

THE SIDNEY
Sun-Telegraph

We wish you a
Merry Christmas

Presented by:



Sidney Regional
MEDICAL CENTER



FROM THE PUBLISHER

Merry Christmas & Happy Holidays

Dear readers,
Merry Christmas!
Whether or not a white Christmas will grace us this year, it has sure more than hit us at the time of this printing the week prior to the beginning of the holiday season. There's snow everywhere, and earlier this week the National Weather Service has predicted our Christmas to be white.

This section includes everything from last minute gift ideas, recipes from the traditional to those one might not associate with the holiday in this area, to games for the children.

Much of this special section is all about children. Letters to Santa Claus from Sidney, Leyton, Creek Valley and Peetz schools (Potter-Dix was asked to participate but did not do so) dot the pages throughout this section. Thanks to all the teachers and everyone else at the schools who helped us with this special project. These letters begin on page seven.



Joy jumps off the pages of many of these letters to Santa, with children asking for things from game systems to dolls and much more. We hope you enjoy reading these letters. And when Santa reads this, my brother is still waiting for the blue horse he asked for many years ago.

Joy is a major theme for the holiday. From visiting with family to other holiday gatherings to gift giving to church services, may the joy of Christmas be with you wherever you are. Have a safe and Merry Christmas!

John Verser
Publisher

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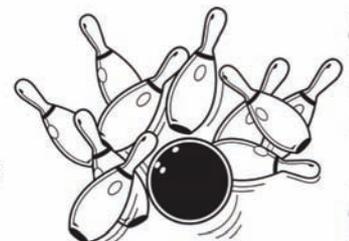
**Booze it and lose it.
Be safe this holiday season.**



*Merry Christmas and
have a Happy New Year!*

**Doyles'
Cedar Lanes**
2605 11th Ave. • Sidney, NE
(308) 254-4549

Call for open bowling times





Gift ideas for teenagers

Finding Christmas gifts for teenagers is child's play. Unconvinced? Then take a look at the few suggestions below. They are sure to please the young people you know without breaking your Christmas budget.

Personalized stuff is always popular with young people. Look for items displaying their first name or bearing the image or logo of something they're interested in. You can find such images on soap, cellphone cases, bracelets, mouse pads, school and locker accessories,



PHOTO: POLKA DOT IMAGES / THINKSTOCK

and backpacks.

Other gifts that always appeal to teenagers include:

- a video game, a bestselling novel, or a DVD;
- a digital media device (such as an MP3 player or an iPod) with a gift certificate for downloading music;
- an annual subscription to a favourite magazine;
- a fashion accessory or a makeup kit (for girls).

Is your teenage son or daughter a hockey or soccer fan? Do they go crazy over one particular band (that's right, the one that's making you go deaf!) that just happens to be giving a show in your area? They why not offer your teenager a couple of tickets for a favourite event. It can be a fun opportunity for you to spend some time with your nearly-grown up child, or you might decide to offer your teen both tickets so he or she can invite a friend along instead.

If you're still hesitating or are unsure about the perfect gift, you can always fall back on a gift certificate. However uninspired it may seem, it's still a winning formula that enables the recipient to buy a little something that is sure to please.

Pleasing a teenager isn't as hard as it might seem.



Gifts for apprentice chefs

At gift-giving time, amateur chefs are really easy to please. That's because having the right tools is a cook's real secret ingredient. When shopping, all you have to do is keep in mind two key words: preparation and cooking.

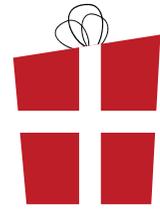
To make food preparation more enjoyable, a set of good-quality knives would make any home chef happy. Even better: offer individual professional knives. A real chef's knife can cost between \$50 and \$300, so to receive one as a gift is a real treat. Other ideas that spring to mind include a good vegetable peeler, a selection of cutting boards, or spatulas and high density wooden spoons. For amateur pastry chefs, a set of piping bags for decorating cakes is another ideal choice.

You could also opt for kitchen appliances worthy of a real chef's kitchen — if your budget is large enough, that is. Then

again, there is usually a vast price and quality range, so something for any size of wallet can be found. A food processor or a stand mixer is sure to thrill, or more modest gifts include a blender, ideal for soups and purées, or a mandolin for finely slicing foods. A couple of hints: don't let yourself be impressed by the size of the box and avoid buying cheap products. A real amateur chef will appreciate a small, well-made appliance more than a large, inefficient machine.

Lastly, think cooking and think quality! While some people would be thrilled to receive a simple sandwich grill, others would prefer a large professional-quality wok or a frying pan with a heavy base or made of ceramic. A miniature frying pan designed to cook eggs is also a great idea for those who love a cooked breakfast.

To please an amateur chef, opt for good-quality small accessories rather than large, cumbersome gadgets.



A gift with some bite

Many people love to spoil their dog at Christmas, but what about his or her owner? If you're looking for an original and personalized idea for a dog lover, here are a few ideas to sniff out for a perfect gift.

Many businesses now specialize in photo products, which are a great medium for preserving the memory of a pet for posterity. For pet owners who love to have fun and who are particularly fond of jigsaw puzzles, think about an original wood puzzle featuring their pet. All you have to do is take a photograph of the pet in question to a specialized store where it will be glued to a piece of wood, covered with a protective film, and then cut out into pieces. Or for pet owners who spend a lot of time at work, what could be better than presenting them with a calendar featuring the most beautiful photographs of their four-legged friends?

You could also give a cute food bowl on which the name of the pet has been painted by hand. Just be sure that the bowl is made of good quality earthenware, without any lead or cadmium. In the same vein, no pet owner could resist a personalized collar bearing an engraving of their dog's name.

For dog owners who haven't yet mastered their pet's unruliness, think about offering a gift certificate for obedience classes. Look for a trainer who uses a positive approach based on dietary rewards, toys, and physical or educational activities. Be wary of trainers who advocate strategies using physical force that can harm your friend's pet.

You might love to spoil your dog at Christmas, but don't forget the owner!



Have a great cruise!

Is someone you know planning to treat themselves to a cruise after Christmas? Why not offer them a gift that will keep them from drowning in uncertainty when they pack their suitcases.

Stay on firm ground during your shopping trip by knowing the exact size and measurements of your loved one. After all, suitable clothes are a must on a cruise. You could start by offering a fancy dress or sports jacket for formal dinners, a pair of comfortable shoes for activities on the deck, or an accessory that will look good by the pool, such as a sun hat or sunglasses.

To keep with the dress code for evenings onboard, why not invest in a luxurious accessory for elegant soirées. You don't need to spend a fortune, just

choose a gift that will enhance a classic evening dress, such as a stunning necklace or pretty hand bag. Whether it's for a formal dinner or a cool evening, a shawl made of pashmina, the lightest and warmest of wools, is a perfect gift. The same thing goes for a hand crocheted scarf; this gorgeous accessory will set off a loved one's beauty while revealing glimpses of her newly sun-bronzed skin.

Finally, don't forget the great classic: a swimsuit — you can never have enough of those on a cruise! A swimsuit has to fit perfectly, so offer a gift certificate from a specialized boutique.

One of your loved ones is going on a cruise after Christmas? Give them a useful gift such as a hat or a pair of sunglasses.



We wish you a Merry Christmas!

Practical gifts for leaving home

When young people leave home to move into an apartment for the first time, often as students, there isn't just furniture and appliances to think about. Here are some practical gift ideas for those flying the nest and who only have a limited budget.

FOR THE KITCHEN

A few dishes are always useful, unless frozen meals are the only item on the menu!

A first apartment needs a lot of items that we don't always think about.

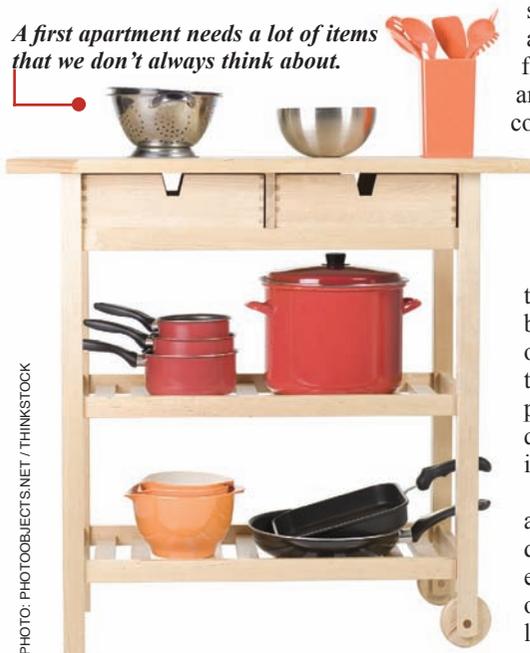


PHOTO: PHOTOOBJECTS.NET / THINKSTOCK

Don't just stop at plates, bowls, glasses, cups, and utensils. You can also offer pots, pans, cookie sheets, and plastic dishes. For proud pastry chefs measuring cups, muffin and cake pans, a whisk, and wooden spoons are also essential; don't forget a large bowl for mixing the ingredients.

SOME DECORATIVE ITEMS

Lamps and accent furniture are not necessarily essential, but they are very useful and make an apartment much more comfortable. Other items, such as curtains, are not always affordable to start with. Of course, choosing the right colour can be difficult, but you can always go for neutral tones.

HOUSEHOLD LINENS

Oven mitts, aprons, towels, washcloths, tea towels, and dish cloths — they may not be the gifts your young person is dreaming of, but they're so practical. And it's better than receiving a garbage can or cleaning products! Plus, household linens can be quite expensive, so you'll really be helping them out.

The possibilities are endless; just think about what you have and what you couldn't do without. Bathroom accessories, a toaster, rugs, coffeemaker, and why not a chocolate fondue set too? Some of us couldn't live without one of those!

Lists are not just for Santa!

The holiday season is often accompanied by worries about not being ready in time. As the festive season is approaching fast, here is a list for those in charge of organizing Christmas. It will help you make sure everything goes off without a hitch.

1. Establish your budget. This is always a good starting point. It feels awful to regret all your spending once the holidays are past.

2. Create checklists. Plan your menus, gifts, indoor and outdoor decorations, and schedule your beauty appointments well in advance.

3. Set your tasks. Each of the previous lists brings its own share of things to do, so it's important to list them clearly along with a time frame in which to do them.

4. Spread out the tasks. Note on a calendar or in your smartphone agenda all things to do each day, as this will give you a better overview. It will also be easier to

add an item to the list or delete completed tasks (yay!), so that you don't forget anything.

5. Delegate. Some tasks can even be assigned to the children. You'll be surprised at their creativity!

6. Get organized in advance. Some things can be done well before Christmas. Think about preparing any make-ahead dishes that can be frozen until the party or Christmas dinner. Doing this will allow you to relax a bit during the party!

7. Buy your gifts before the last minute rush. Shopping on December 23 is just an invitation to stress. So start shopping in late November or early December. If that is truly impossible, bear in mind that shopping malls are less crowded early in the week. Taking the time to get organized will give you the inspiration to create some unforgettable moments for you and your loved ones this holiday season.

The winning ticket

If you have no idea what to give people this Christmas, how about offering them tickets? That's right, tickets! But what kind of tickets? Well, there are all sorts of different ones; there is something to suit everyone on your gift list.

FOR SPORTS ENTHUSIASTS

Many adults and children are sports lovers. Hockey, baseball, tennis, boxing, figure skating — there are as many possibilities as there are exciting sports. You're sure to find tickets to suit your favourite sports fan.

FOR MUSIC FANS

There's nothing like a great concert to make a music fan happy. You probably already know the groups or favourite artists of your loved ones, so all you have to do is find a show that will be put on in your area and buy some tickets before they all disappear.

FOR GENEROUS HEARTS

For all those who like to help people, tickets to a benefit concert or charity gala could be the perfect gift during the Christmas season.

FOR ART LOVERS

A trip to the theatre to enjoy a comedy or a drama, a classical or modern ballet, a

grand opera, a symphony concert — there's definitely something for everyone!

FOR THOSE WITH LADY LUCK ON THEIR SIDE

Why not a lottery ticket? It's always fun and who knows, you may be offering someone a gift of enormous value.

Consider giving pairs of tickets as a gift. A hockey game or a concert is so much more fun when you're with someone else. Oh, one last detail: make sure the person you're offering the tickets to is free on the day of the event!



PHOTOS: THINKSTOCK

Five tips for storing Christmas decorations

The holidays help many of us rediscover the child within; we overflow with enthusiasm at the thought of putting up the Christmas decorations, and some of us just can't wait to go out and choose a tree. We're also quickly disheartened when we can't even find the decorations we chucked quickly down in the basement last January. Even worse is when you discover your favourite ornaments broken or falling apart. Of course, putting away decorations can be a real chore; you're fed up with looking at them and want to get this thankless task out of the way as quickly as possible. Nevertheless, a good storage system will save you time and money the next time around.

Here are some tips that you should consider after the holidays, when all those decorations need to be put away.

1. **Sort.** Throw out anything that is too damaged to be used again.

2. **Classify.** Sort and store decorations by categories or by location to help you find them again. You might want to

put up the outdoor lights well before you're ready to decorate the tree.

3. **Pack.** Wrap fragile items in egg cartons, bubble wrap, newspaper, or old wrapping paper. Strings of lights should be packed in bags or wrapped around a piece of cardboard. This takes longer than throwing a heap of them into a box, but it will save you from having to unravel a tangled pile next winter.

4. **Label.** Mark what is in each box so you can find everything quickly next year.

5. **Catalog.** Number the boxes in the order in which you mean to get them out next year, and store them in such a way as to have access to the first ones. Keep outdoor lights and wreaths in the early boxes, and giftwrap, special occasion dishes, and tree decorations in the later ones.

The most important tip of all? Ask for help! If everyone pitches in, the job will go much faster and much more efficiently — and everyone will benefit next year.



Fashionable gifts to get people moving

Do your family members like to take care of themselves and keep fit? If they follow the latest trends, they probably run or do yoga. That means there are plenty of gadgets and accessories they would love to have to help them in their sport. Here are some suggestions for spoiling them this Christmas.

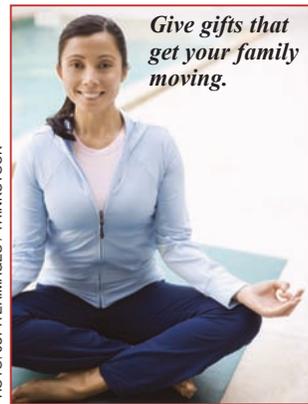
RUNNING

The most important thing for runners is to have good shoes. As it's difficult to buy shoes for someone, consider giving them a gift certificate for a sports equipment store. They already have the perfect shoes? How about four-season sportswear? Think windbreakers, gloves, hats, socks, shorts, and a warm or light sweater. If they like to run at night, how about reflective bands that will make them visible at all times, or a headlamp? Why not register them for a race and pay the entry fee? Or opt for a GPS wristwatch, sunglasses, books about running, music for their personal music player, or a water bottle.

YOGA

A new mat, absorbent towel, or yoga bag are great ideas for yoga enthusiasts. You can even find yoga bags that include a towel and mat plus a few other accessories. There are also washable yoga bags, which may prove very useful. Books and DVDs are also good ideas, as well as CDs, which you can combine with a cushion for meditating. Give them a membership to a gym that offers a variety of yoga classes so they can discover which type of yoga they prefer, or if they are already members, pay for a private session for them.

Last but not least, a massage is sure to be appreciated, as running or yoga often pushes the body to its limits.



Give gifts that get your family moving.

PHOTO: JUPITERIMAGES / THINKSTOCK

Great gift ideas for grandparents

You'd love to give a gift to your nana and grandpa this Christmas, but you don't even know what to give your parents, let alone your grandparents! Here are some gift ideas that are sure to delight them.

Does your grandmother always feel cold? Give her a cozy clothing item, such as a wool sweater, a plush bathrobe, a shawl, or slippers. Your grandparents would also appreciate cushions and warm blankets to snuggle up in when sitting in front of the television or fireplace.

Board games are sure to delight your grand-

parents, especially if you take the time to play with them. In fact, your company would be more precious than the gift itself. To combine the practical with a bit of fun, think of memory games or those that stimulate your observation skills.

Do your grandparents live alone? Help them to feel a bit less lonely by giving them a CD of some music they love, a DVD of their favourite movie or television series, jigsaw puzzles, books, or something to knit.

If your grandparents have vision problems or difficulty holding objects, many games are available in versions adapted for seniors. There are also very practical accessories, such as playing card holders, and some books are published in large print editions. You can also find audiobooks for those who don't read much anymore, and knitting needles in larger sizes.

The best gifts are often the simplest: a greeting card containing a handwritten note, a framed family photo, or simply some of your time, to spend a while together.



Why not offer a board game that you can play together?

PHOTO: JAMES WOODSON / THINKSTOCK

The gift of tea

Tea — black, green, stimulating, light, iced, mint, and the list goes on. Did you know that tea is the second most popular beverage in the world? After water, of course! And it's more popular than ever right now in Canada. So why not follow the trend and offer a basket of flavoured teas for Christmas?

For true gourmets, don't bother with tea bags; loose tea is better quality and the flavours are more pronounced.

There are many different types of tea: green, black, white, oolong, pu-erh, rooibos, and more. Each has its own characteristics. For example, green tea has a smooth taste; black tea has a more astringent, pronounced taste; pu'erh promotes digestion; and rooibos tea is caffeine-free. There are also organic teas, kosher teas, and fair-trade teas. In other words, there is a tea for everyone.

If you plan on offering tea to someone you know well, it will be easy to choose from among the different types of flavours, fruits, flowers, or spices. Include one that you know the recipient will especially love, and choose a new taste for the sake of adventure.

Flavoured teas are exciting to receive, and the variations of ingredients that go into their composition are practically endless: vanilla, caramel, honey, mango, orange, apple, eucalyptus, ginger, hibiscus, jasmine, peppermint, licorice, almond, coconut, and more. And because it's Christmas, why not opt for cinnamon or chocolate flavoured teas?

Best of all, tea is healthy. In fact, tea is rich in antioxidants and is usually low in calories too. Now, doesn't it sound like just the gourmet gift you've been looking for?

Five tips for pleasing teachers

When children love their teachers, parents often want to give them a gift at Christmas time as a token of their appreciation. The question is what to give that will please them. Here are a few tips for choosing the perfect gift for a teacher.

1. DECORATIONS AND CANDLES ARE TO BE AVOIDED. As pretty as they are, you don't know how a teacher's house is decorated. So there's a good chance that your present won't be suitable or ever used. Even worse, imagine 20 students arriving with a decoration or a scented candle!

2. ONE MUG TOO MANY. A mug seems like a good idea at first, but have you thought about all the other parents who had the same idea over the years of this teacher's career?

3. CHOCOLATE: BE CAREFUL OF ALLERGIES. Chocolate is a good choice because it doesn't last long and won't clutter the teacher's life. What's more, it can be shared among friends and family on Christmas Eve. Be sure to choose chocolates that don't contain traces of peanuts or other nuts, as you never know who has severe nut allergies.

4. IMPERSONAL GIFTS. Avoid overly personal gifts such as clothing, per-

fumes, or cosmetics. Opt for an all-purpose type of gift, such as a gift certificate from a bookstore, a bottle of sparkling juice, or a bottle of wine — even if the teacher doesn't drink, it's always useful during the holidays.

5. SOME WELL-CHOSEN WORDS. Teachers are sometimes embarrassed at receiving a huge pile of gifts from their students. Some much prefer to receive a card with a message from parents and children expressing appreciation and care. Compliments always give pleasure.



PHOTO: CREATAS / THINKSTOCK



Make it a time of comfort and joy for seniors, too Christmas decorations to make with kids

Over the Christmas holidays, we often let ourselves be overwhelmed by long lists of errands to run, meals to cook, and evenings to organize. The preparations and festivities fly by, and in the end, we often end up participating in about half of the activities we'd hoped to enjoy. That is why visiting a beloved senior should be at the top of the list, so that nothing prevents us from spending time with him or her.

As we age, family members disperse and develop new interests. For seniors, friends become fewer and farther between, while loneliness and isolation grow over the years. This is difficult to cope with at any time of year, but it is particularly so during the festive season. Whether they are our parents or grandparents, it's important to visit seniors or invite them to take part in our celebrations so they are not alone over the holidays.

If you don't have any elderly relatives, you could volunteer a few hours of your time and visit some seniors who otherwise wouldn't receive any visitors. A couple of hours could make a huge difference to them and give them a lot of joy and comfort.

We get so caught up in our busy lives that we often neglect the ones who cared for us and spoiled us throughout most of our lives. Now it's our turn to make some time to pamper them. It is the most precious gift that we can offer them.

Nearly a quarter of all Americans over age 65 live alone.



PHOTO: COMSTOCK IMAGES / THINKSTOCK

Holiday dangers for pets

You always thought that once the children were all grown up you could finally give free rein to your imagination and go crazy with the decorations. But, unfortunately, you forgot to take your pet into account. That's right; even with pets, it's important to follow some safety rules in order for Christmas to be a success.

Firstly, your Christmas tree poses several risks. If it is natural, ensure that your cat doesn't drink the water, and keep it well away from fallen needles. Also ensure that the tree is stable and won't fall over if your cat suddenly decides to jump into it. After all, you don't want the tree falling over and injuring your beloved pet.

Tree ornaments also pose a threat to the health of your pets; they can suffocate a pet or damage its intestines if they are swallowed. So avoid using tinsel icicles and make sure any dangerous ornaments, such as artificial snow and small decorations, are inaccessible. In addition, keep dogs and cats away from strings of lights, as they could electrocute themselves by chewing on them. Finally, opt for plastic ball ornaments rather than glass ones, which are easily breakable.

Position poinsettia plants out of the reach of animals, as they are toxic. Also, be careful where you set up candles, and never leave them burning unattended.

Sweets, leftovers, alcoholic drinks, ribbons, and small toys can all be dangerous if ingested by your pet. Sure, you can still decorate your home and entertain guests, but be sure to take a few precautions.

Lots of guests can be stressful, so let your pets have access to a quiet place where they can hide during the festivities.



PHOTO: JANIE AIREY / THINKSTOCK

Do your children love arts and crafts? Take advantage of their enthusiasm and make some beautiful home decorations for the holidays.

A WREATH OF BUTTONS

Thread buttons of different sizes on a wire to make a beautiful wreath. Use multicoloured buttons for a festive style, pastel colours for a softer look, or different shades of the same colour for an elegant effect. Complete the festive look by decorating it with a huge ribbon bow.

A CHRISTMAS PINECONE TREE

Find a large pinecone and paste some ball decorations on it. You could also use tassels, beads, buttons, or crunched up balls of tissue paper. A small box, an empty thread spool, or a toilet paper roll makes an ideal base. Apply a coat of paint and some ribbons or glitter to give it a festive air.

BULB PENGUINS

Light bulbs and paint — that's all you need to make some cute chilly-weather penguins. A stub-

by round bulb is the ideal shape for making one. Add a touch of black and a hint of white for a little penguin tuxedo, and then all you'll have to do is give him or her a funny face.

AN INDOORS SNOWMAN

Make a snowman that will last, no matter what the weather is like outside. Start with three boxes of various sizes, which you can paint or cover with paper. Affix some felt, buttons, cardboard, or pompoms as coat buttons, mouth, and eyes. For the nose, use a piece of cardboard or wood painted orange. And don't forget the scarf!



PHOTO: POLKA DOT IMAGES / THINKSTOCK

Children love to help decorate with their own seasonal creations.

Treat yourself to a safe Christmas

The Christmas holidays are finally here! It's a time for decorating the home, inside and out. Glitter sparkles here, there, and everywhere, maybe even a bit too much! A Christmas tree, multicoloured lights, endless garlands, bunches of holly, and scented candles — whatever your taste in ornaments, the true art of decorating your home is not just to make it look beautiful, but to make it safe as well.

for indoor use.

- **Your real tree.** Choose a fresh tree and put it up well away from any heat sources.
- **Extension cords.** Never lay extension cords in high traffic areas, in doorways, or under rugs.
- **Lights.** Check that your lights are in good condition; secure them with electrical tape or plastic clips, and make sure that the lights you install outside are not designed

- **Candles.** Always place candles on a stable surface, out of the reach of children and away from curtains and articles that ignite easily. Never leave a burning candle unattended.
- **The fireplace.** Never use natural evergreen branches as a decoration around the fireplace, where sparks pose a danger. Don't hang up the stockings on the mantle if you're going to light a fire. Don't burn wrapping paper, and don't use your Christmas tree as firewood.
- **The party.** During Christmas parties, limited space often requires lots of ingenuity so that everyone has a seat. However, be sure not to block the exits. Most important of all, make sure all your smoke alarms are working.

**Shirley Melton's
First Grade Class
Leyton Elementary School**

Dear Santa,
I have been a good boy this year Santa. I like the gifts Santa. So do you have a dog? I would like a Lego Box.

Love,
Riley Benish

Dear Santa,
I have been a good girl this year. Do you have a dog? Do you have friends? Can I have a stuffed animal? Santa do you have Kids? Santa I want a pointer to teach Paige and Brooks. Ho! Ho! Ho! yes Santa. Do you have a toy? I love my dogs, Santa.

Love,
Madison Frerichs

Dear Santa,
I have been a good boy this year. Santa do you have a dog? Can I have a kids motorcycle that I can ride. I hope you don't get cold on your trip. I really like your beard. I hope the reindeer are o.k.!

Love,
Austin Buetler

Dear Santa,
I have been a good girl. Do you have pets? How's Mrs. Claus doing? How many raindeer do you have? Have you been working hard? What I want for Christmas is littlest Pet Shops and Shopkins.

Love,
Maggie Abella

Dear Santa,
I have been a good girl. Do you have pets? What do you have to write with? What is your eye color? You are the best, Santa Claus. I love you Santa. I like the clothes you are wearing and your reindeer. I want a real pony.

Love,
Maddie Fostervold

Dear Santa,
I have been a good boy this year. I want a golf and football set. How is Rudolph and Mrs. Claus? How good are you, Santa? How good is your Elf and your Reindeer?

Love,
Dominic Gallegos

Dear Santa,
I have been good. I love you. Have your elves been good? I want a blue fish.

Love,
Gauge Harcsa

Dear Santa,
I have been a good boy. Has my Elf been good? My Elf drew on my banana. I hope you like my letter and I want a watch that I can play games on take videos and pictures. Do you have Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer?

Love,
Noah Caddick

Dear Santa,
I have been a good girl this year. Have the Elves been good? I hope your don't get cold on your way. If you do there will be cookies and hot chocolate. I want a Make-up kit.

Love,
Annabell Hensel

Dear Santa,
Have I been good or bad? I bet I am good this year. Is Rudolph real? Do you have a god? I hope that I can see you! I love you! Can I see Mrs. Claus too? Can I see the reindeer? I want a surprise for Christmas.

Love,
Claire Eckhardt

Dear Santa,
I have a good boy this year. I hope that you don't get a cold on your ride to boys and girls houses. I hope everyone is on the list. How is Rudolph doing? I hope that I get a toy four wheeler.

Love,
Hunter Borges

**Heater Staudenmaier's
Second Grade Class
Leyton Elementary School**

Dear Santa,
May I have a picture of all the rein deer, a Seattle helmet, a picture of your elf, Seattle jersey, a Snackee cup and cow boy boots?

Love,
Aidan

Dear Santa,
How was your year? I hope you have a good trip to each house. I will put out cookies for you. I want a new bike, a junior size football, an air soft rifle, an air soft handgun, Hot Wheels, and a new battery dirt bike with the charger, and an i-pod. I also want cowboy boots with spurs, a squirt gun and a mini Hot Wheels garage with Hot Wheels.

Sincerely,
Ethan

Dear Santa Claus,
Is Fred being good this year? There is Dasher, Dancer, Prancer and Vixson, Comet, Cupid, Donner, Blizen and Rudolph the red noise reindeer. I wish I could have an ipod. Can I see you? What are all the elves names? Fred hid in the lamp. Our Christmas tree is tiny. What if Fred hid in the tree? Can I give you a cookie? Santa can I have a Mrs. Claus and Mr. Claus toy? What does Mrs. Clause look like.

Love,
Halle

Dear Santa Claus,
How was your year? For Christmas I want a Phone, tablet, Nerfgun, a rifle, two new dogs, hot wheels, Legos, an elf on the shelf, Monster trucks, squirt guns, pet snacke, Patriots, Broncos and Panthers football helmets and jersey. This is all I want for Christmas. Santa I want to see you someday. Maybe I will see you next year. I will leave milk and cookies on the table for you. I know your reindeers names Dasher, Danceer, Prancer, Vixen, Comet, Cupid, Donner, Blitzen.

Your friend,
Hayden

Dear Santa Claus,
How was your year? How is my elf Elfy doing? I have been good and bad. I know all of the reindeer Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Comet, Cupid, Donner, Blitzen, and Rudolph. I would like a bike, a chapter book, and a movie. I would like new clothes, a pillow and a vet suit. I will stay and grandma and grandpa Cita's house. I have a new baby sister named Addlyn Grace Lee. How is Mrs. Claus? Has Rudolph been good or bad? My school is Leyton Elementary. The last thing I want is a toy Santa.

Sincerely,
Dagen Lee

Dear Santa Claus,
How have you been this year? Has your elf on the shelf been good? This year I have been very, very good. Can I please have a peeka boo and a Leyton volleyball too. I really want a phone too. I hope your reindeer have been good too. (P.S. The elves better be good too.) I hope the people have been good too. I hope Rudolph is good too.

Your friend,
Josette McConnell

Dear Santa,
How are your reindeer doing? I want a real live fluffy pony. So does my mom. I really want a phone. I have been asking for this for a Long time. I hope you like my cookies so much. Do you want white milk or chocolate milk?

Love,
Carlyn

Dear Santa,
What are you bringing me for Christmas? I want a pee wee size football, Lego people, cowboy hat in black, cowboy belt, guitar, Snackeez cup, tall cowboy boots, fart gun, pop gun and pellet gun. I miss you. I am going to give you chocolate milk and chocolate chip cookies. Can I see Rudolph, Blitzen, Cupid, Dancer, Prancer, Dasher, and Donner?

Love,
Brayden

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and a Happy New Year!**



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Dear Santa Claus,
Would you like a present for Christmas? I will get you a picture. Next Year, will you make my Elf funny and naughty? I would like lots of Legos and army toys for Christmas. Have a good trip. I also want boots.
Love,
Alec Watchorn

Dear Santa Claus,
I hope you had a good year. I hope you love our cookies. What I would like is a Key board, a diffuser water bottle and a plain water bottle. I'm hoping for you to come to my house. I bet we'll have milk or hot chocolate. Charle our elf brought us hot chocolate and donuts, but dad didn't like them. I hope you have a good Christmas and a Happy New Year. I hope you like our Christmas tree?
Love,
Macey Roelle

Dear Santa,
I want cowboy boots, A helmet, Bronco football pants, orange and blue cleats, and Peyton Manning's jersey. Merry Christmas! I have been a good boy. I have three presents under the tree. I like the Broncos they are awesome. I remember the picture at the high school. Do you? I have 2 tickets right now. I want a rock kit. I will leave you some cookies and milk. I brought 10 cans of food for school and then my mom is going to bring 30 cans for school tomorrow.
Love,
Bodhi Grimes

Dear Santa,
How are you? For Christmas I would like to have more company, more plaid shirts, and some dresses. I also want Hotel Transylvania 2, an Elf on a Shelf, some more cross pants, Despicable Me 3, my own T.V. and a phone. I would also like my own kitchen. I wish I could see my dad more. I hope you like the cookies and decorations. Thank you.
Love,
Khemi

Dear Santa,
How are you? I'm good. What has Chippy been telling you? Have I been good or bad? I want flu flu arrows for my wooden bow. I hope you have a safe trip.
Love,
Kaleb

**Nicole Guth's
First Grade Class
South Elementary School**

Dear Santa,
May I please have a big blanket for me and my family? and may I please have a soft pillow?
Love,
Gracie

Dear Santa,
can you please get me a remote controlled jet. I hope my elf says that Im being good. I've ben good this year.
Love,
Kash

Dear Santa,
Can you please get a puppy for me? Oh and can you also get me a watch please? Please send an elf for me please?
Love,
Lucien

Dear Santa,
I would like a toy puppy please. I would also like some new pajamas please. I would also like some head bands please. I would also like a toy car please.
Love,
Charlotte

Dear Santa,
I would like Paw Patrol and an America flag and an elf and a please puppy. and a real reindeer.
Love,
Teagan

Dear Santaclaus,
I would like a dirt bike. Plees get me a SweatShirt under Armor.
Love,
Hayden

Dear santa,
Can you get me a WiiU? please. and can you get me a yflicker? please. and can you get me a remote controlled car? please.
Love,
Jack

dear santa
I wish to go home for my Christmas BiReday. I wish a bunch.
Love,
Dreama

Dear Santa,
Can you Plees, Plees get me a Pop Belly Pig and an elf on a shelf?
Love,
Madyson

Dear Santa,
I would like an airplane please. Can you please I would like it.
Love,
John

Dear santa,
Can you please get me a gymnastics suit. can you also get me a now puppy to. can you also get me a wheelchair with a cast that snaps together and this gos with the gymnastics suit its all the stuf that gymnastics kids hav.
from,
Kinley

Dear Santa,
Can you please get me a soft blanket with an elf? And some clothes with the elf?
Love,
Kody

Dear Santa,
Can you please get me a kite? Can you please get me a bird. Can you please get me a dress.
Love,
Emily

Dear Santa,
For Christmas I would really like an xbox 360 with minecraft, a drone with a camera, a under armour shirt. If you don't bring them that's ok.
Love,
Anderson Smelley

Dear Sants,
may I hpleas have a ninja suit and church suit? May I please have a trumpet and a tuba? May I also have a pair of head phones? and a x-box? and wii? elf on the shelf and under aremer sweatshirt.
Love,
Dan

**Kaela Cole's
Second Grade Class
South Elementary School**

Dear Santa Claus,
How is your reindeer? I have been good because I wasn't naughty this year. This year I would like a dirt bike, an ipod touch, and Minecraft on my ipad. How is Mrs. Claus. How are your elves. How are you Santa.
Love,
Tyler Fritz

Dear Santa,
Is it really cold in the North pole? My Elf on the shelf stays in the same place sometimes. Was he good up in the North pole? His name is Zeke. I am asking for a Dareway because I have been getting along with my sister and you do not know how hard that is! I have been getting along with both of my brothers.
Your good friend,
Lilee Wieser

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Have a Holly 
Jolly Christmas!

Dear Santa,
How is Mrs. Claus? I've been good because I have not been touching Ellie the Elf. This year I would like a Project Mc kit, Giant Monster high doll, Cabelas lake set, and a retro diner. Can't wait until Christmas.

Sincerely,
Brailey Martin

Dear Santa,
For christmas I want a i-Pad because I can learn to spend money for apps responsibly, take care of it, and so I can have my own i-Pad. I think I earned it by cleaning my room. I hope you come!

Sincerely,
Liam

Dear Santa,
How are you and Mrs. Claus doing? I've been good because I do my chores everyday. I would like shopkins because I like playing with them. Thank you for reading this paper. I'll leave you cookies, milk and reindeer food on the step.

your friend,
Aubrey Campbell

Dear santa,
How are you? I've been good because I have followed directions and because I have not been naughty at all. I do not touch my elf at all! This year I would like a crayon carver. doll teepee zoomer kitty, Retor diner, Pie face, and a baby doll.

Your friend,
Kiersten Black

Dear Santa Claus,
How is Blitzen? I think I deserve a present because I read with my mom. This year I would like a chrome Book if I can get one. I would like gray so I don't have to buy Games.

Your friend,
Keian Kaser

P.S. I can't wait for you to come!

Dear Santa Claus,
How are your rainders doing? I've been good because I've been helping my little sister clean her beed room because my mom said, would

you help her?" For christmas, I want an ipad so I can read on it thank you for reading this.

your Friend,
Kennedy Knoll

Dear Santa,
How is Mrs. Claus. I've been good becaues I'nd going to clean my room this year i would like a ps4 with Call of Duty Black Opps 3 becaues i do not play with my ps2 i will leave you cookies!

Sincerreely,
Isaiah Loena

Dear Santa Claus,
How is Rudolf? I've been a good listner in the morning. This year I would like a Super Nintendo 3Ds. because I think it would be fun. The other reason is I thought I could give my KindleFire to my mom but she got an iPad Mini for herself. I can't wait for you to come!

Sincerely,
Eli Hartman

Dear Santa,
How is the north Pole? I have been good because I have been not been bad at recess. I wunt minecraft in real life. Because you don't have to buy things you can just mine the stuff you need then you can make it.

Sincerly, Your friend
Matthew Valentine

Dear Santa,
How's Hank? I was good because I didn't yell at my siblings all year! This year I would like minecraft. One reason is it's fun. Another reason is I can bild a home A last reason is I can fight Zombies, critters, and skeletons.

Your friend,
Jack Rognon

Dear Santa,
I love Christmas. I've been good because I pay attention in reading and math. And i don't brag at games. I also do my work. this year I woud like a Power Rangers Jungle Fury the move. Have a good year. I missed you!

Sincerely,
Kayson Houser

Dear Santa,
How are You I've been good because I listen to my Mom everyday This year, I would like a dirtbike Because IT could Be fun and me and my friends fight over my bike. It would always stay at my Nana's house. Thank you for reading This letter.

Your friend,
Tristan Fischer

Dear Santa,
How are you doing? I've been helping my brother with his chores. This yaer I would like a new phone for christmas becase my old one didn't work eneymore. It's torture without one. and my mom, dad, and brother are tired of me using thirs.

Sincerely,
Casey Converse

Dear Santa Claus,
How is Mrs. Claus? I've been good this year. I always listen in the mornings. I really want PieFace because it's really fun. My second reason is that I like the spinning in it. My thir reason is that I like the splating in your face. I hope you come to my house.

Sincerely,
Amelia Mazour

**Anne Belieu's
Second Grade Class
South Elementary School**

Dear Santa,
How are you? How is Mrs. Claus? How is Ruedolph? How is his nose? I've been very good this year. I've donated money to the soldiers. I've cleaned the house. I've been quiet so my dad could sleep for night shift. I've helped kids when they fall on the playgrounds. I woud like a remote control monster trick, 6 days off of math except for facts and a bunch of legos. The whole series of "Diary of a Wimpy kid" books.

Lots of Love,
Brody Richards

Dear Santa,
How are you? How is Mr. Claus? I have been really good this year. I fed my hedghog Redgea I feed and water my dog Tootsie every morning and night. I would really like you to bring me a watch for Christmas please. Have a great trip!

Love,
Hanley

Dear Santa,
How are you? How is Mrs. Claus? How is the weather in the North Pole? I was a really good girl this year. I want Ninja swords for Christmas. I will give you milk and cookies and I will maKe your reindeer food too.

Love,
Emily Stutzman

Dear Santa,
How is Rudolph? Is his nose still glowing? I have been very good this year. I've cleaned my room, I made lots of pictures for my teachers. I would really like you to bring me a Monster High school, cloths, shoes, and art set. I will make cookies and milk for you. Merry Christmas Santa Claus!

Sincerely,
Milla Panduro

Dear Santa Claus,
How are you? How is Mrs. Claus doing? How's the weather? I been very good this year. I helped with the dog. I helped with my sister, the dishes, putting up a TV. in the garage, picking out two of my sister's birthday presents, trying to col-laborate, and making a few deals. i would really like my own ipad, phone, or computer please. I am 6 and I will turn 7 on December 15, 2015. I would also like some stickers please. Could I have a jewlary kit with no earrings for nose or ear please? Could I have an American Girl Doll please? I love reading, so could I have a few books please? Could I have a stuffed animal Orca/Killer Whale please? Do you know if elves are real? Could I have pad of sticky notes please? Please write back.

Your Friend,
Maiya Christine Wagner

Merry Christmas!

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Dear Santa,
How are you? What does Rudolph eat? I have been very good this year. I was a cub-scout and I donated food to the people who didn't have any. I love Christmas! How many times have you delivered presents? I would really like you to bring me a 3Ds with Super Mario Bros 2 and a DS with new Super Mario Bros DS please!

Love,
Evan Hrbek

Dear Santa,
How are you? How are the reindeers? I have been very good this year. I taught my little brother stuff. I fix my dad's bed when he tells me to. I would really like you to get me a lego set and a snow globe. Have a nice trip!

Merry Christmas,
Fernando Bello

Dear Santa,
How are you? Is your bedroom red and green? How many elves do you have? I've taken out the trash. I haven't fought with my sister. How's the weather in the North Pole? How's Mrs. Claus? I sometimes feed my dog and give treats to my big dog! Can I have a camo xbox one controller? Can I have a camo hat please? Have a Merry Christmas!

Love,
Jordan Stimka

Dear Santa,
How are you? How is Mrs. Claus? I have been very good this year. I helped mom do the Christmas tree and lights. How is the weather doing in the North Pole? How do you get an Elf on the shelf? My dog likes to play. She is getting sorta fat. Does Rudolph still have a red shining nose? Is Rudolph still the leader? I want a Garmin, Legos, catchers' gear. I will have bread and milk waiting for you.

Love,
AleK Doty

Dear Santa,
I hope that you are doing well. I have been good this year. May I please have Sky Lander super-charger for Christmas?

From,
Tavin Broughton

Dear Santa,
How are you? How is Mrs. Claus? Do you really have elves? I've been really good this year. I was ice to my friend. I would really like you to get me nail polish, Barbies, an iPod, and a xbox 360. I'll leave your reindeer carrots and you some cookies!

Love,
Bryn Jones

Dear Santa,
How is Mrs. Claus? I have been very good this year. I've helped my sister clean her room. I've helped my brother get what he needs, and I helped clean. I want you to bring me a Exploding TNT plushie, clothes, and a new 3DSXL.

Have a good trip,
Noel Onate

Dear Santa,
How are you? How is Rudolph? I have been very good this year. I kept my room clean for a week and gave presents to my cousins for our early Christmas. I gave presents to my cousins for our early Christmas. I gave them books. I'm like you, I like to give. Are you ready yet? I would REALLY appreciate if you would bring me the 250 piece crazy art, artset and a eyeshadow kit. Have a great trip. I'll leave you homemade cookies and milk.

Love,
Kennedy Hobson

Dear Santa,
How is Mrs. Claus? Is it cold in the North pole? I've been really good this year. I've listen to my teachers. Am I on the naughty list? Is it cool to be Santa? Can I have a few lego star wars sets. At my real moms house. I believe in you. I need you badly. By the way I am in second grade it's fun. I'm really funny!

From,
Aidan McCormick

Dear Santa,
How are you? What is the wether like in the North Pole? I've tried to be good this year. What I've done to deserve my presents is, I've picked up Charlie my dog's poop and kept my room clean all summer. You probably already got my letter, but this is what I want is a really pretty Barbie.

Merry Christmas.
Avery Hill
P.S. Have a safe trip!

Dear Santa,
How are you? How is Mrs. Claus? I have been very good this year. I helped clean the house. I

helped fold socks. I've been nice to my brothers. I would really like you to bring me and my brothers a new Wii. A new "Mario" game an new "Just Dance" game.

Love,
Rayah Wolff

Dear Santa,
How are you? How's the wether in the North Pole? I have been very good this year. I rubbed my dad's and mom's back for a long time. I gave my fish to my brother. I would really like you to bring a new tablet with youtube, and lots of apps. A stuffed animal too. Have a great trip. I'll leave you food for you and your reindeer.

Love,
Shaun Elmshouser

First Grade students South Elementary School

Dear Santa,
When do you deliver Christmas presents! how many elves do you have. How many cookies do mis. Claus make for you! Can you get me any Christmas presents!

Aubrey

Dear Santa,
How many raindeer do you have? and Santa I want to cum to My haoS and I Want to give a present to You and I Want a bouncy ball.

Kierra

Dear Santa,
How many elves do you have? How many reindeers? How many toys? I Want a drone and I want a tractor helicopter.

Luke

Dear Santa,
How many raindeer do you have? How do your raindeer fly? How many elves do you have? For Christmas I want a piano, horse, guitar, drone, tractor, helicopter.

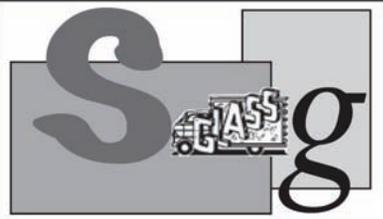
from,
Sara Allard

Merry Christmas!

Brooke DeNovellis
Agent




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Dear Santa,
How many reindeers do you have? How many elves do you have? How do you get on the ground? Could you givf me a drome for christmas! Can you givf me a bike.

Thank you, ho ho ho
Kale

Dear Santa,
How many are you? How many reindeer do you have? I want a pocket knife.

Evan Poggenklass

Dear Santa,
What are you going to get me for chistmas Santa? I Love you Santa so so so so so much. I whant for christmas an Ice chreme maker.

Joseph

Dear Santa,
When will I get my spy stuff? Can it be quick? Will it be that?

From,
Kyle

Dear Santa,
How many reindeer do you have? And what do you feed them? Santa, do you remember me? If you dot my name is Laurel. Did you like my cookies last Christmas? I love you Santa.

Laurel

Dear Santa,
How many elves do you have? How do your reindeers fly? I want a playdough set.

Katie

Dear Santa,
How many elves do you have? How do you get in homes? How do you get to all of the towns? I wish I can have some make up?

Jaici

Dear Santa,
What do you reindeers eat? what are you going to get me from Christmas? How much elves do you have? I would like a kitchen set.

Laurie

Dear Santa,
How many reindeer do you have? How can your reindeer fly? How can you fet down chimneys? I wat makup.

From,
Melody

Dear Santa,
How many toys do you have? How many elves do you have? How many reindeer Do you have?

Logan

Dear Santa,
How many reindeer do you have? How many elves do you have? How many toys are you gany give me? Can you Pless give me a real horse?

Madison

Second Grade students South Elementary School

Dear Santa,
For Christmas, I would like two kittens, minecraft Lego sets, Xbox 360 games, and a new es2. How are you reindeer? Merry Christmas Santa!

Paul

Dear Santa
For Christmas, I would like a us marine mini gun so I can have an airsoft war with my brother. I would also like a toy gun because my brother threw a basketball at me and I doped my gun. It broke the front of my gun, but it still workes. I want gloves that have sqaure grips on them I would also like Halo 5 it looks awesome. Merry Christmas!

Braylon

Dear Santa,
I would like big earrings for christmas. I want it because they are pretty. I like Christmas. We get presents and toys and a candy cane in our stockings. I like puting up my Christmas tree. We decorate it and our house. We put a pretty angel or star on top of the Christmas tree. Merry Christmas Santa!

Sierra

Dear Santa,
How are you Elfs? How are your reindeer? I will like a pool table please. I want a Hot wheels car. I want a Thomas the train. A new Wiiu game please. Also a book. Merry Christmas Santa!

Parker

Dear Santa,
For christmas, I would like a Barbie house with an elevator. How are the reindeer, doing? Mrs. Claus, and the elves I hope you have a Merry Christmas.

From,
Reece

Dear Santa,
How are your Elfs? How are your reindeer? I hoep you have a good Christmas. Merry Christmas Santa and Mrs. Claus. For Christmas I would like to have big earrings.

Katelyn

Dear Santa,
For christmas, I would like to know why do we get presents when it is Jesus's birthday. I want an American Girl doll house for chirstmas. I also want Lego sets. I really want a golden doodle puppy too. Merry Christmas Santa!

Cali

Dear Santa,
For Christmas I would like some more needles and yarn for crocheting and I would also like a bike. How are the elfs? Is Mrs. Claus ready for Christmas? I wish you a great christmas!

Mercedes

Dear Santa,
For Christmas, I would like tohave an Ipad. How are your reindeer? I also want a football. How are your elfs? Merry Christmas Santa.

Austin

Dear Santa,
For Christmas, I would like a zoomer zuppy named Diamond. I would also like a Puppy Place books. Merry Christmas Santa.

Brooklyn

Dear Santa,
I would like a Redfit bit Charge because I want to exercize and a LG Charger because my phone is dead. That is what I want for Christmas and have a happy Christmas Santa and give Buddy a good thing.

Max Green

Dear Santa,
For Christmas I would like A princess babby doll and I would like a set of Orbeez crush. I would also like the barbie pop up camper and a new Eleenant toy. Merry Christmas!

Adeline Elder

Dear Santa,
For Christmas, I would like for my family to have a good Christmas. I also want all of my family to spend Christmas together. I hope that when we move it will not be hard. I also hope my family has a good life.

Addyson Stutzman

Dear Santa,
For Christmas, I would like some baby clothes for my baby doll and I would like clothes for me. What gives you your magic? Do the reindeer stay at your house? Merry Christmas!

Olivia Ford

Dear Santa,
For Christmas, I would like a puppy. Also a new bike. and a American Girl doll. Santa how are you? Santa how are your reindeer? Also I would like a kindle fire with a neon green case. Merry christmas Santa.

Nora Kanz

Dear Santa,
For Christmas, I would like a German Shepard, Phone, tablet, a new house, and a new walter bottle. How is Mrs. Claus doing? I would like some magnet earings too. I also would like a new volleyball. Merry Christmas Santa! I would also like a computer.

Makenah

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South Elementary School students

Dere Santa,
Do you get a presens? Do your reigndee rly?
I want another ipad. I want a tire for my motor-cycle. I am good at school. I am good home.
Greyson

Dear Santa,
Do elves really come alive? I want an easy bake oven and an easy bake mixer for Christmas! My sister want a cleaning set!
Grace

Dear Santa,
Why do the elvevs do all the work? I want a Razor kick shcooter. Grace wants ultra rare Shopkins I am good at jump rope.

Love,
Ava

Dear Santa,
Do you want a present? I want a Dinsor Gun and a double dinasour helecoptr. hot wheels and a race track. I an good at Legos.

Love,
Tyler

Dear Santa,
Dear Santa,
I wont a D.S. with games on it. My sister want-saa fake horse.

Love,
Angel

Dear Santa,
Why do the elves do all of the work? What I want for Christmas is a computer. My mom want and iphone Generation 6. I am good at soccer.

Love,
Aaron

Dear Santa,
How is Mis. Clause? I want my famil. My mom wants a vase. I am good at games.

Love,
Ashlynn

Dear Santa,
Do you go around the world? I want a toy Santa that SpedBa2. I am good at games.
Love,
Michael

Dear Santa,
Do you like Christmas? I want a different phone. I am good at playing games.

Love,
Mason

Dear Santa,
How is Mrs. Clause? I want a bike for Christmas. my brothr want's a Tv. I'm good at school.

Love,
Valerie

Dear Santa,
Do you live at the North Pole? I want an American Girl Doll. I am good at running. My brother wants a new John Dear.

Love,
Carmen

Dear Santa,
Do elves play? I want Frozen.

Love,
Kaydence

Dear Santa,
Do reigndeer really fly I Want Max Steel Video games. My mom Wants. make up I am good at soccer.

Love,
Franklin

Dear Santa,
Do elves fly? I want a blue bouncy ball for Christmas? I am good at school.

Love,
Mario

Dear Santa,
Do you get all around the world? I want a music box my mom wanta a gift too.

Love,
Kyndal

Dear Santa,
How is Mrs Clause? I want a P.C. My brother wants a P.C. I am good at games.
Love,
Connor

Dear Santa,
Do you go around the world I want a army set and a train set My Brothers wants a tablet.

Love,
Zach

South Elementary School students

Dear Santa,
Hi Santa. Im turning 8 on February 12, 2015! I've been really good this year. I heped my mom clean the house and I helped her move stuff into my new house. What I would like for Christmas is beats, an iPod, a new puppy, and a laptop. I would like you to get my sister a laptop and a puppy.

A really good kid,
Katie Dowse

Dear Santa,
Hi Santa, how are you doing? I am going to turn 9 in June. Santa, can you get me a puppy? And can you get me LPS to? Can you get my little sister, Jenna, a drum? And can you get my other Sister, Bee a new car? And can you get my other sister Candra a new car to?

Your favorit kid,
Vanessa

Dear Santa,
Hi Santa, how are you doing I'm going to turn 9 next year. For Christmas toys I want two black horses. Can you get my brother a toy horse I gave a coplmet to my friend.

A great kid,
Katelynn

Dear Samta,
I have been good this year. I have cleaned my room. I want a computer. Matthew wants a remote control car. You are a good man.

From,
Korbin

Dear Santa,
How are you doing? I turned 8 this year. I would really like pokemon for Christmas. Santa, I took out the trash. Santa, can you bring my sister Ellie a doll?

A really great kid,
Elijah

Hi Santa!
My birthday is May 12. I want calico critters, Monster High, and lots of candy. Could you get my sister a stuffed animal, a water bottle, and a Santa book? Could you get my mom a new computer? Could you get my dad a back scratcher?

A good kid,
Callie

Dear Santa,
Hi Santa! I am turning 8 next year. I have been really good this year. I really want the new easy oven baking toy for Christmas this year. I really want a new phone and I really, really want a new bike and a new hat and gloves for Christmas. Will you get me new pots and pans for Christmas? And an apron for Christmas? And a new dog bone for my dog?

A really good kid,
Sandra

Dear Santa,
Hi Santa, how are you doing? I am going to turn 9 in June. Santa, can you get me a puppy? And can you get me LPS to? Can you get my little sister, Jenna, a drum? And can you get my other Sister, Bee a new car? And can you get my other sister Candra a new car to?

Your favorit kid,
Vanessa

Dear Santa,
Hi Santa! I am turning 9 on 10-2-16. I have been relly, relly good this year. i have help my sister and my brother clean our room. Can you get my baby cousin Anna a baby toy? Can you get me a little live pet?

Your favorite kid,
Amari

Dear Santa,
How are you doing? I do not know if I am on you good list. If I am, I want something very expensive. it is a volcano, ballerina shoes, a fake phone and an American Girl doll bed for Christmas. Can you also send me an Elf too, Santa?

Your kid,
Isabella

Dear Santa,
Hi Santa! I'm 7 years old. For Christmas I want an American Girl, a diary, Owl Diaries books, and a computer. Can you get my mom some lotion? Can you get Taylor a phone? And can you get my little sister dolls? And can you get Maison a new phone case? And can you get my dad a new set of head phones?

Sincerely,
Rylee

Dear Santa,
How are you doing? Thank you for doing this holiday. Thank you for delivering the presents. Can I have cool socks, cool jogging pants and cool long sleeve shirts? I have helped. My mom wants a new vacuum for Christmas.

A good kid,
Zechariah

Dear Santa,
How are you doing? I'm turning 8 next year. I have helped my mom decorate the tree, bake cookies, and look for cars when we go to school. I want you to bring me a toy car, a wubble bubble ball, a Barbie doll, and new dresses please.

Yours Truly,
Gracie Lefferts

Dear Santa,
HOw are you doing? I just turned 7 years old this year. I helped dad vaccuum, wash dishes, and make his bed. What I want for Christmas is a Hot Wheels race track And a binder. Santa, can you get my dog Molly some dog treats?

Sincerely,
Jakob

Dear Santa,
How are you doing? I turned 7 years old this year. I have been nice all year. I would really want a new TV, new computer, and all of the Avengers Lego sets for Christmas. I have done the dishes and cleaned my room this year. Could you bring some dog treats for my dog, Angel?

A really great kid,
Logan

Dear Santa,
How are you doing? I Just turned 7 Like a week ago. I would like Lego Dimensions for Christmas. Would you also bring my Dad a computer? I have been really good, Because I help clean. Send me a note back, please.

A good kid,
Joshua

Dear Santa,
How are you doing? I'm going to be 8 this month. Are you happy? You are a good man. I like you. You are handsome to me. I would also like you to bring my sister a Paw patrol kit.

A really great kid,
Alexandria

Dear Santa,
I hope that you and the elves are doing well. I have been good this year. May I please have a sled that you make it for Christmas? I hope that you make it. And I love you Santa.

From,
Aubree Roberts

Dear Santa,
I hope that you and Rudolph are doing well. I have been good this year. May I please have an arrow for Christmas?

From,
Levi

Deanna Aurich's First Grade Class South Elementary School

Dear Santa,
Can you please bring me a toy puppy please and a Barbie please. I like you Santa.

Sincerely,
Harshini Pemmaraju

Dear Santa,
I wander how your Christmas is Santa. Santa I want a new ipad please.

Sincerely,
Mason Marks

Dear Santa,
Hi Santa, how are you? P.S. all I what is some new shoes please and a new ipad screen and may I please have a trampoline for me and my sister? PS Have a good trip and have a merry Christmas! Rylan Misegadis

Dear Santa,
Can you please get me a Police legos? and a lego trast set. How have your reindeer ben doing.
Sincerely,
Barrett Wiegand

Dear Santa,
How do you get to all of the kids all around the earth? Please can you bring me a toy named Trouble? Have a nice time.

Sincerely,
Siris Molina

Dear Santa,
I hope that you and the reindeer are doing well. I have been good this year. May I please have a toy horse that neighs. for Christmas? Merry Christmas to you!

From,
Kailyn Havorka

Dear Santa,
I would like a tablet and a T.V. please. have a safe trip.
Sincerely,
Shayde Sick

Dear Santa,
have a mary Christmas! Can I please have a pet rabbit, books, a stuffed anamal, and school supplies. And American Girl clothes ana pet. Thank you!
Sincerely,
Desi Farner

Dear Santa,
Santa I love You and I Want a RoBot and a toy deer, new shoes, and a IPad. Merry Christmas and Have a Safe trip.

Sincerely,
Zane Wix

Dear Santa,
I hope that you and the reindeer are doing well. I have been good this year. May I please have ipad with games for Christmas? Merry Christmas to you!
From,
Joseph Feather

Dear Santa,
I know you are not real and I am sad. can you please let me have a ipad thank you.
Sincerely,
Easton Manke

Dear Santa,
What do your raindeer do in the summer? Can I plees have a emerald.

Sincerely,
Evan Edwards

Dear Santa,
I believe in you can I please have a Monster High dolls, Beetles crush trampoline, Wubble bubble ball, Barbie doll, camera hav a merry Christmas.

Sincerely,
Keira Davis

Dear Santa,
Have a good Christmas. Could I have a snow globe and a Skyvipet? please can I have 10000 dollar\$

Sincerely,
Parker Dickman

Dear Santa,
How did you been I want a trampoline, I want new tenes, I want skylanders, I want the wii, I want a bunny, I want a Wubbll bubbl, I want a cat, I want a glob.

Sincerely,
Jamisyn Gusman

Dear Santa,
I want a make up set please. You are the Best.

Sincerely,
Serenity Herrera

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Have a Happy New Year!

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Dear Santa,
Why does Rudolph Have a Red Nose? Santa Claus can I have please have a ipad and can I have a Robot cat and can I Have a rainbow colored camera? Have a nice trip!

Sincerely
Maddie Kepler

Dear Santa,
I believe n you and I try to be good. And have a safe trip to sidney this christmas and I wont quixele for Christmas.

Sincerely,
Kellan Mathine

South Elementary School students

Dear Santa,
I turned 8 years old this year, and I have been very good. I even take out the trash! I would like a 100 homework passes. Please also bring a bone for my dog.

From,
Gage Ernst

Dear Santa,
I turned 6 years old this year, and I have been very good. I eve did the dog food each day of the week! I would like a Barbie doll, Legos American girl doll and a collection of R2D2. Please also bring a horse for my sister.

From,
Madison

Dear Santa,
I turned 7 years old this year, and I have been very good. I even stood up for my brother. I would like a tablet, legos, mortal combat. Please also bring a car for my mom.

From,
Omar

Dear Santa,
I turned 7 years old this year, and I have been very Good. I even Gave my dog's water and food every Day! I would like a iphone 6, ipad, candle

and cluppet. Please also bring elf on a shelf for my slefe.

From,
Jaslynn Hotes

Dear Santa,
I turned 7 years old this year, and I have been very good. I eve did do the dog food every day of the week. I would like a balare doll, lageos, and mare Kindoll and a hool cleashenof art odeto. Please also bring a elf for my mom.

From,
Madison

Dear Santa,
I turned 8 years old this year, and I have been very good. I even make my bed. I would like a R2-D2, and R2-D2 bubble machine, and DDBB-8. Please also bring a hotweels for my silfs.

From,
Ryker Hanley

Dear Santa,
I turned 7 years old this year, and I have been very good. I even ben nice to My mom! I would like som money for my mom, som money for my Gramy, som money for MY Dad and som money for MY sister. Please also bring som money for My Aunt.

From,
Madi

Dear Santa,
I turned 8 years old this year, and I have been very good. I even pulled out the trash! I would like a iphone6, hoverbord, NEFT Gugs, and starware's. Please also bring a starware's movie for my brother.

From,
Ben

Dear Santa,
I turned 7 years old this year, and I have been very good. I evern water the tree every day. I would like a ornament, insideout, balloons, and books. Please also bring a megablocks for my sister.

From,
Ella

Dear Santa,
I turned 7 years old this year, and I have been very good. I even have a wish Santa! I would like a pup, ipad, phone, and \$100.00 money. Please also bring a dog is a golden retriever for my birthday.

From,
Naomi

Dear Santa,
I turned 7 years old this year, and I have been very good. I even give the pets food! I would like a macherupers, domisrex, electric gitar and phone. Please also bring a tool for my dad.

From,
Sebastian

Dear Santa,
I turned 7 years old this year, and I have been very good. I even helped clen the londre! I would like a minecraft 3, walking dead, elf, and money. Please also bring a dog for my mom.

From,
Haili

Dear Santa,
I turned 7 years old this year, and I have been very good. I even helped with the Christmas tree! I would like a toy Zoo, toy Eagle, toy Fox, and toy fishing man. Please also bring a house for my Fish.

From,
Coy

Dear Santa,
I turned 7 years old this year, and I have been very good. I even help mommy and DaDDy! i would like a puppy, toy elf, and i-phone. Please also bring a new books for my mom.

From,
Lilly

Dear Santa,
I hope that you and Mrs. Clause are doing well. I have been good this year. May I please have monster High School for Christmas? house.

From,
Chloe

Bev Davis's Kindergarten Class Peetz Elementary School

Dear Santa,
Can I please have a robot Kitty for Christmas!
MacKenzy

Dear Santa,
Can I please have a unicorn stuffed animal for Christmas.
Nataleigh

Dear Santa,
Can I please have some puddy and a pirate sword for Christmas.
Jesse

Dear Santa,
Can I please have some Shopkins for Christmas.
Janda

Dear Santa,
Can I please have a unicorn toy for Christmas?
Avery

Dear Santa,
Can I please have a green T-Rex stuffed animal for Christmas!
Parker

Dear Santa,
Can I please have some Ninjago Legos for Christmas?
Colton

Dear Santa,
Can I please have a T-Rex Tracker for Christmas.
Garrett

Dear Santa,
Can I please have a Batman toy for Christmas.
Josiah

Dear Santa,
Can I please have some roller skates for Christmas.
Aurora

Wishing everyone a

**MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A
HEALTHY NEW YEAR!**



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**Carole Deluca's
Second Grade Class
Peetz Elementary School**

Dear Santa,
Christmas is my favorite holiday. I ant an Ipad and TRex and awesome mesaging chat, I want a beautiful headphones set. I want an awe-some phone and a bow and arrow. I also want a Monoply game and Pop the Pig. Last, I want WWF wrestlers.
Your friend,
Logan

Dear Santa,
How are you doing. I wish you could get me silly string and legos. I would like a remote control car with the movie Avatar. Would you please give me an Xbox, candy, bow and arrow, Hammer, sword, ax, and Ipod.
Your friend,
Sam

Dear Santa,
How are you and Mrs. Claus doing? For Christmas I would like a toy girl car and a stuffed animal. I would also like a big stuffed Mrs. Claus and Santa, and a toy cat.
Love,
T'Lela

Dear Santa,
How is winter? How are the reindeer? I would like a mini lab. The robot cat is my top toy. I would also like a chocolate pen. Puppies so cute! I want a puppy for Christmas.
Love,
Emily

Dear Santa,
How are you doing? How is mrs. Claws doing. I definitely want money for a Xbox 3, and my dog would like more dog toys. I would like a WiiU. To go with this, I would like some some sonic games. Please.
Your pal,
Jakob

Dear Santa,
How is it up in the North Pole with Rudolf the Red Nosed Reindeer? I would like some Star Wars Legos, and a real phone. And I want a basketball hoop and a basket ball, and a real BB gun. Also I want a real bow and arrow an outside swimming pool, and a real Star Wars ship.

Love,
Joseph

Dear Santa,
Christmas is my favorite holiday. I have been good this year. May I have an I-pod also a mouth guard. I also want a watch and spy gear. Thats not all! I want a Peetz helmet and new arrows, and my own desk, clothes, cowboy stuff, and an animal collection with animal pictures. My sister wants an elf just for her. Also, a bean bag.

Dear Santa,
How are you and Mrs. Claus? For Christmas I would like a set of gymnastics bars and a trampoline. I would also like a stuffed husky with lots of colors. It would be nice to have another puppy surprise. At Justcie theres a pillow and neclaks with an A on it. Then I would also like the palace pets Treasure,

Dear Santa,
Christmas is my favorite holiday ever! I would like a beam, bars, busy bees chart, 10 busy bees, Judy clock, all Rainbow magic books, an American flag, another Ipad, box of school supplies, American girl doll stuff, Franklin speller, a blue and green beanbag, 10 name tags, pet vet stuff, Toys R us stuff, 10 desks, and a chalk board.



**Stephanie Behrend's
First Grade Class
Creek Valley
Elementary School**

Dear Santa,
For Christmas I would like a Barbie, a doll, and a baby.
Love,
Alyssa

Dear Santa,
For Christmas I would like leopard gloves.
Thank you.
Love,
Carissa

Dear Santa,
For christmas i would like a toy piano. How is mrs. claus?
Love,
Skyler

Dear Santa,
For Christmas I would like to no if your raindeer are feeling good. I would like a saddle. I love you Santa because you are the best.
From,
Paisley

Dear Santa,
For Chrismas I would like Halo and Doominator and my own tv.
Love,
Mitch

Dear Santa,
For Christmas I would like a bike and an American doll
Love,
Brook

Dear Santa,
For Christmas, I would like Legos and mine-craft.
Love,
Luke

Dear Santa,
For Christmas, I would like a mini holler. is Rudolph flying tonight?
Love,
Charlie

Dear Santa,
For Christmas I would like minecraft and pacasaurus. How is rudof doing Santa?
Love,
Jacob

Dear Santa,
for Christmas I would like a toy unicorn, How are the raindeer dweing, Santa? How id Rudolph doing? Santa.
Love, Catherine

Dear Santa,
For Christmas I would like legos.
Love,
Thayme

Dear Santa,
for Christmas I would like halo4 and Lego star wars (a medium set) and the movie one.
Love,
Mason

Dear Santa,
For Christmas I would like minecraft, legos and a grunt toy and halo. I Love you.
Love,
Kyzer

Dear Santa,
For Christmas I would like a silocone baby and a real carrier and a stroller. How are the reindeer? and baby clothes.
Love,
Lexi

Dear Santa,
For Christmas, I would like imagniex people, batman, remote control airplane and car and hot chocolate and sandy.
Love,
Thomas

*We wish you a very
Merry Christmas!*



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**A'Lisa Mueller's
Second Grade Class
Creek Valley
Elementary School**

Dear santa,
how do you get all the way around the world?
I want a nerf rebell gun, rocket fishing rod,
money, tablat, minecraft with controlers, eresibel
markers, erasible pen, a happy christmas, a long
and large pencil, a rock polisher, X box, and an
elf on the shelf.

love,
Rebecca

Dear Santa,
I want an iPad and books and a doll.
Love,
Rayven

Dear Santa,
can you please get me a stuff animal? can you
please tell your raindeer that i Love them. can
you get me a tablet. How do you make your
reindeer fly?

Love,
Jeryn

Dear Santa,
How do you make your reindeer fly? I want a
zoomer kitty zoomer and an elf Lego. u are so
kool. I want the movie Monster high Boo York
Boo York the musicle.

Love,
Kyndi

Dear sata,
I want a 3dsxl with aze/d, and a super smash
brothers 3ds nerf gun, xbox 360 with minecraft,
computer and a zeldo book.
please, that you

To Santa
I want an xbox with minecraft with controlers
From,
Hunter

Dear Santa,
how do you get all over the world in one day.
I can remeber what I got from you, I got a blan-
ket. I would like from you this year, A ice cream
machine from you. Santa will you pleas put it in
my stoking pleas a water botol.

Love,
Jillian

Dear Santa,
hi, it is me agian. thank you fore the com-
ments on satuday in y stocking. i whont a littl doll
house baby boy and an ipod whith a olof droger
and a case of olof.

Emmalyn

Dear Santa,
I want to know were my elf is, I want some
icescats, rollorscats, and a tablet.

Love,
Neala

Dear Santa,
I wold like a helcopte, remot track, nerf
gun, catapult, Xbox controller, Minecraft, rock
polisher.

thank you,
Mason

Dear Santa,
I would really want the Deadlux monster high
school. And I want to thank you for giving me all
of the gifts that you gave me. and I forgot I want
A new American Doll to pleas.

Love,
Eireson

Dear Santa,
I would like a elft on the shelf and a karaoke
machine for Christmas and a few other things.
Why does Rudolph born with a red nose?

Love,
Frankie

Dear Santa,
I want a airhog and ipad. how are u doing
Santa.

Treor

Dear Santa,
I Want A Xbox and gatar and a minecraft Legos
and a Stuffed anamal munke and a nerF gun. I
want a cash rejester. I want a medel detector. I
want a tablet, eraseabel marker.

Love,
Ben

To Santa,
can I have cowboy boots, a cowboy had, an
iphone, an xbox one with minecraft, cool cars,
gum, coten candy maker, Neft funs, and Kindle
fire 6.

From
Zander

Merry Christmas
From our Wolf Auto Sidney
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**Merry Christmas
& Happy New Year!**

**From: Your friends at
The Sidney Sun-Telegraph**

Merry Christmas to you all!

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Emergency supplies for surprise visits

You have an unexpected encounter with old university friends who'd love to see your new home. Your in-laws call to let you know they'll be flying in today instead of Monday. Your partner has invited all the members of his hockey team over and he forgot to let you know.

You'd better be prepared for these not-so-improbable scenarios! Christmas is a time of year when surprise visits may happen at any moment, and that's why it's so important to always be stocked up on emergency supplies, just in case.

Here are some ideas for your stock of supplies:

- A few bottles of wine (red, white and rosé)
- Two different types of beer, with a few bottles of each keeping nice and cool in the fridge
- Fresh fruits and vegetables for making a fast fruit salad or veggies and dip
- Juices for the children
- Folding chairs
- An ashtray for smokers
- Crackers and cheeses
- Everything required to prepare the most popular cocktails (vodka, rum, tequila, gin, curacao, Baileys, fruit juice, citrus fruits, Maraschino cherries, a shaker, glasses, ice cubes, etc.)
- Mineral water or pop for those who don't drink alcohol
- A selection of coffees (with and without caffeine), teas and herbal teas, not forgetting milk, cream, and sugar
- Frozen dishes, especially hors d'oeuvres and other appetizers
- Paper napkins in sufficient quantities
- A handy source of music (CD or MP3 player, etc.)
- Packs of cards, board and video games
- And, last but not least, your welcoming smile!

You'd better stock up on emergency supplies just in case, because Christmas is a time of year when surprise visits may happen at any moment!



PHOTO: CHRISTOPHER ROBBINS / THINKSTOCK

The 10 Christmas commandments

1. THOU SHALT NOT GO TO MORE THAN ONE PARTY PER DAY

Are you as busy as Santa Claus over the holidays? Be careful not to wear yourself out. Learn to say "no" and only accept invitations to parties you really want to go to.

2. THOU SHALT REFUSE THIRD HELPINGS

Your taste buds might think they've gone to heaven but don't let holiday buffets be an excuse for overeating. If you need to loosen your belt, stop eating!

3. THOU SHALT LIMIT YOUR ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION

Is your glass being refilled before it's even empty? It's your responsibility to keep an eye on your alcohol intake. Have a great evening but don't lose control.

4. THOU SHALT BE YOURSELF

If you hate the thought of wearing a tie or high heels, then don't. Leave high fashion to others; being comfortable will only increase your enjoyment of the time spent with friends.

5. THOU SHALT RESPECT YOUR BUDGET

Do you love spoiling your loved ones? Just be careful to respect your holiday budget and use your credit card sparingly.

6. THOU SHALT AVOID ARGUMENTS

Avoid talking about politics, money, and religion during the festivities. Be ready to compromise when disagreement arises.

7. THOU SHALT MAKE SOME TIME FOR YOURSELF

Don't forget to take a break from the holiday frenzy. Make some time for yourself — just for yourself.

8. THOU SHALT GIVE TO OTHERS

Because this time of year is all about being generous, make the most of it to help a friend or volunteer for a local organization.

9. THOU SHALT BE CAREFUL ON THE ROADS

Don't drive in questionable weather or poor road conditions or if you are overtired or have had one glass too many. Take a taxi or accept an invitation to sleep in a spare bedroom.

10. THOU SHALT HAVE FUN

Say "yes" to fun and forget about stress. Let yourself enjoy the best of the season, including gatherings with family or friends.

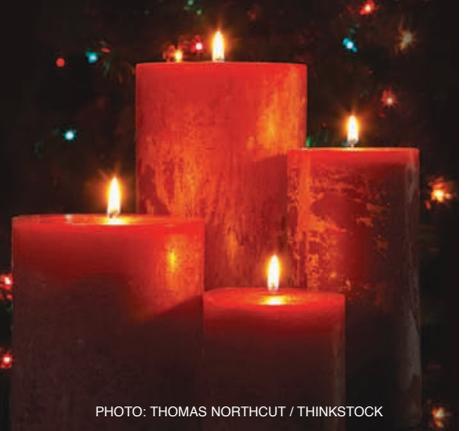


PHOTO: THOMAS NORTHCUT / THINKSTOCK



Merry Christmas

and have a

Happy New Year!



Premier

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NATALIE JOBMAN

Loan Officer

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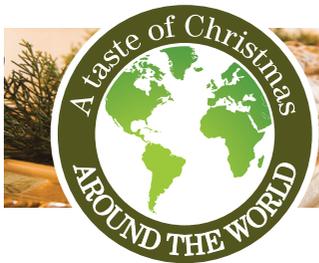
Office: (308) 203-1215

Fax: (888) 687-0706

Natalie.Jobman@phm.net

1108 10th Avenue, Suite 3

Sidney, NE 69162



Christmas MENU



Pork Loin with Prune Stuffing

INGREDIENTS

- 3 lb cured or smoked pork loin
- 18 ready-to-eat prunes, finely chopped
- 3 tbsp apple juice or water
- 1 1/2 cups day-old gingersnap crumbs
- 3 cardamom pods
- 1 tbsp sunflower oil

- 1 onion, chopped
- 1 cup dry red wine
- 1 Tbsp soft dark brown sugar
- salt and freshly ground black pepper
- plus butter-sautéed stoned prunes, apple, and leek slices and steamed green cabbage, to serve

PREPARATION

1. Preheat the oven to 450°F. Put the pork, fat side down, on a board. Make a cut about 3 cm (1 1/4") deep along the length to within 1 cm (1/2") of the ends, then make 2 deep cuts to its left and right, to create 2 pockets in the meat.
2. Put the prunes in a bowl. Spoon over the apple juice or water, then add the cookie crumbs. Remove the cardamom seeds from their pods and crush using a mortar and pestle or on a board, with the end of a rolling pin. Add to the bowl with salt and pepper. Mix well.
3. Stuff mixture into the pockets in the meat.
4. Tie the pork loin at regular intervals with string. Heat the oil in a roasting pan set on the stove and brown the roast over a high heat. Remove the meat and set aside.
5. Add the chopped onion to the pan and fry for 10 minutes, until golden. Return the pork to the pan, pour in the wine, and add the sugar and seasoning.
6. Roast for 10 minutes, then reduce the oven temperature to 350°F and roast, uncovered, for another 1 hour and 50 minutes, or until cooked and golden brown.
7. Remove the roast from the pan and keep warm. Strain the meat juices through a sieve into a pan and simmer for 10 minutes, until slightly reduced. Carve the pork and serve with the sauce separately, accompanied by steamed green cabbage as well as stoned prunes, apple, and leek slices sautéed in butter.



SERVES 4

Recipe and photo: *Classic German Cookbook (Southwater/Anness Publishing Ltd.)*

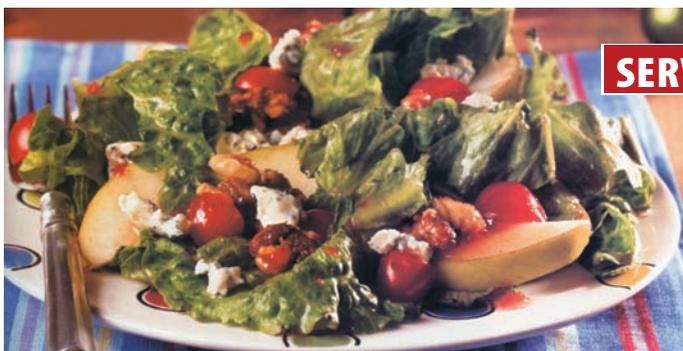
Roasted Walnut and Pear Salad

INGREDIENTS

- 1 cup walnuts
- 2 cups thinly sliced pears
- 2 cups halved grape tomatoes
- 2 tsp butter or margarine, melted
- 4-oz pkg. crumbled blue cheese
- 1/4 cup packed brown sugar
- 8-oz bottle raspberry and white wine vinegar salad dressing
- 1 head romaine lettuce, torn into pieces

PREPARATION

1. Toast walnuts in a skillet in butter until golden; add brown sugar and stir over low heat until walnuts are hardened with glaze.
2. Place lettuce in a large serving bowl; layer with pears and tomatoes. Add walnuts to salad; sprinkle with blue cheese and toss with vinegar dressing.



SERVES 6 TO 8

Recipe:
Very Merry
Christmas
Cookbook
(Gooseberry Patch)
Photo:
Lee Harrelson

Eggnog Fudge

INGREDIENTS

- 2 cups sugar
- 1 cup refrigerated eggnog
- 2 tsp butter
- 2 tsp light corn syrup

- 1/4 cup chopped pecans, toasted
- 1/4 cup slivered almonds, toasted and chopped
- 1/2 cup chopped red candied cherries
- 1 tsp vanilla extract

PREPARATION

1. Line an 8"x4" loaf pan with aluminum foil; butter foil and set aside.
2. Combine first 4 ingredients in a 4-quart heavy saucepan. Cook over medium heat, stirring constantly, until mixture comes to a boil. Wash down crystals from sides of pan using a pastry brush dipped in hot water. Insert a candy thermometer into eggnog mixture.

3. Cook, stirring occasionally, until thermometer registers 238°F. Remove pan from heat and cool sugar mixture, undisturbed, until temperature drops to 190°F, about 15 to 18 minutes.
4. Stir in pecans and remaining 3 ingredients; beat with a wooden spoon until fudge thickens and just begins to lose its gloss (5 to 8 minutes).
5. Pour candy into prepared pan. Cool completely; cut into squares.



MAKES ABOUT 1.5 POUNDS

Recipe: *Very Merry Christmas Cookbook (Gooseberry Patch)* Photo: Lee Harrelson

Coq au Vin

(Chicken braised in sweet wine with baby vegetables)

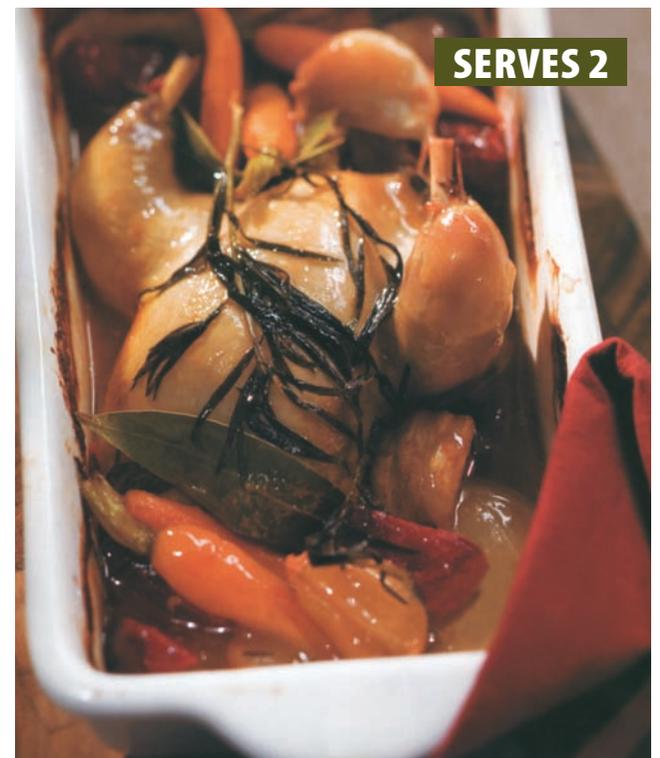
INGREDIENTS

- 1 x 1.5 lb free-range chicken
- 4 baby carrots, peeled
- 8 baby onions, peeled
- 8 garlic cloves
- 8 baby beets

- 6 sprigs of tarragon
- 13 fl oz sweet white wine
- 2 tsp cultured butter
- 2 cups sparkling mineral water
- Salt and pepper

PREPARATION

1. Preheat oven to 350°F.
2. Put all ingredients into a stewing pot with a suitable lid and bring to the boil on the stove over a high heat. Remove from heat and cover the pot tightly with aluminum foil before covering with lid. Cook in the oven for 2 1/2 hours.
3. Remove from oven and allow to sit for 10 minutes. Taste and adjust the seasoning as necessary.
4. Serve with hot crusty bread.



SERVES 2

Recipe: Shannon Bennett,
My French Vue:
Bistro Cooking at Home
(Simon & Schuster Pty Limited)
Photo: Simon Griffiths



We wish you a Merry Christmas!



Cranberry Christmas Tree Bread

Not only does this tree-shaped loaf use a convenient frozen bread dough, it also uses purchased frosting. What a time-saving gift to make!

Number of servings: 1 tree-shaped loaf

Ingredients:

- 1 1/2 cups fresh or frozen cranberries
- 3/4 cup sugar
- 1 tbsp fresh orange juice
- 1 1/2 tsp grated orange zest
- 1/2 package (8 oz) frozen bread dough, thawed
- 2 tbsp butter, melted
- 1/3 cup chopped walnuts (optional)
- 1/4 cup cream cheese-flavored ready-to-spread frosting

Method:

In a medium saucepan, combine cranberries, sugar, juice and zest, stirring well. Frozen berries do not have to thaw first. Cook over medium-high heat, stirring constantly, until thickened (about 10 minutes). Set aside and cool. Roll dough into a 9 x 18 inch rectangle; brush with melted butter. Spread cranberry mixture over dough to within 1/2 inch of edges. Sprinkle with walnuts, if desired. Roll up dough, starting at long edge, pressing gently to contain filling; pinch ends to seal. Cut roll into 16 equal slices, about 1 1/8 inch thick.

On lower third of a large greased baking sheet, arrange 5 slices, cut side up, in a row with edges touching. Form tree with additional rows of rolls, ending with 1 roll on top of tree and 1 roll on bottom for trunk. Cover and let rise in a warm place 85 °F, free from drafts, 30 to 45 minutes or until doubled in size. Preheat oven to 350 °F. Bake 20 minutes or until lightly browned. Carefully remove from baking sheet and cool on a wire rack. Place frosting in a 2 cups glass measuring cup. Microwave, uncovered, on high power for 20 to 25 seconds or until drizzling consistency; drizzle over bread.

Recipe and photo: The spirit of Christmas - All-Time Favorite - Gifts from the Kitchen.



Turkey Meatballs with Corkscrew Pasta

Easy to prepare, this dish will please everyone. Each serving is about 3 meatballs and 1/2 cup sauce over 1 cup pasta.

Number of servings: 4

Ingredients:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1/2 pound lean ground turkey • 1/3 cup soft bread crumbs (1/2 slice bread) • 1/3 cup finely chopped onion • 1 tbsp Worcestershire sauce • 1/8 tsp ground red pepper (cayenne) • 2 cloves garlic, finely chopped • 2/3 cup raisins • 1/4 cup finely chopped fresh parsley | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1/4 cup tomato paste • 2/3 cup fat-free chicken broth • 2 tbsp sugar • 2 tbsp chopped fresh or 2 tsp dried basil leaves • 2 tsp chopped fresh or 1 tsp dried oregano leaves • 1 tsp salt • 2 cans (16 oz) each whole tomatoes, undrained • 4 cups hot cooked rotelle (corkscrews) pasta |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

Method:

Spray 10-inch non-stick skillet with non-stick, cooking spray. Mix turkey, bread crumbs, onion, Worcestershire sauce, red pepper and garlic in a bowl. Shape mixture into 1 inch balls. Cook meatballs in skillet over medium-high heat until brown on all sides. Stir in remaining ingredients except pasta, breaking up tomatoes. Heat to boiling; reduce heat to low. Cook about 15 minutes or until meatballs are no longer pink in center. Serve over pasta.

Recipe and photo: New Low-Fat, Low-Cholesterol Cookbook, Betty Crocker's.





Everything you should know about champagne

Champagne (or sparkling wine) is a must at any New Year celebration. Here are a few basic facts to help you fully appreciate the taste of this heavenly nectar.

SERVING CHAMPAGNE

Young, vivacious champagne should be tasted at a temperature between 44 and 48°. Serve it at around 50° if it has character or is a vintage wine produced from an exceptional harvest. It can be cooled by plunging the bottle into a bucket of ice water for about twenty minutes. Never put bottles in the freezer. Champagne should be served in a flute—a long, slender glass—to prevent the bubbles from dissipating. The finer the glass, the more heightened the taste sensation.

FOODS TO SERVE WITH CHAMPAGNE

Generally speaking, many different foods go well with champagne. It is a delicious accompaniment to goat cheese, smoked salmon, crab, lobster, oysters, rabbit, poultry, foie gras, and many other light dishes. It also enhances all desserts, but it is especially delightful served along with custard, berries, or crème brûlée. When it comes

to choosing a *brut*, *dry*, *demi-sec*, or *doux* champagne, don't hesitate to ask a professional at the wine shop for help with your selection.

STORING OPENED BOTTLES

It is possible to preserve an opened bottle by using a specially designed stopper for sparkling wines. However, it is preferable to drink champagne as soon as possible, as its effervescence is quick to dissipate.

TRADITIONS SURROUNDING CHAMPAGNE

There is a lot of history surrounding this wonderful potion. At one time, it was common for people to down a whole bottle of champagne in one go in celebration of some great event. Officers would open a bottle of champagne with a grand flourish of the sword on its neck after a victorious battle and, of course, there's that glorious tradition of christening a new ship by smashing a bottle of champagne on the prow. Needless to say, these days most of us prefer to enjoy a delicious champagne one exquisite sip at a time!



PHOTO: STOCKBYTE / THINKSTOCK

CHRISTMAS CLASSICS

We love to watch them over and over again!

Are you looking for something to do with your family or with your partner? A relaxing activity after all the hustle and bustle of the pre-Christmas season? Why not get into your pyjamas, settle down in front of the TV, and enjoy some hot chocolate and tasty popcorn. You'll have hours of pleasure watching some of the Christmas classics listed below. This well-deserved break is guaranteed to become yet another great holiday tradition!

- A Christmas Carol
- Home Alone
- Home Alone 2: Lost in New York
- Jingle All the Way
- The Nightmare before Christmas
- The Polar Express
- The Grinch who Stole Christmas

- Miracle on 34th Street
- Santa Clause
- Christmas Vacation
- Love Actually
- Happy New Year
- Jack Frost
- Four Christmases
- The Holiday
- The Nutcracker
- Beethoven's Christmas Adventure
- Christmas with the Kranks
- Elf
- Beauty and the Beast: The Enchanted Christmas
- Shrek the Halls
- Bad Santa
- Arthur Christmas
- Fred Claus
- Gremlins

Three tricks for a spotless table setting

Some housekeeping tips may date back to your grandmother's era, but they're still very practical and can work miracles in daily domestic life today. They are especially useful for important events, such as Christmas, so here are three to keep in mind:

GLEAMING SILVERWARE

- Avoid abrasive products
- Avoid putting them in soapy dishwasher

- Don't soak them in water
- Wear thin cotton gloves when cleaning (to counter the skin's acidity)
- Store pieces in bags or plastic wrap (to limit contact with the air)
- Keep them away from sources of heat, light, and humidity
- Go ahead and use your silverware every day; it's the best way to prevent tarnishing

SPOTLESS CRYSTAL GLASSES

- Wash in hot water with as little soap as possible
- Rinse in a mixture of very hot water and a small amount of vinegar
- Dry with a linen dish towel so as not to leave any fluff
- Avoid putting in the dishwasher and any drastic changes in temperature

ELIMINATING RED WINE STAINS

- Absorb the stain as quickly as possible with a paper towel
- Pour on some white wine (that's right!) or a mix of white vinegar, household alcohol (or 90% pure rubbing alcohol), and water, then pat dry with paper towels
- Avoid putting stained articles directly into a washing machine's hot water cycle, or it will set the stain
- Contrary to popular belief, never use salt, which also sets stains



PHOTO: JUPITERIMAGES / THINKSTOCK

It is possible to get rid of red wine stains!

Fifteen favorite cocktails

Would you like to put a bit of spice into your holiday parties? Here are 15 popular cocktails and the ingredients you need to concoct them. Master these, and your guests will feel welcome — and impressed.

1. **Amaretto sour:** almond liqueur, lemon juice, granulated sugar (plus granulated sugar for frosting the glass).
2. **Black Russian:** vodka, coffee liqueur**.
3. **Bloody Caesar:** vodka, clamato juice, tabasco, Worcestershire sauce, salt, pepper (plus celery salt for frosting and celery sticks for garnish).
4. **Bloody Mary:** vodka, tomato juice, lemon juice, tabasco, Worcestershire sauce, celery salt, salt, pepper.
5. **Cosmopolitan:** vodka, triple-sec*, cranberry juice, lime juice.
6. **Gin and tonic:** dry gin, tonic (plus limes or cucumbers for garnish).
7. **Long Island iced tea:** vodka, gin, white rum, triple-sec*, tequila, lime

- juice, cola.
8. **Margarita:** tequila, triple-sec*, lime juice (plus salt for frosting the glass).
9. **Mimosa:** champagne, orange juice, triple-sec*.
10. **Mojito:** white rum, lime juice, mint leaves, soda, sugar.
11. **Piña colada:** white rum, amber rum, pineapple juice, coconut milk.
12. **Sex on the beach:** vodka, melon syrup, Chambord (raspberry liqueur), pineapple juice, cranberry juice.
13. **Tequila sunrise:** tequila, orange juice, grenadine syrup.
14. **Vodka martini:** vodka, dry vermouth (plus olives for garnish)
15. **White Russian:** vodka, coffee liqueur**, milk.

* Triple-sec: Grand Marnier, Cointreau.
** Coffee liqueur : Kahlua, Tia Maria, Baileys.



We wish you a Merry Christmas!



Color Me!





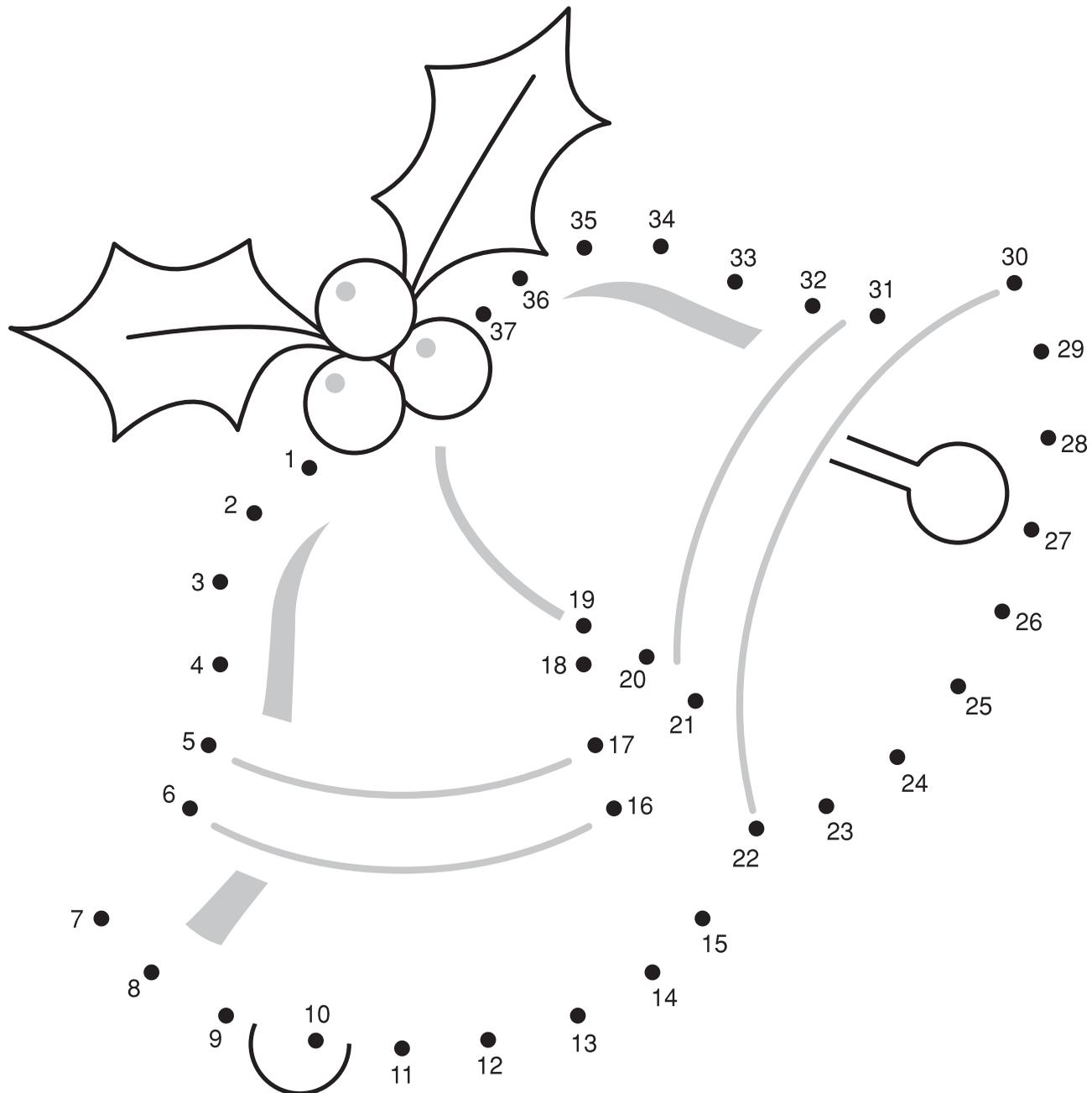
FUN & GAMES

for the holidays



Connect the DOTS

... and find the picture





FUN & GAMES

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Merry
Christmas
—
& Happy New Year

**May your holidays be healthy and
bright!**



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