

THE MCKINLEY TIMES

December 2020

Serving the McKinley Community Since 2020

Volume VI



Almond Thumbprint Cookies

by Jonah C.

7 ounces ground almonds
7 ounces all purpose flour
1 stick butter at room temperature
¼ cup sugar
½ teaspoon vanilla extract
¼ teaspoon almond extract
Confectioners sugar
¼ cup jam or ¼ hershey kisses or both

Preheat the oven to 350° Fahrenheit. Line two baking sheets with parchment or silicone mats. Whisk together the ground almonds and flour. Working with a stand or hand mixer, beat the butter and sugar together on medium speed until life and fluffy, 3 to 4 minutes. Add the extracts and beat to blend. Reduce the mixers to low and gradually add the nut flour mixture, mixing only until it is incorporated into the dough. working with a teaspoonful of do at a time, roll the dough between your palms the form small balls and place the balls 2 inches apart on the baking sheets setting eat cookie with the song and a finger of one hand use your some you poke a hole

in the middle make sure that the finger doesn't go all the way through the dough. (when I made it some of the cookies came out with a small hole in it so try to make a deep hole but don't go through the dough). If you are using the hersheys put them in before baking. Bake for 15 to 18 minutes, rotating the sheets from top to bottom and from the back at the Midway point the cookie should be only slightly colored. They may even look under done which is fine: they should not look over baked. what cookies are baked, remove the baking sheets from the oven and let the cookies rest on the sheets for 2 minutes before transferring them to cooling racks and sifting confectioners sugar over them. Put the jam in a Ramekin or small bowl and put it in the microwave for about 1 minute and 30 seconds, let it cool slightly and then 4 into the holes in the cookies let cool for another 5 minutes then enjoy.

Ways To Brighten Up The Holidays!

by Sage M.

We all know that the holidays will not be the same in many ways, although, this just opens up many ideas to make the holidays even better!

One thing that we usually do but won't be able to this holiday season is get together with our families! Instead of just celebrating holidays with only our immediate family, we can call them. It's just like being there, especially when you can't be. Another way we can brighten up being with our family is to see them from far away with a mask on. If your family lives close by, this would be a great option for you!

Another famous tradition is caroling. Although we wont be going door to door,

this year we can still send the same feeling, and there are many ways to do this. The first is to record your songs from home and send them to friends and family or people you would have caroled for. Also, McKinley is doing a holiday message FlipGrid where you can sing a song, play an instrument, or give a message. These would all be great ways to send the holiday spirit.

The final tradition that we will be brightening up today is a holiday party! We won't be having a real, in person holiday party but we can still have a party! Here are some ways to do that. The first is a Zoom party. You can invite all your friends and family and have all of that fun, just through a screen. The final way to have a holiday party is a family one. This will be just the family that you live with to make it 100% safe. Don't worry, I'm sure all of our families would have a blast.

These are some ways to brighten up the holidays. Although we can't be together we still can be in a way. I hope you enjoyed!

Have a wonderful week!



CURRENT EVENTS

New Year's 2021

by Juliet S.

The new year is approaching! 2020 is coming to an end and 2021 is about to begin. In 2020, we were met with and overcame many challenges, such as the presidential election, the Black Lives Matter issue and the Coronavirus. While not all of these issues have been fully addressed, 2021 may be a light at the end of the tunnel for COVID19.

Vaccine: Hope for COVID19

On November 9, 2020, it was announced that a successful vaccine, made by Pfizer, had been developed and had passed the final test stages with encouraging results. This gave people hope that the other vaccines being made would also turn out to be as successful. Pfizer's vaccine was approved by the FDA (Food and Drug Administration) on December 11, 2020. The vaccine has been made available to some of the most vulnerable groups.

Celebrating New Year's Eve

Many families in the US on New Year's Eve throw big parties and stay up late. This year, however, only the latter will be available. Due to new COVID restrictions, no gatherings of any kind outside your household are allowed. The famous Pasadena Rose Parade has been canceled due to the virus and the New Year's Eve New York ball drop is going virtual. However, there are still many other fun ways to celebrate New Years Eve.

- Stay up till midnight. Even though no parties can be held, you can still have a family party where you can stay up as late as you want!
- Make New Year's Resolutions. You can write yours together with your family and share.

- Watch a movie. Pick any flick to watch, just not one that will make you fall asleep!
- Make dinner. If your family makes a special New Year's Eve dinner every year, there's no reason to stop! You can also make a special dinner for the occasion.

- Make New Year's glasses or hats. Just use whatever you have at home!

2020 has been a tough year for the world, but it's time to put a smile on our faces, and put our best foot forward into the new year!

New Traditions for the Holidays

by Shayla A.

Are you seeking new traditions for this holiday season because you cannot do things you usually do during the holidays? Well, if so, then you should take a close look at this article.

Some of our favorite traditions for the holidays are meeting up with family and friends, going to holiday parties and traveling. However, Covid 19 is preventing those traditions this year. People have been trying to find new traditions for the holidays to replace these old traditions, because we still want to try to have fun. It is also important that we try to input new traditions because some of our old traditions are just not safe. If you still go somewhere for the holidays, I recommend that you wear a mask.

Building gingerbread houses and gingerbread people is also a tradition but it's an old one that we need to make some twists to. Building gingerbread structures is usually done with members in your outer circle, not only your inner circle (mom, dad and possibly sibling). What

I mean by outer circle is grandparents and cousins as well as family friends and friends. This year, we need to think of gingerbread structures as an activity that you can enjoy with members of your inner circle.

A new tradition that my family has thought of is for the holiday week. Each day can be a different theme just like Spirit Week. I think that this tradition is pretty cool because you can get creative with what you do and it's something to look forward to. I like the idea of having something like a Movie Marathon Monday or Treat Tuesday. If you like Spirit Week, you will probably like this.

Other traditions that are catching on are Zoomebrations, Google Meets, Whatsapp calls, or FaceTime etc. This tradition is becoming more popular by the minute. People are glad that these apps and programs allow them to communicate with other people in their outer circle. Zoomebrations are the most popular. As we get closer to the holidays, Zoom is getting more and more busy. If you are using Zoom for the holidays, it might get glitchy!

Thanks for reading my article and I hope you try out some of the stuff that I suggested. Until next time readers.



CURRENT EVENTS



Winter Break: Ways to Stay Busy!

by An N.

During Covid, our winter break will certainly not be the same.

Remember when we used to be able to travel, and see friends at the park? Well,

now it's important to keep our physical distance (6ft. or 1.82 m.) and masks. There are still ways to have fun during the holiday season!

First, you can always call your friends! There are many ways to contact your friends or distant family members, through FaceTime, Skype, Zoom, Google Meet, and many more!! There are also many ways in which you can text message them, such as Messages, Skype, Zoom Chat, Hangouts, and many more. Sometimes, your parents are like, "Don't spend too much screen time!" Well, something along those lines. So what can you do to prevent your parents from saying that? Instead, you could play a game with them or read an interesting book that you found. Maybe, if you have old boxes, and your parents give you their permission, you can even look through some old family things! Maybe you'll stumble upon some hidden treasures!

I guess this is the holiday season, so you could just make your house festive! Go into some boxes with decorations and you can decorate your room, the interior, the exterior, even the doors! Go all out, and have some fun!

Maybe you can start like a small fun business for close friends and family members. Like maybe you could do the online shopping for gifts (not yours) so that they won't have to! For a small fee of course! Plus, it'd be a good way to save up money for gifts!

You could even start a mini project, maybe it's writing a book, composing a piece of music, even doing a painting! Who knows, maybe you'll realize you really love doing this and you'll be able to have a new hobby!

During the winter break, maybe you could try some of this so that you can beat the boredom!

How will the vaccine impact the holidays ?

by Delilah P.

As the holiday season is here and families are beginning to celebrate, it's important to think about how to celebrate safely. By having a safe winter holiday, we can spread cheer and not viruses. Almost everywhere in the world, there are a large number COVID-19 cases. And, in the past few weeks, in the US cases have surged.

With the new vaccine, there is hope on the horizon. The vaccine has started with vulnerable people and essential workers (nurses, doctors etc). Hopefully, this will start to save the lives of many vulnerable people and protect those who have been

caring for others.

Officials say that 2 million people could be vaccinated by the end of this year. There are about 2 million health officials in California and 40 million people in California. But, hopefully, getting some vulnerable people vaccinated will mean there will not be a huge spike in deaths or the deaths will go down.

There have been many hospitalizations, deaths, and cases rising to record high numbers never seen before. The CDC also recommends staying at home except for important activities, like shopping and exercising. Los Angeles has banned all gatherings, the CDC says the safest way is to celebrate at home with the people you live with.

The Los Angeles County of Public

Health and the City of Santa Monica offers some ideas for how to celebrate safely:

- Gather only with people you live with.
- Have an online party.
- Decorate your home and share photos online.
- Order pick-up or delivery from Santa Monica restaurants.
- Order gift certificates from Santa Monica/LA stores for stocking stuffers.
- However you decide to celebrate the winter holidays, the LA Health Department reminds us: always wear a mask when outside your home.
- Maintain social distance of 6 feet
- wash hands often

So, this holiday season stay safe, and happy holidays McKinley Lions!

MCKINLEY NEWS



10 Questions with a Mckinley Lion: Mr. Curry

by Matthew S.

Mr. Curry has been a Mckinley Lion for 32 years! McKinley is so lucky to have him at our school, and I was lucky enough to be one of his students for both Kindergarten and first grade! I can tell you that Mr. Curry is a kind, fun and encouraging teacher. What I did not know is that we like the same movie, the same candy and we both like playing card games with our family! Read on to see Mr. Curry's other favorites and if you ever need someone to give you some tips on your tennis serve, Mr. Curry might be the person to ask.

1. What was your favorite book when you were a kid?

"My favorite book was "Are You My Mother" by P.D. Eastman. I loved the drawings. My favorite part was when the bird thought the "snort" was his mother. I even used the character of the little bird as an in-

spiration for a pantomime skit I did in high school. I entered a dramatic arts festival and performed the skit. It won 4th place."

2. What was your favorite school subject?

"I really loved to write when I was in elementary school. I loved to make up stories and cartoons. I wrote a neighborhood newspaper for a summer. It lasted for 2 editions."

3. What is your favorite movie?

"The movie that first comes to mind is the original "Star Wars" movie. I just remember being blown away by the special effects. The opening of the movie hooked me in big time."

4. What is your favorite board or card game?

"My favorite card game is Bridge. It is a card game played by mostly old people. It provided me a special time to play with my mom and dad. It gave us something in common to do together. You have to play with 4 people, two on a team. Sadly, my dad has since passed, but I still get to play with my mom and other friends."

5. What is your favorite sport to play or watch?

"I have two favorite sports: beach volleyball and tennis. I would much rather play than watch. I do enjoy going to the Indian Wells BNP Paribas Tennis Open in the desert. I can't do that until the pandemic ends. Why are they my favorite? They are so much fun to play!"

6. What are three things you like to do outside of school?

"I love to play tennis, volleyball (that will have to wait until after the pandemic) and paddle tennis. I also love to ride my bike. Playing bridge is pretty fun too."

7. What is your favorite food?

"My favorite category is Mexican. The sonoran enchilada at El Cholo is great!"

8. What is your favorite candy?

"SNICKERS!"

9. What is your favorite animal?

"I like turtles. Why? That's a good question. A turtle was the first cartoon I drew as a kid."

10. Can you tell us some interesting facts about you?

"I have been teaching for 33 years. 32 of those years have been at McKinley. I have taught every grade level K-5. If I wasn't a teacher, I think it might have been fun to be an architect."

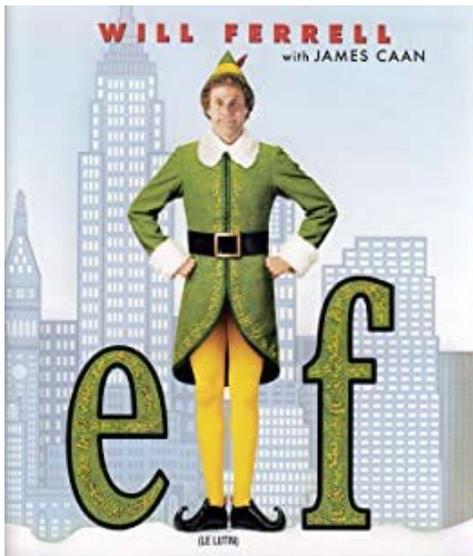
Spreading Joy

by An N.

During this holiday season everyone in our community can use some cheering up, what better way then to take the chance to help out?! We can make our community brighter by maybe singing a holiday song, drawing inspirational artwork, or do something fun for the whole community!

In times like this, you should definitely find ways to help the community feel more joyful and make a better place where everyone can live happily!

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



Two Holiday Classics: Elf and Home Alone

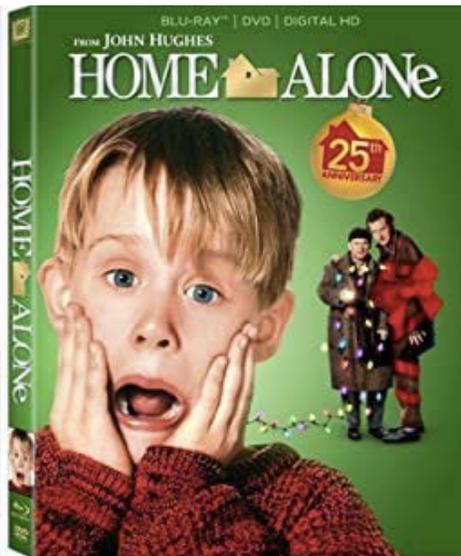
by Zoe G. and Daisy M.

Elf: Daisy's Take

Are you a fan of silly movies? Then Elf is perfect for you. It is a really silly movie starring Will Ferrell. He is born an average human then sent to the North Pole. He spends many years there being clueless that he is not a real elf. He goes into the big city to find his dad, only to come across a holiday themed kids area of a mall.

Elf: Zoe's Take

In the movie Elf, Santa transported a child to the North Pole by accident. A baby from the orphanage had crawled into his bag and Santa didn't notice until he got back to the North Pole. Santa and the elves decided to keep him and they raised him as an elf. This elf's name was Buddy. When Buddy grew older, he wanted to see his real dad. He left the North Pole and went to New York to search for him. Buddy told Walter, his father, that many years ago his girlfriend



had a baby and didn't tell him. When they proved that Buddy was Walter's son they started a relationship.

This movie is so hilarious because Buddy is like a child and he was always used to living the elf life. He was very naive but also cheerful and sweet. He will always win in a snowball fight so don't even try!

In the movie 'Elf', you will see Buddy will fall in love for the first time and learn to socialize with other humans. He wins the hearts of people all around him and he finds a loving family. He spreads Christmas cheer everywhere!

I recommend this movie to anyone who wants a good laugh and have their hearts warmed by this special elf. Buddy will leave you feeling good and in a great holiday spirit.

Home Alone: Daisy's Take

Home Alone is about a kid who gets left home alone when his parents and siblings fly off to Paris for the holidays. He is left to defend his home from the Wet Bandits who are trying to get some loot, and are in a big dilemma when they try to enter the house thinking young Kevin

McCallister is too small to cause mayhem, but is he? By the way, this movie has a couple mature words.

Home Alone: Zoe's Take

In the movie 'Home Alone', Kevin McCallister is an 8-year-old boy who was getting ready for his Christmas trip to Paris with his whole family. The night before the trip he wasn't behaving and he was sent to sleep in the attic. That night, he wished he had no family. The whole family was in a rush to get to the airport the next morning and they forgot Kevin.

Kevin had to take care of himself while everyone was gone. He wasn't expecting two thieves were going to try and rob his house. He tried to protect the house from the robbers so they wouldn't steal. He was clever and creative and got whatever he could to protect the house.

You'll laugh when you see Kevin using a tarantula, tar, nails, paint, heat, ice, glass and more to defeat the con men. So satisfying! You'll be surprised to see the friend he makes along the way.

This is truly a classic holiday movie that you can watch over and over again. I recommend Home Alone to anyone who likes hilarious movies. I guarantee you'll watch it every year!

REMINDER:
January 4th is
a Student Work
Day! Parents,
see the Mini
Messenger for
details.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



Holiday Movies to Watch with Your Family

by Daisy M.

Over quarantine, you probably have watched at least 2 movies with your family. I personally watched a lot of them over quarantine. Well, if you are looking for recommendations, I have a few to share with you.

Do you wait 30 minutes to watch Mickey Mouse every Sunday? Well if you go

to Disney Plus, you can find a big selection of new holiday Mickey movies. If you are one of those people who watch something for 10 minutes and get up to do something else, you should watch the 6 minute Pluto's Christmas Tree. It's about Mickey and Pluto cutting down a tree for Chip n Dale to live in. But if you are someone who just loves watching movies, then you should watch Mickey's Once Upon a Christmas. It is about Mickey and his friends coming together to tell stories of past Christmases.

If you are someone who just can't get

away from legos, I'm sure you would love to watch Lego Star Wars Holiday Special. It follows Rey and BB8 going through a timeline of iconic heroes and villains from the past. And a few iconic scenes.

Prep and Landing Naughty vs. Nice is about two elves trying to save Christmas from one naughty kid who's trying to trap the two elves. The brother elf got in the way of his older brother elf. The girl is trying to get on the nice list for something she did not do.

The Nightmare Before Christmas is a claymation, meaning it is animated, but it has that clay model vibe to it. It follows a skeleton named Jack, who wants more to life than Halloween Town has to offer. So he sets off on a journey to find new cheer for his friends.

Christmas Chronicles Part Two is about Kate Pierce and her new attitude wanting nothing more to get out of Mexico and go home to Chicago, gets stuck in a portal to the North Pole with a friend, suddenly makes literal history with the happy Claus couple. All of the sudden, it's up to her and Jack to save Christmas.

A New Kind of Winter Sing-a-Long

by Molly L

The Winter Sing-a-Long is an event that takes place at McKinley every year. Each grade practices a song that they sing in front of their families before winter break. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, we cannot have a normal Winter Sing-a-Long, but we can still do it in some way.

This year, the Winter Sing-a-Long will

be on FlipGrid, and it isn't really a Sing-a-Long. The FlipGrid is called "Winter Holiday Message" and students can record videos of them singing, playing an instrument, sharing a poem, a spoken message, and anything else. I asked a few students about what they thought about this. An N. said that she saw the FlipGrid as a reminder that we can get through this virus, and that we all should keep the holiday spirit throughout. Many students agree.

The Winter Sing-a-Long will be a fun opportunity to be connected virtually this holiday season. Anyone can film a

video wishing the students a happy holiday message. Be sure not to miss out on this on fun and exciting tradition, distance learning style!



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Wonder Book Review

by Sienna N.

The book *Wonder* is one of the most popular kids books in the USA. It is about a boy whose face looks different because of something he was born with. I suggest you read this book for many different reasons. One reason I love this book is because it is told in different perspectives. The main character, Auggie Pullman, is starting at a school for the first time -- the fifth grade at a private school in New York. During this time he meets Julian, a student in his class who is rude and bullies Auggie because of his face issues. Auggie befriends Jack, another student and a former friend of Julian's. Jack and Auggie face many challenges like bullies, suspension, and much more. *Wonder* is my favorite book of all time and it will probably be yours if you read it.

TV Show Recommendation: Just Add Magic

by Zoe G.

If you want to add a little magic to your days during the Winter Break, you need to watch 'Just Add Magic'. It is a series about three best friends, Hannah, Kelly, and Darby. They were looking through Kelly's attic one day and discovered her grandmother's cookbook. Only it wasn't any ordinary cookbook. It had strange recipes with very odd names. Some of the recipes are A Guac Through Time, Shut 'Em Up Shortcake, Back to the Future Fudge, Disappearing Dim Sum, Pathfinding Pretzelsticks, Stop Time Thai Curry and so much more. Each recipe was a spell and they each had a riddle. They needed to find extremely rare

ingredients to create the recipe. To make the spells work, they needed special families of spices which had different effects. For example, Lapsis spices affect mobility, Taurian spices affect time, Werpoes spices affect the body, and Elysian spices affect truth. These spices can be combined for the desired effect, but if they aren't combined properly or with the wrong measurements, the outcome could be disastrous. The girls had to learn this the hard way.

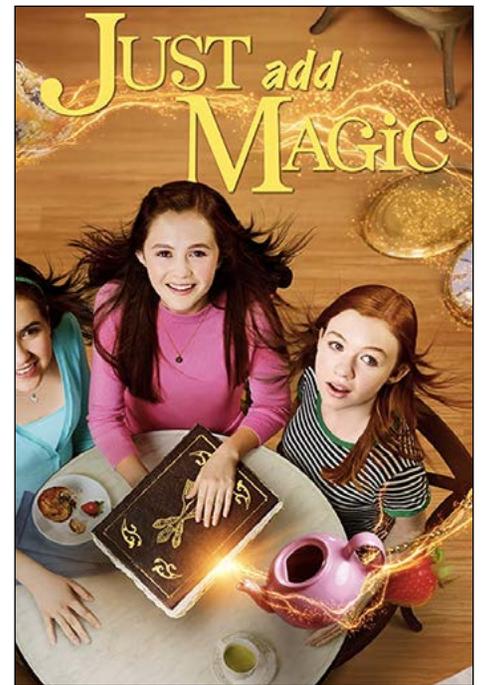
An example of a recipe was when Kelly, Hannah and Darby made Bitter Truth Truffles. The riddle in the book was "The truth is bitter, and lies are sweet, so take a second to enjoy your treat.". They used this recipe to find out more about a suspicious cafe owner named Mama P. Hannah ate one and she started confessing secrets. When their friend Jake ate one, he told about where Mama P. had hidden the magic cookbook. Eating these powerfully magical truffles revealed a lot of secrets in this episode.

You'll find the girls in challenging and sometimes very chaotic situations which were solved with magic. You'll see the girls make mistakes along the way but with practice, they develop their skills. They have ups and downs but they always stick together and they have a very strong friendship.

You can start binge watching this show on Amazon Prime. You can also read the *Just Add Magic* books written by Cindy Callaghan. If you become an instant fan like I did, you can even find the merch online!

If you like magic, adventure, danger, suspense and shows about friendship, I think you'll enjoy 'Just Add Magic.' It's a show for the whole family. Seriously though, not only was I hooked but my

Mom watched the whole series, too! Have a magical Winter Break!



Holiday Movies

by Jonah C.

Watching movies during the holidays is becoming a tradition. There are a lot of them to choose from and they are all different.

I interviewed some students about what their favorite movies are and here are their favorites:

1. Home Alone
2. Elf
3. The Grinch
4. The Night Before Christmas
5. Klaus
6. The Christmas Chronicles
7. A Christmas Story
8. A Charlie Brown Christmas
9. Rudolf the Red Nosed Reindeer
10. Noelle
11. Polar Express

CREATIVITY CORNER

Creative Writing Piece: *Christmas Superhero*

by Zalie R.

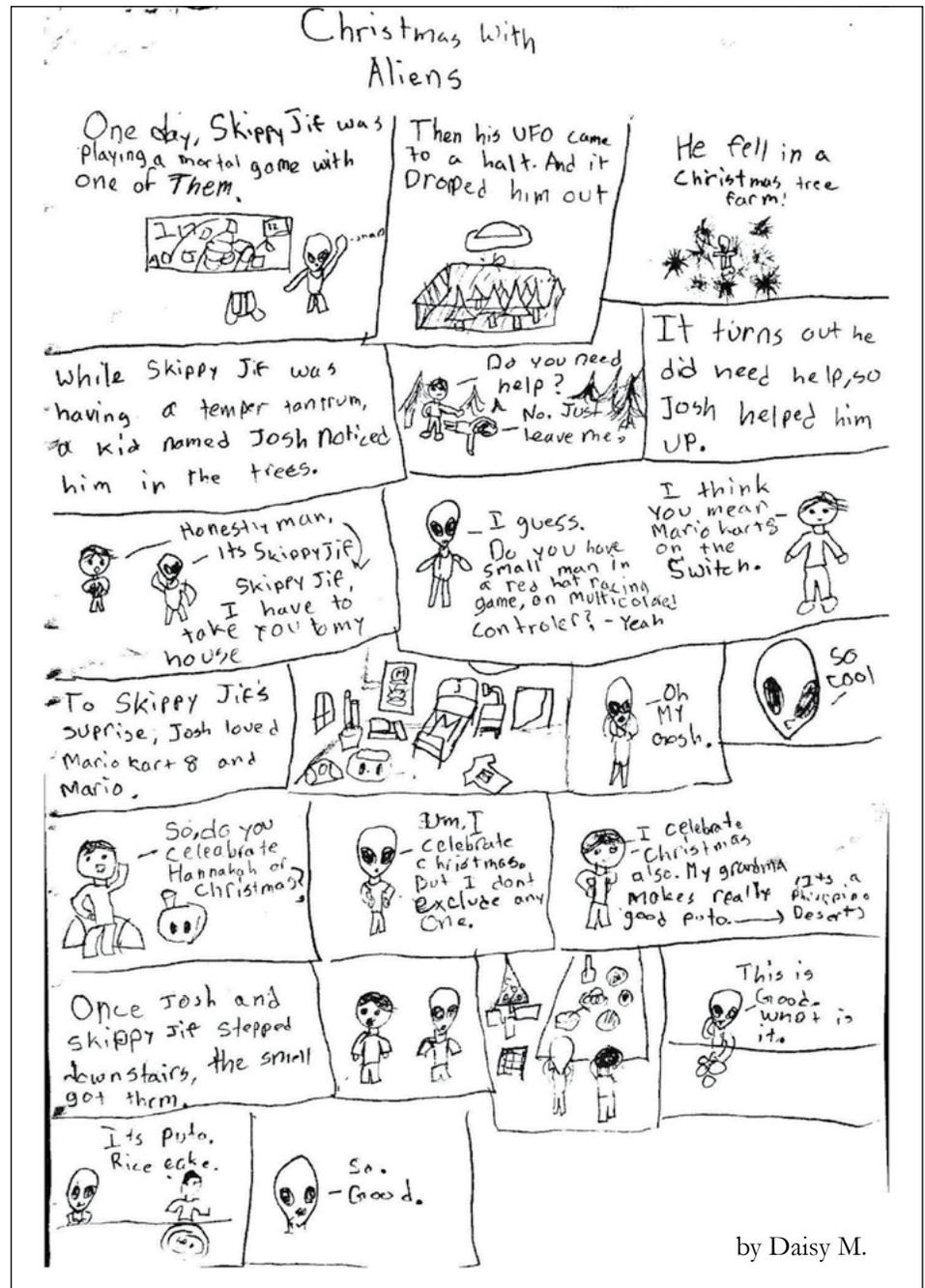
Charlotte was a young, nice, girl. She loved spending time with her family. The best time to do that was during the holidays. Charlotte's favorite holiday was Christmas. One day she went to town to buy her Christmas presents. She stopped to get a snack at a little shop. The shop was named Roger's foods.

"Hello, may I help you?" A man said, "I'm Mr. Roger please on your way out add to my tip jar, I am saving up to get a present for my children. I have a son and daughter. Some years they have to share." Charlotte thought that was just horrible. So she said, "I think I can do more than that." So she got them a little tree with lights, got the whole town to donate for a special dinner, and got the family some nice presents. She knew they were going to have a Merry Christmas. Charlotte soon got a thank-you



letter from them.

This act of kindness reminded her of what Christmas is all about, helping others. She really truly felt like Santa.



by Daisy M.



New furniture being delivered during winter break!

Check your email for a link to a video introduction!

CREATIVITY CORNER

