wherever they may be going or what they may be

going or what they're singing, we want to wish the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade a very Merry Christmas!

-Annika O.

### Third Grade

Jumping up and down from their seats, the 3<sup>rd</sup> graders were very eager to tell us all about their Christmas plans. Some students are going out of town to places like L.A., Brazil, Disneyland, San Diego, Korea, and even their house! Some of the 3<sup>rd</sup> grades favorite Christmas songs are "Mistletoe" by Justin Bieber, "Jingle Bells", "Feliz Navidad", and "Santa's Coming To Town." For Christmas the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade wants many presents like an electric guitar, Nintendo DS, Ipod Nano, and ice skates. The students are very excitd to spend Christmas with family and friends!

-Jailynn D. and Jackie A.

### Fourth Grade

Busy with the holidays, homework and art projects fourth grade is expecting their field trip to Woodside Stables to be fun and exciting. Fourth grader Chloe is excited to go Christmas caroling while Alexa can't wait to have all her family together. Holiday Movies are a fourth grade favorite; Brian loves the movie "The Night Before Christmas" and Chloe loves "Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer". Peter will be going to his grandparents and Anthony's grandparents are coming from Brazil! Jade will be traveling to Disneyland and Mrs. Pallari says her favorite thing is vacation!

### Fifth Grade

5th grade is one of the most outgoing classes in this school. The 5th grade class is doing many things this Christmas. Sophia is going to Brazil with her family. Patrick is going to Ireland to see family. Gabriel is going to the Philippines to see family also. This Christmas, the 5th grade students want many things such as toys and goodies and what have you. That's what Christmas is all about, being with family and enjoying the holidays.

-Tupou F. and Jarred M.

## 'Tis the Season for Christmas Vocab!

I see we are approaching Christmas yet again. Oh, how the year goes by quickly. Better brush up on some holiday terminology, hm?

-The **Advent Wreaths** are associated with Christianity and symbolize the four weeks of Advent. One of the four candles placed on top of the evergreen wreath is lit every Sunday before Christmas, symbolizing our time of waiting before the coming of Christ. If you go to our own St. Dunstan Church, you'll see one by the altar.

-**Caroling** is usually done in the period before Christmas and sometimes even after. Christmas songs or hymns are usually based on the holiday or winter themes. Examples include, "Silent Night," or, "Do you Hear What I Hear?" which are reminders of Christ's birth, or, "Jingle Bells," and, "Deck the Halls" which are cute tributes to the holiday season. Their catchy tunes and rhyming lyrics will get even the grumpiest Scrooges in the Christmas spirit!

-**Presents** are usually what most kids think about when they think of Christmas, right? Sure, getting presents is fun, but the true excitement should not be in the receiving of gifts. Instead, it should be in the giving of

them, while not expecting to receive anything in return. Isn't that the real reason of the season?

-**Christmas Trees** can usually be seen in every person's homes during the holidays. Festively decorated with colorful ornaments and twinkly lights, the tree, many times, has a star or angel adorning its apex. Presents are placed underneath the tree, waiting to be opened on Christmas morning. The tree is the center of Christmas spirit in one's home, and holiday decorating wouldn't be the same without it. No wonder the famous carol, "O Christmas Tree," was created.

-**Santa Claus** is a beloved legendary figure that is never forgotten during the Yuletide season.

The jolly man with a red suit and sleigh teeming with gifts goes by many different names, including Saint Nicholas, Kris Kringle, and Father Christmas. Santa symbolizes the true spirit of giving. Legend has it, he hops aboard his sleigh, pulled by flying reindeer, on Christmas Eve to deliver gifts to all the good children in the world. So don't be naughty!

I hope everyone has a very merry Christmas and an even merrier New Year!

-Angelica Du, 8th

## Tech Talk With Simon and Matthew

It's almost Christmas and we are going to discuss the latest holiday apps and more tech items to put on your gift list. To start it off, a good gift to ask from Santa or your parents is a new iPod™ touch or an iPad™. These awesome gadgets are good for school and to just play games or listening to music. Speaking of music, if you're a Justin Bieber fan, you can get his new Christmas album from the iTunes™. Also, for kids there is a funny singing Santa app you can get from the app store.

Along with Christmas is Winter Break! Since you will be away for awhile, there are some great apps

and websites to keep you sharp. One website is called Khan Academy™, it's a great website if you need help on Math, Science and History. They show you video tutorials on how to do various things. I even use it if I'm stuck on a polynomial problem. Another great app is Brain Pop (note: that some of the videos need you to subscribe to Brain Pop™) they talk about a variety of subjects. Some of which include Science, Math, Music & Art, English, and Tech.

All these Christmas gadgets are cool, but always remember the true meaning of Christmas (spending time with your family and friends, not with your iPad). We hope you have a wonderful Christmas Holidays with your family.

## Sixth Grade

Since Thanksgiving, the sixth graders have had a lot of fun preparing for Christmas. In their class they are having Secret Santas. They will give two small gifts on Wednesday and Thursday, then give a \$15 gift along with their Kris Kringle revealed on Friday. One is hoping to receive a remote control monkey and another is hoping a phone. When our reporters arrived at the sixth grade scene, it was a welcoming, jolly room full of coloring and music. Speaking of music, this class will be singing "O Come all Ye Faithful" for the Advent Program. The sixth graders can't wait to give their parents the usual gift, a mug. We hope this class has a very fun holiday!

-Annika O. and Danielle S.

## Seventh Grade

For Christmas, a bunch of 7<sup>th</sup> graders will be traveling around the country. Ximena L. will be going up to Lake Tahoe and Relfe T. will be flying over to Hawaii! Right now, the class is working on their final projects for the Outsiders by S.E. Hinton. For the Advent Mass this year, the 7<sup>th</sup> grade will be singing "Angels We Have Heard On High." Tune in next time to find out what the 7<sup>th</sup> grade is doing! Happy Holidays!

-Jordan C.

## Eighth Grade

The 8<sup>th</sup> graders are very excited for Christmas. Many of them are going to amazing places. Christian L., Jarred M., and Raul G. are going to have a Mexican Christmas full of all-you-can-eat buffets and lounging by the pool. Elaine P. is going to Ireland for fun with her family while Amanda G. goes to Sacraments. Jackie won't be traveling far, but to one of the best places ever: the couch.=) Fun activities that the 8<sup>th</sup> graders have been doing are making colorful parol lamps. This year will be really special because the 8<sup>th</sup> grade girls will be taking up the coveted tradition of the Advent Mass: the Candle Dance! The boys will also be singing "We Three Kings" later on in the mass. The 8<sup>th</sup> graders unanimous vote on the favorite Christmas song is "Mistletoe" by Justin Bieber. So, until next time, Christian and Raul out! Merry Christmas!

-Christian L. and Raul G.

## Kitchen Corner: A Christmas Snack!

A good Christmas snack that brings up the Yuletide spirit is cookies. Any kind of cookie will do. You could have chocolate chip, snicker doodles, or even the store bought cookies with sprinkles and frosting! You don't necessarily have to make the cookies at home, but so long as you do have them.

To go with your holiday cookies, you can make some peppermint hot chocolate. All you need is some hot chocolate mix and a candy cane. Boil some water with the help of an adult and mix the hot chocolate using the candy cane. Keep stirring until you can taste the peppermint with the hot chocolate. You can spice up your drink with whipped cream, marshmallows, or little chocolate shavings. This is the perfect treat for a chilly winter day. Enjoy!

-Chloe D. and Jarred M.

## Teacher Interviews

Starring: Mrs. Pallari and Mrs. Pacheco  
Turn the page to see!

## Teacher Interviews

**Mrs. Pallari** is known for her wearing of sweatsuits but did you know her favorite color sweatsuit is red? I think not! Or that she loves rocky road and peppermint ice cream? She is a big fan of hunky Buster Posey and the Giants. Did I mention she is a proud Italian? She frequently visits Starbucks; her order always the same ; non-fat latte no sugar. Her favorite book is It's a wonderful life and has taught at St. Dunstons for over thirty years! She loves Toby Keith and his new song, " Red Solo Cup." Her cat Blue; is her only pet and isn't doing well but she prays for him to keep strong. She wears " Diva!" lipstick and her best feature is her hair. She does aerobics in her free time and dislikes Bobs and LOVES TOMS. Mrs. Pallari's favorite artist is Leonardo Di Vinci. She loves Tigger and has been to Italy twelve times. She loves the insult; dingbat but has added a new favorite to the list; buffoon. That's it for Mrs. Pallari now onto Ms. Pacheco!

**Ms. Pacheco**, the fifty five year old ex-nun's favorite song is currently " Rumor has it," by British sensation Adele. Her parents are second cousins and her first car was a Mustang that was stolen right in front of her house. Ms. Pacheco's favorite crayola is blue violet and her perfect day would be watching the movie " The Help," and eating pecan pie. If Ms. Pacheco could be anyone it would be Lady Gaga; because she can do and say anything she wanted and it wouldn't matter to anyone. Did you know she almost got a tattoo but after she saw her friend get one she said forget it! She loves wearing converse and has beautiful hair branded; Raccoon chic`: emphasize on the chic`! Ms. Pacheco lives with her two golden retrievers; Rio and Indie. She loves taking them on walks and is described as a fun-loving, great advice giver, sweet ex-nun. She loves Elvis and The Beatles! Ms. Pacheco was born in Nicaragua but we are so happy she came to the United States and is a teacher!  
-Athena P. and Tamia V.