

Presented by:



FROM THE PUBLISHER

Merry Christmas & Happy Holidays

Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah and Happy Holidays. Ah, that time of year is again upon us. This will be my family's first Christmas is the Nebraska Panhandle. Thank you to everyone who has been so welcoming in our first few months since relocating here from Las Vegas.



Inside this holiday section, you'll find

a variety of great tips on how to finish up that last-minute shopping, plan your holiday dinner or simply avoiding family conflict when it comes time to having a houseful of guests. There are also a couple of pages for the kids, giving them a chance at some holiday fun.

And speaking of kids, a large bulk of this holiday section is comprised of our "Dear Santa" letters. We reached out to the five area elementary schools in Sidney, Leyton, Chappell, Potter-Dix and Peetz and asked for assistance from their kindergarten to third graders to write letters to Santa Claus that we could publish in the Sun-Telegraph.

Special thanks for all of their assistance goes out to: Belinda Westfall and Gene Russel in Sidney, James McGown in Leyton, Tanya Phillips and Patrick Ningen with the Creek Valley Schools in Chappell, Renae Monheiser and Kevin Thomas at Potter-Dix and Lori Heller at Peetz. Your work is much appreciated.

Enjoy reading those letters beginning on page 7. And from the mouths of babes, you can discover what some of those hot toys are for 2014. From the child who wants dad to get his Christmas spirit back (or simply put him on the naughty list), to the girl who wants a 600-foot TV and a 700-foot bed to the young lady who wants \$5 billion, they make for some great reading.

Enjoy your holidays.

Rob Langrell Publisher The Sidney Sun-Telegraph publisher@suntelegraph.com

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From all of Sidney's law enforcement officers, please have a safe and responsible Holiday Season

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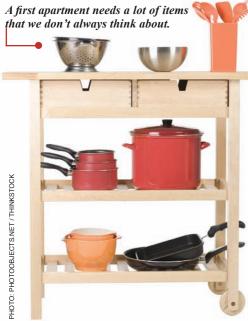


Practical gifts for leaving home

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! 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 nitely something for everyone! 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

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 defi-

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



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.



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.

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.

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?

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-



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

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

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.

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

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, perfumes,

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.







Make it a time of comfort and joy for seniors, too

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.



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.

Christmas decorations to make with kids

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!



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.

- 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

for indoor use.

- 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.



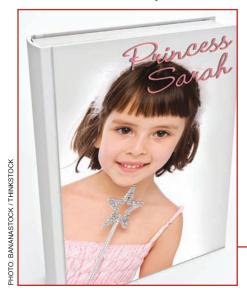


Personalize your Christmas gifts

Why not pamper your loved ones with personalized gifts this Christmas? Surprise your youngest with a book in which he or she will be the hero or heroine, charm Grandma with a cushion decorated with photos of her grandchildren, or dazzle your wife by giving her some pretty jewellery with a personal touch.

PERSONALIZED BOOKS

Personalized books are great gifts for those people who love to read or play at superheroes. All you have to do is provide some information about them, and they became the hero of the story. This customi-



zation varies from one book to another. It may simply involve giving the hero the recipient's name or introducing their tastes, abilities, or personality traits throughout the story. There are books for all ages and all tastes. It's up to you to choose between an adventure story, a romance novel, or a cartoon strip; it all depends on what best suits your hero or heroine.

PHOTOS

Use your photo albums to provide personalized gifts, whether they're meant to be practical, fun, or decorative. You can have photos printed on mouse pads, puzzles, mugs, cushions, aprons, Christmas tree ornaments, pillow cases, pencil cases, towels, bags of all kinds, wall clocks, clothing, coasters, snow globes, playing cards, piggy banks, key chains, and board games. With digital photos, almost anything can be customized.

JEWELLERY

Jewellery offers many possibilities for personalized gifts. For example, you could offer a ring adorned with the recipient's birthstone, or a particularly representative pendant. Or, how about a bracelet engraved with a few words that show how much you cherish her.

A personalized book can turn your daughter into a princess.

Revamping the gift exchange

This year, you couldn't escape it — you've been put in charge of organizing the traditional family gift exchange. You don't know where to start? Here are some ideas to help you plan everything and turn this tradition into a huge success!

The first thing to do is find out who is going to participate. Once that's done, it's time to do some planning.

THE BUDGET

It's always best to set a budget; your niece might be disappointed to receive a gift worth \$15, while her sister's is worth \$40. Think of an amount that everyone can afford.

THE THEME

Choose a theme that forces everyone to be creative; it adds a bit more fun to the shopping and to the exchange. You might want to organize the gift giving around things that begin with a particular letter of the alphabet, or items with blue in them, or gifts for exercising, for example.

THE DRAW

If you are doing a name draw, you can also ask participants to provide their givers a list of gift ideas. For many dispersed families it can be difficult to get everyone together for the draw itself, but websites now exist that allow you to organize a virtual draw and even to register gift lists.

THE GAMES

Does a draw require too much organization? Just ask all the participants to purchase a gift that's suitable for both men and women. You can then simply draw names at the party and take turns choosing a gift from under the tree. It can be a lot of fun to incorporate the gift exchange into a game — why not make the gifts be the prizes for treasure hunts, board games, card games, or other fun challenges.

Just use your imagination to find a gift that nobody will want to exchange!

Four tips for choosing the perfect toy

Shopping malls have an amazing amount of games and toys of all kinds on display at this time of year — enough to discourage the most motivated shoppers. Here are some tips to find a toy that will appeal to children and parents alike.

1. SAFETY FIRST

Make sure your gift is age appropriate for the recipient. The packaging usually mentions the age parameters for each toy: 0-6 months, 5 years and older, etc. Toys for young toddlers should be checked to ensure they don't contain small pieces that could be swallowed and that the plastic is sturdy. If you prefer, you can offer hypoallergenic toys that are easy to clean, such as stuffed toys, cloth books, and puppets.

2. EDUCATIONAL FUN

Toys can be both fun and educational. For little ones, think about toys with different colours and textures. For older children, there are games to develop patience, logic, and memory skills.

3. SOME PEACE AND QUIET, PLEASE!

It's all too easy to be drawn to toys that make noise, such as fire trucks with blaring sirens and tinkling magic fairy wands. Perhaps this is the year to start avoiding these kinds of playthings; most children already have countless musical toys that drive their parents crazy! If you can't resist, at least make sure there's a "stop" button.

4. PREVENT TEARS

Avoid toys with multiple parts if the gift is not going to be unwrapped at the recipient's home. The child will, of course, want to open it immediately and some pieces are bound to be lost before they go home. If batteries are required, make sure they are included. It is extremely frustrating for children not to be able to play with new toys just because nobody has any batteries.



PHOTO: GEORGE DOYLE / THINKSTOCK

How to avoid conflicts at Christmas

The holidays are a time of sharing and happiness. However, in many families there are often plenty of tensions that have never been resolved, and the holidays can be a boiling pot for them in which to stew. If you're afraid that some sort of conflict will arise during the festivities, follow these tips to help everybody avoid disagreements and get along.

MAKE A SEATING PLAN

If you're responsible for the seating plan, avoid putting people together who clearly don't get along. If you're invited somewhere and there is no seating plan, sit on the same side of the table as the person who irritates you, two or three chairs away; confrontation is more likely to arise if you're facing each other.

AVOID CONTROVERSIAL SUBJECTS

You are likely well aware of the issues that invariably lead to disputes when you all get together. Try to avoid them as much as possible. While you can't control all the discussions, you can avoid getting involved in risky

conversations. If you feel that a discussion is spiraling out of control, remove yourself from the debate and consider asking others to do the same.

DRINK WITH MODERATION

Alcohol reduces self-control and breaks down inhibitions. Drinking may therefore bring out old quarrels or push some people to say things they wouldn't say if they were sober. Try to limit the amount of alcohol available if you feel others may not choose to exercise self-control.

FIND A PLACE WHERE YOU CAN BE ALONE

If you have difficulty controlling your emotions, retire to a secluded place to give yourself a bit of time to recover your composure and regain a healthy perspective.

Lastly, if you're the host, be sure to plan everything in advance to avoid adding stress to the emotional mix. Fatigue makes people more vulnerable to criticism, so give yourself plenty of time to rest before the festivities.

SIDNEY'S SOUTH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL Ms. Carrie Pilger's 1st Grade Class

Dear Santa,

How do little elves make toys? Where do elves come from? Thank you for last year's presents. I want a Violet Blue Fire please and a blanket set.

Gracie

Dear Santa.

What happens if kids see you? How do reindeer fly? I want a Red Fire Tek Bow?

Kayson

Dear Santa,

How do reindeer fly? My favorite color is violet. Can I please have a bow and arrow? I also want art supplies.

Celina

Dear Santa,

How do little elves make toys? Where to elves come from? I am in ballet class. I want a Phoenix doll and an Elsa doll. I also want a Little Life pet.

Rylee

Dear Santa.

How do you make all those toys so fast? I like school. I want a clock. I want Monster High games, the American Girl doll and a phone.

Madison

Dear Santa,

How do reindeer fly? I am good at drawing. Can you get me a Red Fire Tek Bow?

Gage

Dear Santa,

How do you fly so fast? Did you make your sleigh? I am new at my school. How many presents are you getting me? I want an Elsa doll and bubble gum.

Katelyn

Dear Santa,

How do reindeer fly? How do you fly so fast? Do your elves always work? I am good at robot cars. I want a robot and a Red Fire Tek bow.

Elijah

Dear Santa,

How do reindeer fly? You are the best. Can I please have a remote control car.

Omar

Dear Santa

Where do elves come from? How do you fly so fast? I am good at coloring. My eyes are brown. I wish for a Nerf gun, an American Girl doll, a Zoomer and a phone.

Kiersten

Dear Santa,

What happens at the North Pole? How do reindeer fly? I am good at drawing and then coloring. I would like to have a Zoomer.

Tess

Dear Santa,

What happens if kids see you? How do you fly so fast? I am good at coloring. I would like to have an American Girl doll and piano books.

Nora

Dear Santa,

How do reindeer fly? How do little elves make toys? I have hazel eyes. I wish for a Little Life pet.

Hanley

Dear Santa,

Do you always wear a hat? What happens if kids see you? You are the best! I wish for a tall standing mirror.

Brooklyn

Dear Santa,

How do reindeer fly? The elves make toys the best. I would like a monster truck.

Shawn

Dear Santa,

Where do you live? Do you always wear a hat? I like you. I am new at my school. Can you get me an Elsa doll and a standing mirror?

SIDNEY'S SOUTH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL Ms. Suzanne Neel's 1st Grade Class

Dear Santa,

I would like a dog. I would like a Frozen Horse. I would like a diary book. I would like a Santa hat. I would like a book. I would like a cat.

Lilly

Dear Santa

I would like an iPad. I would like a laptop, I would like lots of books. I would like Elf on a Shelf.

Sandra

Dear Santa.

I would like a boat that can sink underwater. When you press a lever, the door pops open. I would like a dinosaur robot toy that walk and drive far.

Henry

Dear Santa,

I would like a Frozen House and a Barbie Houseboat. I would like clothes for Elsa and Anna and an American Girl doll. I would like an Xbox and two mugs and 10 chew toys and ice skates.

Alison

Dear Santa,

I would like a Barbie and a Monster High doll and a tablet.

Chloe

Dear Santa,

I would like Minecraft and Minecraft tanks, spiders and stuff.

Joshua

Dear Santa,

I would like gum and dolls.

Ashlee

Dear Santa,

I would like an Elf on a Shelf for Christmas and the book. I would like an IPad for Christmas. I would like a Scooby Doo game for my Leap Pad for Christmas.

Amelia

Dear Santa.

I would like to have a Monster High doll and a tiara and a makeup kit. I would like an Elf on a Shelf that is green, some nail polish and ice skates.

Brailey

Dear Santa.

I would like an iPad. How are your reindeer, Santa? I have been waiting for Christmas to happen.

Drew

Dear Santa,

I want a kitten. I want a phone. I want an iPad. I want a Minecraft toy. I want a toy parrot. And I want a puppy.

Maddie

Dear Santa,

Can you get me a game? Gabriel

Dear Santa

I would like a yo-yo. I would like a doll. Joslynn

Dear Santa,

I would like a kitten, a tablet, an Xbox, Minecraft and some games, Xbox Live card and a shark in a shark tank.

Paul

Dear Santa.

I would like an Xbox, a bow and arrow, a parrot with parrot food, a TV, an iPad with Minecraft on it, a gumball machine and real cotton candy.

Liam





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Dear Santa.

I would like an Elf on a Shelf and the book, please. I want 100 beautiful dresses with a real tiara. I would like a pet hamster, a Frozen bedspread, 100 dollars, ice skates and a makeup kit. I want an Elsa costume. That is all I want for Christmas.

Milla

SIDNEY'S SOUTH **ELEMENTARY SCHOOL** Ms. Christina Lilley's 1st Grade Class

Dear Santa,

I would like a teddy bear, my own drawing kit and my own picture book.

Maiya

Dear Santa,

Cam I have a T-Rex dinosaur, please? I want a dragon. I want a Nintendo 3DS and a cowboy set and a DS.

Sebastian

Dear Santa.

I want a car and a space shuttle for Christmas. I want a puppy and a dog house. I want a Lego set, a dirt bike, an Xbox 360, an iPad, a TV and toys.

Lance

Dear Santa,

I want a dog and a Skylanders Trap Team. Owen

Dear Santa,

I want a play horse and I want girl Legos. I want a game for my DS or 3DS. I love Santa. Mercedes

Dear Santa

I want a bracelet set. I want an R2D2 electric scooter, Xbox 360, Rudolph the Red-Nosed reindeer, a Santa hat and a big stuffed tiger. Callie

Dear Santa

For Christmas, I want a stuffed animal horse and a new camera and a real dog with a real cat to go with a real horse, to go with a pony with a blank piece of paper and a new Christmas tree and some new Christmas shirts.

Makenah

Dear Santa.

I want Batman Legos, Hulk Legos, Xbox 360, 3D glasses, Nintendo 3DS, Xbox One, an electric scooter and some stuffed animals.

Dear Santa,

I have been good. Sometimes I have been naughty. I want Call of Duty Advanced Warfare and Destiny. I also want Xbox One and a ball. Thank you, Santa Claus.

Braylon

Dear Santa,

I want three horse toys. I want a trailer and a pickup.

Katelynn

Dear Santa.

I would like more Barbie's for Christmas, and a PS3 for my family. I want some more Wii games and more Hello Kitty puzzles. I'm 7 years old. I want a phone. I'm good at school

Bryn

Dear Santa.

I want a Nintendo 3DS and I want a big stuffed animal bear and some cool cars.

Corban

Dear Santa,

I want a Nintendo 3DS.

Madison

Dear Santa,

I've been good. I want a monster kit, a green soccer ball, a collar for my dog, a tube for my bike, a junior hole and a racing car. Zechariah

Dear Santa.

I want a watch with games and I want a Megaforce Sword.

Jack

Dear Santa,

I want for Christmas a watch, a phone and a chew toy for my dog.

Ben

Dear Santa,

I want a Playstation 3 with games like Dragon BallZ, and a Nintendo 3DS with games. I want Bigtime Rush music and an Xbox 360 with some games and Minecraft.

Shaun

Dear Santa.

I am 6. How are you? I like you and miss you. I am going to make a present for you. Can you bring me Aleka D Plan?

Jeremiah

Dear Santa,

I want to get a blue Ferbie, a Nintendo DS, an electric scooter and I want a good Christmas.

Emily

SIDNEY'S SOUTH **ELEMENTARY SCHOOL** Mr. Colton Ehler's 2nd Grade Class

Dear Santa.

This year, I have been really good. I would really like it if you could bring me an iPad and a cat. Thank you and Merry Christmas.

Jasmine

Dear Santa,

This year, I have been really good. I would really like it if you could bring me a Lego Batman, a train, an iPod and a cat. Thank you and Merry Christmas.

Augie

Dear Santa

This year for Christmas, I want food and water for the Zombie Apocalypse. Have a safe trip.

Kamrin

Dear Santa,

I want a Nerf gun, a fort gun and a walkie talkie. Thank you and have a safe trip.

Jaser

Dear Santa,

This year, I have been really good. I would really like it if you could bring me a toy train, a bus and a van.

Rakesh

Dear Santa,

This year I would really like it if you would give me a diary. I will miss you Santa.

Allyssa

Dear Santa,

How is it in the North Pole? I want a dirt bike, a gas-powered car and a real puppy dog. Merry Christmas.

Daniel

Dear Santa,

I would like an iPad. P.S. I have been really good this year.

Dillon

Dear Santa

How are your reindeer feeling? I hope they're doing fine. I would like an iPad for Christmas. I hope ypu have a good year.

Reid

Dear Santa.

How are you? I bet you're busy. I have tried to be very good this year. I have almost a black belt in martial arts and I am one belt away, but I have to wait three more months. And, I am a very fast reader. I've helped my brother clean up his room. May I please have an iPhone and a watch. I hope you have a wonderful Christmas.

Aadhar



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Dear Santa.

How is it going at the North Pole? I really want an Xbox with the controllers and Mario Cart 8.

Patrick

Dear Santa,

I hope you had a good year. Can you please get me a toy train and a big dog. I want my sister to have a good life. How many toys can you make in a year?

Janea

Dear Santa,

I really want a toy plane and a scooter. I really, really want every kid to have a toy. What is your favorite time of Christmas? Santa, I really love you.

Gabby

Dear Santa,

How's Rudolph? How's Mrs. Claus? I have tried to be very good this year. I have done A LOT of chores. I made Mrs. Belieu and Mr. Ehler very happy. May I please have an iPod and an Xbox. I hope you have a good trip. I'll leave you some cookies.

Anderson

Dear Santa,

How are you and Mrs. Claus? I bet you're busy. I have tried to be very good this year. I have helped my Dad put up the Christmas lights. I helped get the Christmas tree in the house. May I please have a bowtie and a pocket watch? I hope you have a great trip. I'll leave some cookies and milk out for you.

W/ill

Dear Santa.

Does Rudolph really have a red nose? Is there an elf named Jordan or Deacon? Do you give magic to me and Deacon's elves? I've tried to be very, very, very good this year. I've fed my dog, taught people to dance, painted mom's nails, made ornaments and cards for nursing homes, earned a lot of Raider Bucks and fed my fish. May I please have an elf and golden eggs? I hope you have a great trip! I will

leave you cookies and milk and the reindeer some carrots and water.

Jordan

Dear Santa,

Is Rudolph doing good? I hope he is. I have tried to be good. I have asked my sister if she needed anything when she was sick. Thank you for the presents last year. I really liked them. For Christmas, may I please have some Legos and some Christmas and princess CDs. Thank you. P.S. I hope you like the cookies and milk.

Rachel

Dear Santa.

How are you? How are the reindeer? I have been good in school. May I please have some pictures of you? How is Mrs. Claus? How are your elves? Can I have some pictures of your elves? May I please have a toy elf and toy reindeer? I will give you cookies and milk.

Myranda

SIDNEY'S SOUTH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL Ms. Anne Belieu's 2nd Grade Class

Dear Santa,

How are you? How are the baby elves? I have tried to be very good this year. I beared my testimony yesterday. May I please have a pottery wheel? It's OK if you can't get it. I hope you have a great trip. I'll leave you cookies. One is for Rudolph. There will be milk and carrots for the reindeer.

Amelia

Dear Santa,

How are you? You are so good at making toys. I have tried to be very good this year. I have helped my mom, my dad, even my dog, and my friends too. I hope you can make all the toys this year? May I have a phone — any phone you can make? I don't care about what you make of a phone. Also, could I have a PS4, too. That's it.

Brendan

Dear Santa.

How many elves and reindeer do you have? I hope I am on the "good" list. I want to get a trampoline, an iPhone and a sled. Merry Christmas

Gunner

Dear Santa,

All I want is an iPad and a Ninja Turtle for Christmas. How is it at the North Pole? Rudolph, I am a big fan.

Derrin

Dear Santa,

I want a GoPro Camera. I also want a puppy that can wake me up for Christmas. Is it busy in the North Pole? I will get the reindeer some carrots and I will get you some cookies.

Tob

Dear Santa.

All I want for Christmas is the song, "All About That Bass," and Maddie and Tea. I also want a small dog like my dog, Daisy. So how has it been at the North Pole? Does Mrs. Claus like cookies too? How many elves do you have? It seems like a lot.

Kirstin

Dear Santa,

I hope you have a holly jolly Christmas. Do you have a reindeer named Rudolph? But do you know what I want for Christmas? I have always dreamed of riding a horse.

Adelina

Dear Santa,

How is it going up at the North Pole? Can I pleeeeeeeeaaaaase have these things: a puppy, a phone, a laptop , all of the Heidi Heckelbeck books, horses with a horse trainer, lots of homework and Elf on the Shelf.

Kayla

Dear Santa,

How is your reindeer? Do you still use Rudolph? I want a metal detector for Christmas.

Caden

Dear Santa.

Some people do not believe in you, but I do. What is your favorite kind of cookie? For Christmas, what I want the most is an Xbox. I will tell you the rest later.

Kalynn

Dear Santa,

How do your reindeer fly? I want a good Christmas. You have a good Christmas too.

Camde

Dear Santa.

How are you and Mrs. Claus? I have tried to be very good this year. I have been good at school and I have helped my baby sister. I would like an iPod and a Trailblazer hoody. But you don't have to get them. I'm not quite sure what I'm going to get you.

Lil

Dear Santa,

How are you? Do you ever have a day off? How many presents do you make in a day? I've tried to be good. How are the elves? May I please have a Golden Retriever for Christmas? I hope you have a good trip. I will leave cookies and milk out for you.

Cooper

Dear Santa,

I bet you have a lot of work to do since Christmas is coming up. I have tried to be very good this year. I've done my chores, And I don't mention it when I don't like my mom's cooking. I just want a couple of things for Christmas. I want a talking journal and a little puppy. I'll leave the cookies!

Kourtney

Dear Santa,

How are you? How are the elves and the reindeer and Mrs. Claus doing? I have been good this year. I am a great reader and I also helped my babysitter control crazy sisters, and I have helped the dance teacher to control the dancers. Can I please have a Heartlake City Lego set?

Katelyn

Buzzed. Busted. Broke. Get caught buzzed driving and it could cost you \$10,000.



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Dear Santa

Am I a good kid? Am I on the good list? Do you love me? Is my sister good? Is my other sister good? Is my brother good? Hope you have a good trip. I want a new BB gun and I want a hamster.

Ethan

Dear Santa,

This year, I have been really good. I would really like it if you could bring me an American Girl doll, a pack of balloons, a real phone and an iPad. Thank you and Merry Christmas.

Tabitha

Dear Santa,

How many houses do you get to on Christmas Eve? I have helped people when they get hurt. I would like a little live pet bird cage for Christmas, I will make sugar cookies. You get some cookies and milk. I will also leave carrots for your reindeer. Merry Christmas!

Reagan

SIDNEY'S SOUTH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL Ms. Erin Meyer's 2nd Grade Class

Dear Santa,

I don't know what I want, but you know my heart. If you don't, ask Jesus. He knows what I want. Where did you get those clothes? Who is your favorite reindeer? My favorite is Rudolph. If he is real, can you tell me this in another letter.

Rory

Dear Santa.

Merry Christmas. How old are you? Can I have a giant gummy bear? I will want more gifts, but you will know what I want. Are you going to eat cookies?

Robert

Dear Santa,

I want an Xbox 2K15 John Cena game. I want a remote-controlled car. I want a John Cena toy.

Landon

Dear Santa,

This year, I have been kind of good. I would like an elf that makes toys.

Maddox

Dear Santa,

How are you? I am going to Dix for Christmas. I really want another dog and a cat.

Crystal

Dear Santa,

How is Mrs. Claus? May I have an iPhone, makeup and rings? You are the best. I was good this week.

Analicia

Dear Santa,

I have really been looking forward to Christmas. I have been good this year. I would love it if you could get me a remote-controlled truck, a gas-powered one, a Nerf gun and lots of Nerf guns.

David

Dear Santa,

I want slippers with sheep fur in it, Under Amour clothes, toy car, a magic kit, Santa bat, Santa coat, sword, a shield and a dress suit.

Quinn

Dear Santa,

I want the movie "Mr. Peabody and Sherman." I would love a trampoline. Another thing I want is a creepy mask. I am on the good list. I also want a toy race car. The last thing I want is a powerful water gun. Merry Christmas

Ioss

Dear Santa.

Can I get an Xbox 360, the game Minecraft and footie pajamas? Am I on the nice list or the naughty list? Have a Merry Christmas too!

Aiden

Dear Santa,

Hi Santa! How are your reindeer? I want an RC speed boat. I want my great grandma to get out of the hospital soon. What are the temperatures in the North Pole?

Benjamin

Dear Santa,

Have you seen Freddy this year? All I want for Christmas is a Cool Bake Oven. I want for my mom to have a warm blanket. Is Dancer still dancing?

Alora

Drinking and Driving at Christmas = New Years in jail. Have a safe and happy holiday season with your friends and family - together.

SIDNEY POLICE DEPARTMENT



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





Dear Santa,

I have missed you a lot this year. I would want a PS3 for Christmas this year. I would want to get my momma a present this year. How many toys do you make every year?

Keaton

Dear Santa,

I hope you had a good year Santa. I want a toy reindeer. I want my great grandpa alive, Santa. Can I have your reindeer, Dancer?

Haley

Dear Santa,

How are you? How are the elves? How is Rudolph? I have tried to be very good this year. I have helped with my baby sister when my parents are busy. I sang in church all year. I have kept Arynn occupied. May I please have an iPhone and iPad? Thank you

Dry

Dear Santa,

How are all the elves? I've helped the house by doing my chores every day and watched over Frank. May I please have an electric scooter? I hope all of your reindeers and you have a great trip! I will leave cookies, milk and reindeer food.

Lily James

Dear Santa,

How are you? How are the elves doing? I bet they are very, very, very, very busy. How is Rudolph? How is Mrs. Claus? Is Mrs. Claus busy? I have worked very, very, very good this year. I have had a birthday. I'm 8 years old. Can you get my dad's Christmas spirit back? If you can't, put him on the naughty list. May I please have a puppy and a little pet butterfly? Can I have the white one, please? I love you! You're the best!

Loralie

Dear Santa,

Hi, my name is Conner. Santa I have a question. How is Rudolph doing? Santa, I want a Wii U? Have a Merry Christmas.

Conner

SIDNEY'S SOUTH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL Ms. Kelsey Watchorn's 2nd Grade Class

Dear Santa.

How are the reindeer, the North Pole and you doing? This is what I want for Christmas: a phone, a laptop, guitar, diary, all Junie B. Jones books, a yo-yo, 100 Red Raider bucks, a Christmas tree with lots of small decorations, 3DS, fancy dresses and shoes.

Zoey

Dear Santa,

I am 7 years old. This year I have been really good. I would really like it if you could bring me a baby tiger. I will want the pen that goes fast, a tree, and a notebook with a pen.

Maria

Dear Santa,

I am 7 years old. I have an elf, her name is Twink. Twink is the best elf I can ever have. Can I please have Beados and an American Girl doll? I will leave you cookies and milk.

Carli

Dear Santa,

My name is Jacob and I am 7 years old. This year, I have been really good. I would really like it if you could bring me Legos and an Xbox Live. Thank you and Merry Christmas!

Jacob

Dear Santa,

Hi! I really want a Zike. I also want to make my grandpa better. Is your beard soft?

Ryai

Dear Santa,

Hi Santa. How are you and your reindeer? I am being really good. Can I have a Street Hawk and Lego Batman 3 Xbox game? I wish my real dad can see me for Christmas. See you at Christmas.

Landon

Dear Santa,

How are you? When will the elves come? How is Rudolph? I have tried to be very good this year. I have been very good in reading group. I made ornaments for a nursing home. I've been helping my brother. Can I please have a phone and a job at your workshop? I hope you have a good Christmas. I will leave you cookies and milk!

Teah

Dear Santa.

How are you? When will my elf come? I have tried to be very good this this year. I try to be nice to my sister. I have been good at school. This is all I want. May I have a bitty baby doll? I hope you have a great trip. I will leave you cookies on a special plate and some milk!

Aubre

Dear Santa,

Hi! I am 8 years old. This year I have been good by cleaning the house, folding laundry and doing dishes. I would really like it if you could bring an American Girl doll. Merry Christmas.

Porsha

Dear Santa,

I am 7 years old. This year I have been really good by not fighting with my brother. I would really like it if you could bring me more guys for Skylanders. Thank you and Merry Christmas.

Aden

Dear Santa,

Hi! I am 7 years old. This year I have been really good by doing my homework. I would really like it if you could bring me a Lego set. Thank you and Merry Christmas.

Jashawn

Dear Santa,

How old are you Santa? How's Mrs. Claus? I want a wiener dog and a trampoline. Merry Christmas!

Dagen

Dear Santa,

Hi! I am 8 years old. This year, I have been really good by helping my Mom and Dad. I would really like it if you could bring me a horse toy and a dog toy. Thank you and Merry Christmas.

McKynzee

Dear Santa,

Can you give my black cat a toy mouse, please? My cat is bored. I was so good all year long. Thank you Santa Claus. How are your deers doing?

Kaleb

Dear Santa,

I have been good this year. Can I get a toy white board and dry erase markers? I want you to get my dogs a big bone. How old are you?

Kiera

Dear Santa,

I want a crossbow for Christmas. I have been very good. Christmas is the best time of year. I love Christmas. How many elves do you have? I love to make snowmen.

Kanon

Dear Santa,

How are you doing? I am 7 years old. This year I have been really good. I would really like it if you could bring me a Halo game and helmet, new rims for a new car.

osh







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SIDNEY'S SOUTH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL Ms. Lindsey Diemoz's 2nd Grade Class

Dear Santa,

Hi! My name is Dakota. How are you Mrs. Claus, the elves and reindeer? I want my own laptop, an iPhone, pink printer, \$5,000,000,000 real dollars and Rudolph's red nose.

Dakota

Dear Santa,

Hi! I am 8 years old. This year, I have been really good by emptying the dishwasher. I would really like it if you could bring me a bow and arrow. Thank you and Merry Christmas.

Emma

Dear Santa,

How is Rudolph? I hope Rudolph is great. For Christmas, I want the movie "Cars." It's "The Cars" that I don't have. I like Christmas. I hope I get what I want for Christmas.

Noah

Dear Santa,

I want a new pillow and comforter with zebra print. Am I on the good or bad list? Can I have an Elf at my house, please? How many reindeer do you have? Do you have Rudolph? Merry Christmas, Santa.

Chloe

Dear Santa,

For Christmas, I want a dog, an elf, a train and some football gear. I would also take a horse and a reindeer. How are you? Am I on the bad or good list? Merry Christmas.

Austin

Dear Santa,

Hi! I am 7 years old. This year, I have been really good by cleaning my bedroom. I would really like it if you could bring me a phone. Thank you and Merry Christmas.

Casandra

Dear Santa

Hi! How are you doing? Santa, I would like an iPad and iPod, please. Santa, I would like my Mom and Dad to get a nightstand. Santa, can I have a reindeer. Have a great Christmas!

Dear Santa,

I want a stuffed animal and an Xbox 360. How many elves do you have? How are you? Merry Christmas!

James

Dear Santa,

Merry Christmas. How are you? I want a Polar Express train for Christmas. Please get it. I really want it for me and my mom. Have a good Christmas.

Hayden

Dear Santa,

How are you doing? I would like a bow and arrow, not girly. My dad would like a potato. Does Santa still dance?

Hannah

Dear Santa.

How are you doing? How many gifts do you have to deliver? I want a pool table. I want to have a good Christmas this year. How do you make reindeer fly?

Landon

Dear Santa,

Hello Santa! Thank you for the Elf on the Shelf. I would like a Wyoming Cowboy football helmet. I would like a Miami Dolphins helmet too. I hope my dad is OK. How is Rudolph?

Vincent

Dear Santa,

Are you well? How's Rudolph? How are Mrs. Claus and the elves? Santa, you are the best! Santa, please could I have a phone, a toy elf and a toy bird that repeats me? Please can you get me the stuff? I love Christmas! Christmas is when you care for people.

Ashley

Dear Santa.

I am 8 years old. This year I have been really good. I would really like it if you could bring me an IPod. Thank you and Merry Christmas!

Dear Santa,

I am 7 years old. This year I have been really good. I would really like it if you could bring me Legos. Thank you and Merry Christmas!

SIDNEY'S SOUTH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL Ms. Jennifer Schneider's 2nd Grade Class

Dear Santa.

How is it going up at the North Pole? What do your reindeer like? I want a computer for Christmas. Merry Christmas!

Jacob

Dear Santa,

How are you? How is Mrs. Claus? I have tried to be very good this year. I've helped around the house and with my cousins. Could I please have an Xbox and a PlayStation 4? I hope you have a great trip.

Adrian

Dear Santa,

How are you? What is your favorite reindeer? I have been very good this year. I have been being good in school. I have been on the morning show. The responsible kids go to the morning show. I was thankful on Thanksgiving. I want a pocket watch from the old days and Legos Batman 3 for my Xbox 360.

Shane

Dear Santa,

I hope you have good days. I would like a Nintendo DS game. I wish my family a Merry Christmas. How do your reindeer fly? This is one kid waiting for Christmas.

Trevor

Dear Santa.

Hi! I am 7 years old. This year I have been really good by cleaning my room. I would really like it if you could bring me a big horse. Thank you and Merry Christmas.

Josephine

Dear Santa,

Hi! I am 7 years old. This year I have been really good by cleaning my room. I would really like it if you could bring me a miracle. Thank you and Merry Christmas.

Caleb

Dear Santa,

I have an Elf on the Shelf. Her name is Lucy. Did you get a Snickers from Lucy? I want make up.

Paige

Dear Santa,

How have your reindeer been? Can I have an iPhone and a new car for my mom? I really hope you have a safe trip.

Zachary

Dear Santa,

I want a kitten that is orange and white. I also want an iPad, a Hide Away pet, a Barbie doll house. How are you and Mrs. Claus doing? Do you have nine reindeer? Merry Christmas.

Dakota

Dear Santa,

Hi! I am 7 years old. This year I have been really good by cleaning my house with my mom. I would really like it if you could bring me a dog that is 8 months old. Thank you and Merry Christmas.

Sabrina

Dear Santa,

How is your friend Rudolph? Has his nose stopped working yet? Have any of your elves been naughty? For Christmas, I would like a pink Nintendo 3DS. I hope you have a good time.

Katarina



Dear Santa,

I have been good this year. Can I have a remote-controlled car? Can you make my grandma's back better? How long is your beard?

Carsen

Dear Santa,

How many elves do you have? I want a big horse, saddle, stuffed animal horse, a puppy and a tree house. Merry Christmas!

Peyton

Dear Santa,

Hi! How are you doing? Where do you live? This year I want a phone so I can text my friends.

Katie

Dear Santa,

Hi! I am 8 years old. This year I have been really good. Can I have a remote control helicopter? Tell your elves hi for me.

Owen

Dear Santa,

Hi! I am 7 years old. This year I have been really good. I would really like it if you could bring me a PlayStation 4. Thank you and Merry Christmas.

Freddy

Dear Santa.

Hi! I am 7 years old. This year I have been really good. I would really like it if you could bring me an iPod, toy cats and dogs, a real phone and a toy baby. Thank you and Merry Christmas.

Damara



CREEK VALLEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL Ms. Julie Carlson's Kindergarten Class

Dear Santa,

I hope you like the lights that are on my fence. I would like a new kid guitar and be careful with baby Rudolph and his shiny nose.

Dear Santa,

I hope you will be careful with glass things. I would like presents for a new sled. What are you here?

Brooklyn

Dear Santa,

I hope that you like my pretty lights on my Christmas tree. I would like new shoes for my American Girl doll. Have a merry, merry good Christmas.

Lexi.

Dear Santa,

I hope you have a very good Christmas. I would like to go sledding on the hill in my backyard. Could I have some jammys for my Isabelle doll?

Skyler

Dear Santa,

I hope you will give us toys. I would like it to be snowing. What do things look like when you are up there doing your work?

Jenna

Dear Santa,

I hope I get presents. I would like it to be fun. Be careful with the reindeer when they are running on the grass.

Luke

Dear Santa,

I hope you got my letter about the things I wanted. How old are you? I already know you have eight reindeer.

Charlie

Dear Santa,

I hope Buddy the elf will be here. He can teleport everywhere he wants. He goes through doors — whichever ones he wants. I would like a present under my two beds.

Mason

Dear Santa,

I hope Santa gives people stuffed animals. I have a porcupine one. Santa, can I please have a map so I know where you are?

Thomas

Dear Santa,

I hope to get some makeup for Christmas. I would like to know how your reindeer fly. Be careful going down my chimney. It's sharp at the bottom.

Gracie

Dear Santa,

I hope to get some pink high heels. I was wondering how Rudolph is. Be careful coming through my chimney because it's is super not that big.

Carissa

Dear Santa,

I hope to get a real monster truck. How old are you, probably like 14. Be careful not to fall off your sleigh.

Mitch

Dear Santa,

I hope Santa brings my mom a toy. I would ask Santa if I could have a robot dog. I want him to come to my house.

Thayne

Dear Santa,

I hope you ride in a sleigh. I would like Elsa and Anna toys. How is the Christmas night for you?

Catherine

Dear Santa.

I hope to get some puzzles for Christmas. I would like something for my sister too. Santa might ride a horsey.

Alyssa

CREEK VALLEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL Ms. Stephanie Behrend's 1st Grade Class

Dear Santa,

How are the reindeer? How are the elves? I want a Barbie.

Neala

Dear Santa,

How are the elves?

Zeiss

Dear Santa

Howe are the reindeer? How are you? I want an Elsa doll. I want a Cool Baker. I want a stuffed animal kangaroo.

Kyndi

Dear Santa,

I want a Nintendo DS3. I want to see a picture of your reindeer.

Mason

Dear Santa,

Can I have an Xbox 360 and can I please have a coat and a remote-controlled helicopter?

Zander

Dear Santa,

I love you Santa. I want for Christmas a stuffed Santa.

Jeryn

Dear Santa,

This year I would like an Elf on a Shelf and a camera.

Frankie

Dear Santa,

I want a toy wrek sop.

Emmalyn

Dear Santa,

I want an American Girl doll.

Eireson

GIVE YOURSELF A GIFT THIS HOLIDAY SEASON.

Register TODAY! Classes begin January 12.

Important WNCC Enrollment Deadlines

January 9

Last Day for New Students to Register

January 11

Last Day for Returning Students to Register ONLINE

Western Nebraska Community College

THE SIDNEY SUN-TELEGRAPH • THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2014 • PAGE 14

Dear Santa.

Can you bring a Santa key? I love Santa Claus. I love his elves. I love his reindeer.

Hunter

Dear Santa,

Can I have an Xbox please? Can I have a picture of Vixen? Can I have a Nintendo DS and I have a paper fan?

Mitchell

Dear Santa,

How many apples do the reindeer eat? Are you OK? I love Santa. I want to see you, Santa. How are the elves?

Rebecca

Dear Santa,

I like you Santa. I want toys for Christmas. I will leave cookies for you.

Kendra

Dear Santa,

I like to sing. Do you like to sing? The song I like is Joy to the World.

Jillian

CREEK VALLEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL Ms. A'Lisa Mueller's 2nd Grade Class

Dear Santa,

How are you doing? If I get an Elf on the Shelf, what will its name be? I really don't care. So this year I want a Zoomer Dino, a LalaLoopsy Baking Oven and a Minster High Freaky Fusion Bonita Femur doll.

Addison

Dear Santa,

How is the workshop going? Well anyways, guess what I want for Christmas. I want a cotton candy maker. I also want a candy bar maker. And the last thing that I want is an Easy Bake Oven.

Chloa

Dear Santa

I want a brand new bike and a brand new phone and a helicopter.

Nicholas

Dear Santa,

I really want a Zigy to be funnier next year. I want an Easy Bake Oven and a real lap top and a trip to Disneyworld and Disneyland with my mom, dad and brother.

Karsyn

Dear Santa,

I want some warm clothes for winter, an art set, kiddy zoomer, toy computer, notebook and a Monster High doll. How do you get around the world in one night? How do you make toys and get tools? What klind of cookies do you like?

Kiera

Dear Santa,

I want a bracelet maker, an iPod Touch, a nice brother, Elf on a Shelf and a trip to Disneyworld. I will give you cookies and milk.

Ava

Dear Santa,

I already made my list. I just want to tell you thank you for the pictures. Now I want a picture of Rudolph. I want an Elf on the Shelf named Janitor. Thank you.

Cordell

Dear Santa,

I want an Elf on the Shelf. I want her name to be Karsyn. I like you because you give me good toys.

Johanna

Dear Santa,

I want a Big Rig Combine with a corn and wheat header, a Big Rig remote-controlled semi and a new Christmas tree for my room. I also want a feed bank for my toy cow and an Elf on the Shelf. I like how you are so happy.

Quinten

Dear Santa.

Can I have a new swing? Can I have an iPad? Can I have a remote control? Can I have a Nerf gun?

Lucas

Dear Santa,

I would like to know how you get around the whole world in the same night. I would like a bracelet kit and I would like an Elf on the Shelf. Thank you.

Sophia

Dear Santa,

You are a very good man and you work very hard. I want to Echo robot off of the movie. I love you, Santa. Thank you.

Jossden

Dear Santa,

How do you get around the world all in one night? I want the Big Book of Manners and a Woody from Toy Story. I also want a hula hoop.

R.J.

Dear Santa,

I really want a movie of "Blues Clues." I also want an iPod, Elf on the Shelf and a trip to Disneyworld.

D' Aris

LEYTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL Ms. Shirley Melton's 1st Grade Class

Dear Santa,

I am a good boy Santa! How many cookies can you eat? 2,100 cookies? 2,100 glasses of milk? I really want to tell Mrs. Claus hi!

Hayden

Dear Santa,

I have been good. Do you have a dog? How is my elf? Can I have a skateboard? I love you Santa Claus.

Aidan

Dear Santa.

I have been a good girl. Have any elves got sick? Is an elf going to come to our room? I saw an elf going to our house. I want an American Girl doll and a stuffed animal. See you on Christmas.

Macey

Dear Santa,

I am the second-best kid in my family. Madey is the last best kid and Clare is the best kid. I like you really much Clare and I am the best too! Thank you for the gifts. You are the best one!! I want a stuffed bunny.

Alec

Dear Santa.

How is Rudolf? I want a skateboard. How is Mrs. Claus doing and you? How are the elves doing? Are they good or bad? Ho Ho! Merry Christmas and goodbye.

Kaleb

Dear Santa,

Hi, Santa. I've been so good. How is your wife, Mr. Claus? How is Fred? Be careful going down the chimney. Can I get a stuffed animal that is a pup?

Halle

Dear Santa,

I have been a good girl. Do you think I have been a good girl? How is Rudolf doing? How are the other reindeers doing? OK, what I want is a My Life Doll Wheelchair Set. Thank you!

Dear Santa

I have been very good! Is it cold? How are the reindeers and the elves? Christmas will be fun! How is Mrs. Claus doing? Is your shop working good? I want a cat house.

Josette

Dear Santa

I am the best girl! I am bad sometimes. I am your friend. Santa I just want a sister so bad! Please Santa. What does your beard look like? Carlyn

Drink Responsibly, Designate a driver – Take Care and Be Aware, Sidney

SIDNEY POLICE DEPARTMENT



On average, someone in the United States is killed by a drunk driver every 45 minutes.



Dear Santa,

How are the elves doing? Are they doing good? I have been a good girl. I want a Barbie Doll. What does your bed look like? Tu ta loo Santa!

Faith

Dear Santa,

I have been a good boy this year. How are the elves and Mrs. Claus doing? I want a tablet for Christmas, a toy kitten and a movie too. I'm at Grammie's house this year!

Dagen

Dear Santa,

How are your elves? I will be good today and won't go on yellow.

Ethan

LEYTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL Ms. Carolyn Schmidt's 2nd Grade Class

Dear Santa,

Is it cold at the North Pole? I bet it is. What is your favorite color? Red? Am I on the naughty or nice list this year? How do you go around the world in one night? For Christmas I want Penguins on Ice and Flutterbye Fairy? Can I have them PLEASE?

Katie

Dear Santa,

I have been good this year. I would like a tablet. Merry Christmas. Have a safe flight.

Kaylee

Dear Santa,

How is it at the North Pole? Is it busy? I bet it is busy. So all I want for Christmas is an American Girl doll and a stuffed elf named Snowflake. I hope I have been good. Anyway, I hope you have a good time at the North Pole. Shawnee

Dear Santa

For Christmas I want an iPad, a toy horse and a toy car.

Trey

Dear Santa,

I have been a good kid this week. I want a Daf stuffed animal.

Sydney

Dear Santa,

Can I have a remote car please? Can I have a Lego set please? Merry Christmas.

Matthew

Dear Santa,

I have been good this year. How have you been? I would like an iPod for Christmas.

Karsyn

Dear Santa,

I would like a blanket. I want a new toothbrush. I want a toy Chihuahua and a toy horse. I want a toy Blue Heeler. I want a snow globe for my mom. I want a snow globe for Tego. I want a snow globe for Ryan. I want a dog bone for Libby.

Augastina

Dear Santa,

For Christmas I want a D.S. and jump rope with beads. The most thing I want is happiness for my family so that we can always be kind. I won't forget to put out the cookies and milk. Oh, and say hello to that wife of yours Mrs. Claus. I will always remember that it is better to give than receive.

Ella

Dear Santa,

I want a phone and a computer for my brother and another phone.

Isaac

Dear Santa,

I would like a new bike that fits me. Have a safe flight. Merry Christmas.

Kallista

Dear Santa,

Thank you so much for the elf! Does she have a name? I like Deweyanna Sprinkles, but I just wondered. I know I asked for a few things that I wrote in another letter. So there was one more thing. I would love if you could get me a zipline that glows in the dark. Say Merry Christmas to your elves, Mrs. Claus and your reindeer.

Zaili

Dear Santa,

This year I want to go to the North Pole. Plus I want a My Life doll and dresses and shoes too. I can't wait until Christmas.

Jadyn

POTTER-DIX ELEMENTARY SCHOOL Ms. Pam Haack's 1st Grade Class

Dear Santa

All I want for Christmas is four things. They are Jessie, Buzz Lightyear, Woody and Bullseve.

R.J

Dear Santa,

Please can I have some surprises and a Barbie and a bone for my dog, Badger?

Kaitlyn

Dear Santa,

I want an electric guitar so I can play music. I also want a Ninja Turtle to play with my brother. I also want a new puppy so I can play with it.

Landon

Dear Santa,

I would like some new clothes. My clothes are getting small. I would also like a new game.

Joe

Dear Santa,

I want it to be a surprise.

Rhemy

Dear Santa.

I would like a flute and a guitar because I like music, and I would like a chair and a phone. Happy, happy Christmas, Santa.

Micayla

Dear Santa,

I want a Leap Pad, a Barbie Dream House, a Barbie Holiday doll, a glass unicorn, a new house, new clothes and shoes.

Kailee

Dear Santa,

I wish you would bring me a Monster High doll because it's fun. I want a real kitten because they are cute and fun! I also want a tablet because they are fun and cool.

Amanda

Dear Santa,

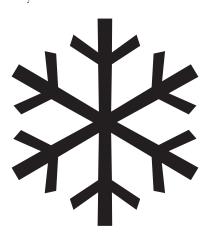
I want an Easy Bake Oven, a Zoomer puppy, a new doll and doll house about 3 feet long and 8 feet high.

Maddy

Dear Santa,

I want an Xbox and lots of Xbox games. I also want a PS4 and lots of PS4 games. And I want a new football.

Kolby



Happy Holidays!



635 CABELA DRIVE , SIDNEY, NE 308-254-2111





645 Osage Street • Sidney, NE 69162 • (308)254-5825 www.SidneyRMC.com

POTTER-DIX ELEMENTARY SCHOOL Ms. Chari Mohr's 2nd Grade Class

Dear Santa,

I would like a sled and some more games to play and some more toys and a helmet and some more books and a star for my dad's Christmas tree.

Jaclyn

Dear Santa.

I want to open presents so bad. I hope I get most stuff that I want. I enjoy seeing my family everyday. Santa, I want to see you. I want a new backpack, fifty dollars, Zoomer Dina, the new police Legos, a remote-controlled plane, Nintendo 3DS, Skylanders, a Kindle Fire, cars, books, a picture book adidas shoes, Xbox One, a notebook, a drum set with drum sticks and a sled.

Dakota

Dear Santa,

I would like a new sled, a small teddy bear and two twin dolls. You can give me these presents but you don't have to. I want a puppy and for everyone to have a Merry Christmas.

Nevaeh

Dear Santa,

I would like a Wubble, spy gear, an electric guitar, a remote-controlled car, an iPod or Kindle, a lot of toy cars and a Hover Ball. That is what I want for Christmas.

Taylan

Dear Santa,

I want a candy bar maker, eight Barbie dolls, a watch to tell time and one of Santa's elves for Christmas.

Eracia

Dear Santa,

I would like two phones, a candy bar maker, a 600-fott TV, a lot of candy and a 700-footbed for Christmas.

Eliza

PEETZ ELEMENTARY SCHOOL Ms. Bev Davis' Kindergarten Class

Dear Santa,

May I please have some makeup and a toy tractor?

Erin

Dear Santa.

May I please have a motorcycle and a BB gun that is black

Tony

Dear Santa,

May I please have a toy dog and a pink BB gun?

Courtney

Dear Santa.

May I please have a Hex Bugs 2 and Boy's Life? Samuel

Dear Santa,

May I please have a baby Vixen and Dancer reindeer with clothes?

Alexis

Dear Santa,

May I please have a Barbie doll and a cat stuffed animal?

Megan

Dear Santa,

May I please have a Barbie doll and my own dog?

Ella

Dear Santa,

May I please have an Elsa and Anna Castle playset?

Rylee

Dear Santa,

May I please have an orange BB gun and a big rodeo set?

Conner

Dear Santa,

May I please have a water gun and a toy police car?

Jace

Dear Santa,

May I please have a stuffed koala bear and farm stuff?

Dylan

Dear Santa,

May I please have Legos and some Xbox 360 games?

Jaxon

Dear Santa,

May I please have a cat stuffed animal and a puppy?

Madison

Although in typing these letters we may have misinterpreted some handwriting, rest assured Santa understands what we do not.



Drive sober OR get pulled over.



Don't let Christmas Vacation end on Probation.

SIDNEY POLICE DEPARTMENT







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

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
- 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
- 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!



The 10 Christmas commandments

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

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.

1. THOU SHALT NOT GO TO MORE THAN 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.

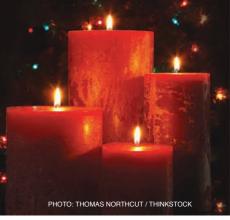
8. THOU SHALT GIVE TO OTHERS Because this time of year is all about being generous, make the most of it to help a friend or volunteer for a local organization.

9. THOU SHALT BE CAREFUL ON THE

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.



Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

From: Your friends at The Sidney Sun-Telegraph









Braised Rabbit

Rabbit was a staple of **Irish** country kitchens in earlier times. A dish like this would have been cooked over the fire in a cast iron bastable, or pot-oven.

INGREDIENTS

- 1 onion, finely chopped
- 3 carrots, finely chopped
- 1 rabbit (2 1/2 to 3 lb), cut into 6 serving pieces
- 1 cup hard cider
- 1 sprig fresh thyme
- 3 Tbsp canola or sunflower oil
- 1 Tbsp white flour
- 2 cups chicken or rabbit stock
- Salt and pepper

PREPARATION

- 1. Preheat the oven to 350°F.
- 2. Put half the onion and half the carrots on the bottom of a nonreactive bowl or baking dish just large enough to hold the rabbit pieces in one layer. Lay the rabbit on top, then press the remaining onions and carrots lightly into the meat. Pour the cider over the rabbit and press the thyme sprig down lightly into the meat. Cover the bowl and marinate the rabbit for about 24 hours in the refrigerator, turning 2 or 3 times.
- 3. Remove the rabbit from the marinade. Strain the marinade, reserving the cider and vegetables separately. Pat the rabbit dry.
- 4. Heat the oil in a Dutch oven or another heavybottomed oven-proof pot over high heat. Fry the rabbit, turning frequently, for 6 to 8 minutes, or until browned on all sides. Remove the rabbit from the Dutch oven and set aside. Reduce the heat to low, add the reserved vegetables, and cook, stirring frequently, for 10 to 12 minutes, or until the vegetables are soft and starting to brown.
- 5. Sprinkle flour over the vegetables and stir well. Slowly pour in the reserved cider and then the stock, stirring well. Season to taste with salt and pepper, then return the rabbit to the Dutch oven, turning it over in the liquid so that it is well coated. Cover the pot and braise the rabbit in the oven for 30 minutes. Lower the temperature to 300°F, turn the rabbit pieces over in liquid, and cook for another 1 1/2 hours, turning the rabbit every 30 minutes.



Recipe: Colman Andrews, Country Cooking of Ireland Photo: Christopher Hirsheimer

Baked Cheesecake with Kisel

This creamy cheesecake contrasts well with the flavour of fresh or stewed fruit, so why not try it with kisel? Originally a German recipe, kisel is a red-berry compôte that has become associated with Russia, where it was

introduced by German governesses in the last century and is still a popular nursery food today.

INGREDIENTS

- 2 cups plain flour
- 1/2 cup butter
- 1 Tbsp caster sugar (superfine sugar)
- finely grated rind of 1/2 lemon
- 1 egg, beaten
- sprigs of mint, to decorate

FOR THE KISEL

- 1/4 cup caster sugar
- 4 cups prepared red berries, such as

- 1/2 cup water

PREPARATION

- 1. Begin by making the pastry for the cheesecake. Sift the flour into a bowl. Rub in the butter until the mixture resembles fine breadcrumbs. Stir in the caster sugar and lemon rind, then add the beaten egg and mix into a dough. Wrap in clear film and chill for at least 15 minutes.
- 2. Roll out the pastry on a lightly floured surface and use to line the base and sides of a 10" springform pan. Chill for 1 hour.
- 3. Put the quark (or yogurt) for the filling in a fine sieve set over a bowl and leave to drain for 1 hour.
- 4. Preheat the oven to 400°F. Prick the chilled pastry crust with a fork, fill it with

strawberries, raspberries, red currants, cherries

• 1 Tbsp arrowroot

FOR THE FILLING

- 3 cups quark (can be substituted with greek yogurt, creamed cottage cheese, or mascarpone)
- 3/4 cup caster sugar
- 4 eggs, separated
- 3 Tbsp cornstarch
- 2/3 cup sour cream

crumpled foil, and bake for 5 minutes. Remove the foil and bake for a further 5 minutes. Remove the pastry crust from the oven and reduce the oven temperature to 350°F.

- 5. Put the drained quark in a bowl with the egg yolks and caster sugar and mix together. Blend the cornstarch in a cup with a little sour cream, then add to the bowl with the remaining sour cream, the lemon rind, juice, and vanilla essence. Mix well.
- 6. Whisk the egg whites in a greaseproof bowl until stiff, then fold into the quark mixture, one third at a time. Pour the filling into the pastry crust and bake for 1-1 1/4 hours, until golden and firm. Turn off

- finely grated rind and juice of 1/2 lemon
- 1 tsp vanilla essence



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

the oven and leave the door ajar. Let the cheesecake cool, then chill for 2 hours.

- 7. To make the kisel, put the prepared fruit, caster sugar, and water into a pot and cook over a low heat until the sugar dissolves and the juices run. Remove the fruit with a slotted spoon and set aside.
- 8. Blend the arrowroot in a cup with a little cold water, stir into the fruit juices in the pot, and bring to the boil, stirring all the time. Return the fruit to the pot and allow to cool before serving with the well-chilled cheesecake, decorated with sprigs of mint.



INGREDIENTS

- 1/4 cup butter
- 1 small onion, finely chopped
- 1 cup long grain rice
- 1 1/2 cups chicken stock
- 1 bay leaf
- olive oil
- 6 oz button (white) mushrooms

Coulibiac Wild salmon was very plentiful in **Scotland** in the 19th century, although the rise in gaming and fishing led to an Act of Parliament being passed banning the gentry from feeding their staff on salmon more than three times a week. This wonderful pie was probably one of the ways in which the staff would enjoy it.

- 1 lb ready-made puff pastry
- 5 lb salmon, skinned and filleted
- · dash of dry white wine
- chopped fresh fennel
- 3 eggs, boiled until firm and sliced
- egg wash, made by whisking 1 egg with a little milk
- salt and ground black pepper

FOR THE HOLLANDAISE SAUCE

- 3 egg yolks
- 2 Tbsp white wine vinegar
- 1/2 cup butter, diced
- 1/4 tsp salt
- · pinch of ground black pepper

and finish by adding the remaining rice.

- 5. Brush the edges of the pastry with the egg wash, fold the pastry over, and seal. Decorate with any pastry trimmings, if you like, and brush egg wash all over.
- 6. Allow to rest in a cool place for an hour. Meanwhile preheat the oven to 425°F. Bake the coulibiac in the preheated oven for about 40 minutes. If the pastry browns too quickly, turn down the heat. Allow to rest for 10 minutes before serving.
- 7. Make the hollandaise sauce. Put the egg yolks and vinegar in the top of a double boiler. Stir until thoroughly combined. Over the base pot filled with hot, but not boiling, water, heat gently, stirring until the yolk begins to thicken. Add a piece of butter and whisk over a gentle heat until the butter has melted. Gradually add the remaining butter, whisking until the sauce thickens. Remove from the heat and stir in the salt and ground black pepper.
- 8. Use a serrated bread knife to cut the coulibiac, slicing across its width. Hot and moist, it is delicious served with a green vegetable drizzled with the hollandaise sauce. It is also excellent cold with



PREPARATION

- 1. Preheat the oven to 350°F. In a small ovenproof pan, melt half the butter and cook the onion until translucent. Add the rice and stir. Add the stock and a pinch of salt. Bring to the boil and add the bay leaf. Cover and cook in the preheated oven for 20 minutes. When cooked, gently fluff the rice with a fork and leave to cool.
- 2. Slice the mushrooms finely. Heat the remaining butter with a little olive oil in a second pan and quickly fry the mushrooms. Set aside to cool.
- 3. Roll out the puff pastry into a square, long enough for a filet and leaving 1" at each end. Sprinkle half the rice in a strip across the centre of the pastry. Cover with one salmon filet, moisten with a little wine, season with salt and ground pepper, and sprinkle over the filet the chopped fresh fennel.
- 4. Cover the salmon with half the sliced egg, half the cooked mushrooms, and a few more spoonfuls of the rice. Then lay the second salmon filet on top, adding another splash of wine and seasoning again with salt and ground black pepper. Place another layer of sliced egg over the top, sprinkle the rest of the mushrooms over,







Pork Loin with Prune Stuffing

• 1 onion, chopped

• 1 cup dry red wine

• 1 Tbsp soft dark brown sugar

green cabbage, to serve

• salt and freshly ground black pepper

• plus butter-sautéed stoned prunes,

apple, and leek slices and steamed

SERVES 4

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

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.

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

Roasted Walnut and Pear Salad

INGREDIENTS

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

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.



Recipe: Very Merry Christmas Cookbook Gooseberry Patch)

Photo.

Eggnog Fudge

INGREDIENTS

- 2 cups sugar
- 1 cup refrigerated eggnog
- 2 Tbsp butter
- 2 Tbsp 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 min-
- 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.



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

• 6 sprigs of tarragon

• 13 fl oz sweet white wine

• 2 cups sparkling mineral water

• 2 Tbsp cultured butter

Coq au Vin

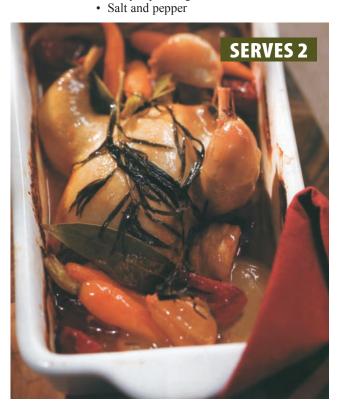
(Chicken braised in sweet wine with baby vegetables)

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

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.

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







Dressing up your table

Christmas is the perfect time of year for spoiling ourselves and getting dressed up to the nines. So how about giving the same royal treatment to an often neglected element of the dining room—after all, what could be more welcoming than a beautifully dressed table?



Your table should look as beautiful as you! stay put on your guests' laps.

First of all, a tablecloth is always preferable to placemats if you're hosting a formal event. A cloth has the advantage of covering the entire surface of the table, protecting it from any spills, which are inevitable during dinner parties. Using a padded tablecloth underlay ensures extra protection and keeps the tablecloth in place.

A tablecloth should never reach the floor, as people might trip over it or set a chair leg on it. It should fall at least eight inches down each side of the table. It is also important to choose a cloth of the same shape as the table (round, oval, square, or rectangular).

Forget about floral patterns if you want to create an elegant look. Choose a plain color or an understated pattern instead. White and cream are the classic choices, but if your dishes are in the same tones, show them off to advantage with a golden brown or silvery grey toned tablecloth. One thing goes without saying: the tablecloth should be of good quality, made of fine cotton or linen.

As for table napkins, they should be both esthetic and practical. Ensure they are soft to the touch and big enough to

Toasting traditions

At this time of year festive gatherings with friends and family give us ample opportunity to drink to the health of the evening's hosts, to celebrate old friends, or simply to say goodbye to one year and welcome in the next.

Certain customs go along with this ritual. To make a formal toast, be sure you have something to say and say it in as few words as possible—no one wants a repeat of that interminable toast Uncle Bill made last year. But we don't really need a specific reason to raise our glasses; an informal toast can be offered simply to launch the evening's first round of cocktails or wine. Make sure everyone has been served a drink before proposing a toast, and make eye contact when you tap glasses. Keep in mind that toasting is not done the

Cheers! (English) **Egészségére!** (Hungarian) Kanpai! (Japanese) Nazdrowie! (Polish) **Prost!** (German)

same way all around the world. If you're traveling, make sure that you are informed about the appropriate time to offer a toast.

A SHORT HISTORY OF TOASTING

Toasting dates back to the Middle Ages when poisoning the enemy was par for the course. Banging overflowing glasses together allowed the two drinks to be mixed and served as a declaration of peace and conviviality. Looking over the drink and straight into the eyes of adversaries helped to assess their reaction and judge their true intentions.

Let's hope that this Christmas brings friendlier terms to your toasting! On that note, Merry Christmas, Happy New Year, and cheers to

> **Salud!** (Spanish) **Salute!** (Italian) Santé! (French) Saude! (Portuguese) Skál! (Swedish)

Seven resolutions for feeling good about yourself

The start of a new year is the perfect occasion to stop and ask yourself a few questions about your lifestyle and health. Just in case you're lacking direction, here are seven resolutions for becoming a better human being or, at the very least, for feeling better about yourself.

- 1. Setting an objective and achieving it. There's nothing like the feeling of accomplishment. Whether it involves stopping a bad habit or starting something new, the important thing is to set yourself a realistic objective and to do everything possible in order to meet it.
- 2. Donating to an organization. Whether it's money, material goods, or your time and skills, giving is rewarding, both for you and the recipients.
- **3. Traveling.** For some it's an adventure, for others it's a time to relax. Whatever the case, a trip is the occasion to broaden your horizons and stock up on some great
- 4. Cleaning up. Whether you want to de-clutter your thoughts, your finances, your circle of friends, or your home, a good



cleanup is always useful in starting the year on the right foot.

- 5. Giving a helping hand. There are many ways to help others: help a friend to move, babysit your nieces and nephews, or do some shopping for elderly parents.
- 6. Spending more time with your loved ones. Taking a break from the worries of daily life to build a closer relationship with family members is a rewarding experience we too often neglect. And yet it's priceless!
- 7. Taking care of yourself. Treating yourself to some personal care once in a while does you good—eat well, exercise, have fun, and spoil yourself a little bit.

Fun apps to get you in the holiday spirit

phone or tablet, then here are a few ideas for some apps that will get you into the holiday spirit.

ADVENT CALENDARS

Of course, no advent candies are included with these apps but they do help to pass the time (and to have fun) until December 24 rolls around.

GIFTS

Some really useful apps can help you keep track of gift requests from family and friends, while others suggest some original gift wrapping ideas. Apps can also help you write directly to Santa Claus—these days he's as hooked on technology as you are!

MAIL

If you've mailed some of your gifts you'll be happy to know that parcel tracking is now available with a click of

If you feel lost without your smart the finger. Some big companies specializing in mail and package deliveries also have their own apps.

GREETING CARDS

There's no lack of apps for sending your holiday greetings to all and sundry. All you have to do is dust off your poetic and artistic talents.

RECIPES

No idea what to serve your visitors this Christmas? There are tons of apps out there packed with mouth-watering recipes ranging from cookies to turkeys.

RING TONES

It's impossible to talk about apps without mentioning the innumerable holiday ring tones and sound effects on offer. You can even find the most famous of Christmas carols "interpreted" by a cat or a dog. Fun and laughs, guaranteed!





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 excep-

tional 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 of different foods go well with ochampagne. It is a delicious 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 SUR-**ROUNDING CHAM-PAGNE**

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!

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

GLEAMING SILVERWARE

- Avoid abrasive products
- · Avoid putting them in soapy dishwasher



It is possible to get rid of red wine stains!

- 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 tarnish-

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

CHRISTMAS CLASSICS

We love to watch them over and over again!

Are you looking for something to do with • Miracle on 34th Street 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

- 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
- · Beauty and the Beast: The Enchanted Christmas
- · Shrek the Halls
- Bad Santa
- Arthur Christmas
- Fred Claus
- Gremlins

Fifteen favorite cocktails

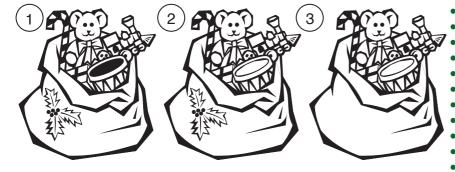
Would you like to put a bit of spice into your holiday parties? Here are 15 popular cocktails and the ingredients you need to concoct them. Master these, and your guests will feel welcome — and impressed.

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

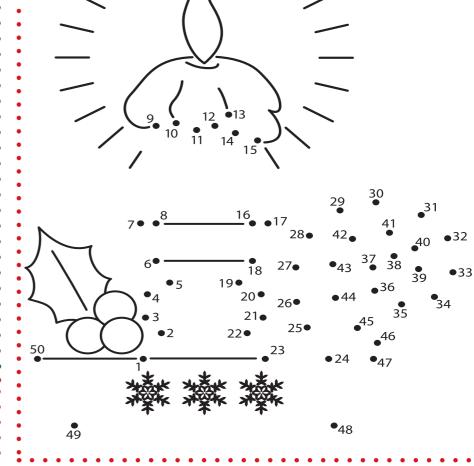
- white rum, triple-sec*, tequila, lime juice, cola.
- Margarita: tequila, triple-sec*, lime juice (plus salt for frosting the glass).
- Mimosa: champagne, orange juice, triple-sec*
- 10. Mojito: white rum, lime juice, mint leaves, soda, sugar. 11. Piña colada: white rum, amber rum,
- pineapple juice, 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**,
- * Triple-sec: Grand Marnier, Cointreau.
- Coffee liqueur : Kahlua, Tia Maria,

















FUN & CAMES for the holidays

