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Christmas Greetings

2021

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Letters to Santa Claus

Composed by the students of
Mrs. Davies' 2nd Grade Class



Dear Santa Claus,
Thank you for the present last year. I appreciated the presents very much. How cold is the North Pole, Santa Claus? Could you please give me an Iphone 12. I love you Santa Claus.
Thank you,
Hunter

Dear Father Christmas,
Thank you for the presents you gave me last year for Christmas. I really enjoyed them If you can please bring me a pet bunny for Christmas thank you! You make the best Christmas ever! How do you make toys?
Love,
Lucia

Dear Santa,
Thank you for the presents last year. This year can I have Pokemon cards, please? How many reindeer do you have? I like bananas!
Your friend,
Emmett

Dear Santa,
Thank you for the Christmas presents last year. Can I please have a Godzilla Pop-it and a Among Us plushie and a big Among Us Pop-it? Santa, I have a question do you have a reindeer named Rudolpoh? Is his nose red? Can't wait,
Dante

Dear Father Christmas,
Thank you for giving me a cat for Christmas. I like cookies. My favorite color is pink, purple, black, grey. Can I please have another cat. I would also like a Pikachu please.
Love,
Aaliyah

Dear St. Nick,
Thank you for all the presents last year. I loved them a lot. This Christmas I wonder, is there a Rudolph junior? This year I tried to make a new freind and guess what, I did! Merry Christmas!! Good night to all and to all a

good night... This Christmas can I have a hover board? Thanks.
Love,
Avery

Dear Santa,
Thank you Santa for the cat. I would like a bike and a scooter. I like math! Do you actually have reindeer?
Love,
Khloe

Dear Santa Claus,
Thank you for the presents. This years Christmas. Christmas is like a dream where you get everything you ever wanted. You have always been nice these years.
We love you Santa.
Tucker

Dear Santa,
Thank you for the pajamas last year. My favorite color is black. I would like a iPhone. I know how to ride a bike. Do you have a real beard?
Thank you,
Camile

Dear Santa,
Thank you for the presents that you gave me last year. I love making cookies for you to eat! Can you please bring me a unicorn toy and toy doll house and an app for my tablet!
From,
Lily

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Claus,
Thank you for the presents that you gave me last year. I have been very good this year. How is Mrs. Claus? If you can please bring me hair dye. That would make my happy.
Love,
Laura

Dear Santa,
Thank you for all of the toys you gave me last year. Sorry I couldnt give you cookies. I have a question what games you play? Minecraft, Spiderman? May I have a Minecraft Lego ship toy. You are a good

friend.
Your friend,
Mateo

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Claus,
Thank you for the scooter last year. You gave me another scooter. How fast is Rudolph? Can you get me a bendy plushy?
Your friend,
Malaki

Dear Santa,
Thank you for the presents from last year. Thank you so much! Where is the North Pole? May I please get a Pokemon Shield game and a computer?
Adrian

Dear Santa,
Thank you, Santa for the toys. Santa, I never go to the North Pole! Santa, you are the best! I love Beauty and the Beast but I don't like the real Beauty and the Beast at all!
Thank you,
Rowdy

Dear Santa,
Thank you for the presents. Could you please bring me a water bottle? Is your sleigh red? I have four people in my house. I love you!
Love,
Madison

Dear Santa,
Thank you Mr. and Mrs. Claus for the presents. I wish for a bean bag and school supplies.
Thank you,
Natali

Dear Santa,
Thank you for all of the presents that you gave me. I love them! I love red. Can I please get a magic kit?
From
Jaxson

Dear Santa,
Thank you for giving me lunch boxes. My favorite color is teal. How do the reindeer fly? I wish for a doll please.
Your friend,
LillyAnna





Composed by the students of
Mrs. Chandler's 2nd Grade Class

Dear Santa,
I hope that you are doing well at the North Pole. Thank you for the presents you gave me last Christmas. This year, I want an electric scooter and a go kart. Thank you!
Love,
Kevin

Dear Santa,
This year, I want a BR. I like to play with it. Thank you for the presents from last year. I liked them.
Love,
Cristobal

Dear Santa,
Thank you for my hoverboard from last year. I hope a bunch of kids are being good! This year I want a new radio. Thank you for making it snow!
From,
Owen

Dear Santa,
Hi, Santa! Have you been having fun? All I want for Christmas this year is puppets, LPS, fidgets, dolls, money, and anything. Thank you!
Love,
Addison

Dear Santa,
I hope things are going well in the North Pole. Thank you for everything from last Christmas. It was a great Christmas. It was great and fun and you're the best Santa ever and Mrs. Clause too. Your elves are nice. This year I would like a tablet.
From,
Fatima
Love you guys!

Dear Santa,
I like my presents from last year and I like new presents this year.
Love,
Jesus

Dear Santa,
I hope you have been having a good year San-

ta. I want an Alexa for Christmas this year.
Love,
Lennon
Thank you!

Dear Santa,
I really love the presents that you got last year. This year I want Hatchimals. You are awesome. Thank you!
Love,
Kaysia

Dear Santa,
What are you doing? I'm thanking you for the LOL set you got me for Christmas last year. Can you please get me a watch? I want a watch so when I am with my Mom I can call my Dad.
Sincerely,
Kayzlee

Dear Santa,
Can I have a robot watch and a drum for Christmas? I loved the stuff in my stocking last year. Thank you.
Sincerely,
Willy

Dear Santa,
I like a toy for Christmas this year.
Love,
Yeshua

Dear Santa,
This year I want a lot of fidgets... You are the best Santa ever. Love you.
Love,
Brooklyn

Dear Santa,
I wish I could see you tonight. I also wish I could tell you the presents I want. I want an iPad, kinetic sand, and a Spiderman toy. Merry Christmas, Santa!
Sincerely,
Miles

Dear Santa,
I hope you are doing well at the North Pole. I hope I can see you one

day. This Christmas can I have a new toy Squishy? Thank you.
Sincerely,
Areil

Dear Santa,
What are you doing? I'm thinking you are making presents. I want to thank you for getting me a LOL set for Christmas. You are so awesome.
Love,
Amelia

Dear Santa,
I really love Christmas. I thank you for my pajamas. I would love a Switch for Christmas. I've always wanted one.
Love,
Anabell

Dear Santa,
I want to know your reindeer's names. By the way, I want 10 GXS Pokemon this year for Christmas.
Love,
Ozzy

Dear Santa,
I wonder how it is going in your shop. I really want to see you some day. Thank you for the Pokemon cards last year. I want 200 GXS Pokemon this year please.
Love,
Brayden

Dear Santa,
I hope you and Mrs. Clause are doing great. I would like a How to Draw book. I like to draw a lot. Thank you!
Your friend,
Adrian

Dear Santa,
I want Free VBucks and all of the Fortnite world toys and some Ryan's World toys. I have been really good and really nice this year.
Love,
Ryder

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MERRY
christmas

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Jackson Jensen



As we approach this Holiday Season, our thoughts reflect on those who have contributed so significantly to the success of our schools. It is with great sincerity we say, “Thank You for your support and may your Holidays be happy ones.”

From Your Friends At
Weiser School District

Letters to
Santa Claus

Composed by the
students of
Miss Hill’s 2nd Grade Class



Dear Santa,
How is it in the North Pole? I want some clay, leggos and Marble Run game please?
Merry Christmas,
Roland

Dear Santa,
Hi, how are you? Are you and the elves ready for the big day? Santa for Christmas I would like a pop-it, a scooter and I would like some shoes.
Happy Christmas,
Damion

Dear Santa,
Hi, how are you? I love Christmas. Are you and the elves ready for the big day? Santa I would like a new pair of shoes, gum, a phone, book, real make-up, a new water bottle and a Diary book.
Josslyne

Dear Santa,
I hope you are having a great day. I would like a football for Christmas. I would also like a hat. I like snow. Have a Merry Christmas Santa!
From,
Daymon

Dear Santa,
Hi, how are you and the reindeer feeling? I love Christmas. Are you and the elves ready for Christmas? I want a snowman toy, and a kitten. I need a pair of mittens. Merry Christmas Santa!
Love,
Natalie

Dear Santa,
Hello, how are you? How are your reindeer? Santa for Christmas I would like a hello phone please. I hope you have a nice day.
Happy Holidays,
LeAnna

Dear Santa,
Hi, how are you? I love Christmas. Santa for Christmas I would like a Dogman a Tail of Two Kitties. Merry Christmas.
Love,
Skyler
P.S. I would like a Pop-it too.

Dear Santa,
Hi, how are you? I love Christmas. Are you and the elves ready for the big day? Santa for Christmas I would like shoes, a sketch book, books, and a bookshelf to put the books on. I hope you have a Merry Christmas.
Happy Holidays and Seasons Greetings,
Kareli

Dear Santa,
Hi, how are you? I love Christmas. Are you and the elves ready for the big day? Santa, for Christmas I would like a football and a drone. I hope you have a good Christmas.
Have Merry Christmas,
Luke

Dear Santa,
Hi, how are you? I love Christmas. Are you and the elves ready for the big day? Santa, for Christmas I would like a toy train. I hope you have a Merry Christmas.
From,
Andres

Dear Santa,
Hi, how are you? Santa for Christmas I would like a Cowboy shirt, boots, jacket, hat and an IphoneXR.
Happy Holidays,
Carlos

Dear Santa,
How are you? Are you getting ready for Christmas? I would like to have a ferret for Christmas and also a rabbit. I need a new pair of shoes please. Thank you Santa.
From,
Scarlett

Dear Santa,
Hi, how are you? I love Christmas. Are you and the elves ready for the big day? Santa, for Christmas I would like a phone so my Mom and Dad could contact me. I would also like a pair of slippers and a size 7 shorts, a wooden chair and curtains. I hope you have a Merry Christmas.
Happy Holidays,
Lexi

Dear Santa,
I would like an Iphone, make-up, 3 notebooks, and a Diary. I also need a real magic magical wings.
Love,
Madison

Dear Santa,
Hi, how are you? I love Christmas. May I have a nerf gun please, and a puppy, please and thank you. I would also like Call of Duty X-box game.
Seasons Greetings,
Kamden

Dear Santa,
Hi, how are you? Are you and the elves ready for Christmas? I know I am ready for Christmas. I would like a Play Station V, virtual goggles and a tablet and remote control car. Thank you Santa.

Merry Christmas Santa!!
Love,
Julian

Dear Santa,
Hi, how are you? I love Christmas. Are you and the elves ready for the big day? Santa, for Christmas I would like an Iphone 13. I hope you have a Merry Christmas.
Happy Holidays,
Jaxtyn

Dear Santa,
Hi, how are you? I love Christmas. Are you and the elves ready for the big day? Santa for Christmas I would like a lazer tag gun and Ninja swords.
I hope you have a Merry Christmas.
From,
Cody

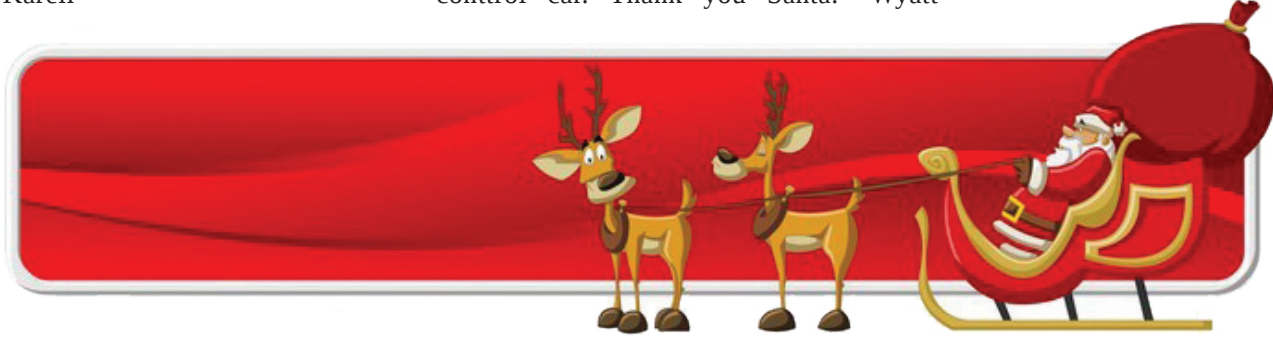
Dear Santa,
Are you and the elves ready for the big day? Santa for Christmas I would like a new mask. Thank you.
Happy Holidays,
Alison

Dear Santa,
Hi, how are you? How is your family? Santa, for Christmas I would like Legos. Have a nice day.
Merry Christmas,
Jace

Dear Santa,
Hi, how are you? I love Christmas. Are you and the elves ready for the big day? Santa, for Christmas I would like a new set of clothes with Christmas colors on them. I hope you have a Merry Christmas.
Happy Holidays and Seasons Greetings,
Zaira

Dear Santa,
Hi, how are you? I love Christmas. Are you and the elves ready for the big day? Santa for Christmas I would like kittens, a real phone, a rescue pet stuff animal, a bike and roller blades please. You are the BEST ever!
Happy Holidays,
Love,
Addison

Dear Santa,
Hi, how are you? I love Christmas. Are you and the elves ready for the big day? For Christmas I would like a bike, slap pop it, yo-yo and gum. Thank you.
Happy Holidays and Seasons Greetings,
Wyatt





Letters to Santa Claus

Composed by the students of
Mrs. Blue's 2nd Grade Class

Dear Santa,

How is your family? How are your elves doing? I hope you are doing ok. May I have a LOL doll? And may I have a toy horse?
Your friend,
Ashlyn

Dear Santa,

How is your family? I hope you are doing good. I wish I had a puppy. It could sleep with me. And I want a Nerf gun. And I want a fake penguin pillow. Merry Christmas!
Love,
David

Dear Santa,

Merry Christmas Santa. How is your family? How is your reindeers? I need clothes please. I need shoes please. I want a camera please. How is the elfs doing? I love you Santa!
Your friend,
Leilany

Dear Santa,

Merry Christmas. I hope you have a good Christmas. For Christmas I want a bik, books, iPad, a big teddy bair, and a raindeer. How is roodof and the elfs?
Your Friend,
Mackinley,
P.S.: Ruby and Radley and Kaleb hae bin rilly good but I was the bestes.

Dear Santa,

Merry Chirstmas! I hope you have a good halluday and I think you are the niseist person ever. How are the elvs doing? I wish I cood see you. Here is what I whant for Christmas... Anuther silver back gorilla toy. Thank you for evree thing.
Your Friend,
Lorenzo

Dear Santa,

Merry Christmas. How is your family? I need shirts. I need undies. I want a phone. I need pants.
Love,
Eddie

Dear Santa,

Merry Christmas! I hope you have a reely fun Christmas. How are you and misses clos doing? Can I please have a hover board? And I reely need socks and snow shoes. Have you been magic when you were a kid or when you became Santa? My family is making sugar cookys. I hope these are your favrit.
Sincerely,
Adahlei

Dear Santa Claus,

I like Christmas. Thank you for giving us presents. You are very nice and kind. I like how you have reindeer. And what I want for Christmas – May I please have a remote con-

trol car? And can I have a nerf gun, please? Can I have a drone? I always liked you because you are nice to everybody in the whole world. And I want pokemon and an X-box.
Your friend,
Nick

Dear Santa,

Merry Christmas Santa! How is your family? I hope no one is sick. Me and my sister are going to cancoon. This is my second time. Bye Santa.
Your friend,
Camie

Dear Santa,

How is your faumily? For Christmas I was prefer too spend time with my family. I want a metoy. Thank you santa. My sister has been good. My broes have been good this year.
Your friend,
Marilyn

Dear Santa Claus,

Merry Christmas! I hope you are happy and safe with your family. You have a good Christmas with your family. Spend a lot of time with your family. This year I want paint stuff so I can paint and slime.
Your friend,
Nathalie

Dear Santa,

Merry Christmas! How are you? Do you like Christmas? Are you having fun Santa? For Christmas I want a Jasman doll and I want a fuzzy bag. I hope you have a happy day.
Your friend,
Mila

Dear Santa,

Merry Christmas! I hope you are doing good. And your family is to. Is it cold in the sky in your sled? This year I would like a fussy shirt. How do the presens fit in a bag? Santa, Merry Christmas.
Your frend,
Ember

Dear Santa,

You are the bast.
How is the els? I am graful for eths. Can I have two things for Christmas. Can I have pj's and slippers for Christmas?
Sincerely,
Isabella

Dear Santa,

I want a 3DS and a ntendo. My Dad needs tools. I want the culis and clothes. I want a baby bruthr or a baby sister. I need a new shirt please and how you doing? Merry Christmas Santa. How is your family? Please, may I have soft cozy pjamas please and I want a big stuffed Santa. Please may I have all of these? Are

your elves doing good?
Your friend,
Davis

Dear Santa,

How is your family? For Christmas I would prefer a baby puppy and baby sister and I really want a bunny and stik on nails and to live with Marilyn when I am 18. Thank you.
Sincerely,
your friend,
Raina

Dear Santa,

Hi! How are you? Have you had covid yet? I hope you don't get it. How do you make the toys? I wish it was Christmas! I love Christmas and you! Can I pls have a Iphone!
Sincerely,
Christian

Dear Santa,

Merry Christmas! For you to come to our house for Christmas. I want a stuffy. After Christmas it's my birthday. When is your birthday?
Your friend,
Faith

Dear Santa,

How are you, my old friend? How are the elvse? How is misses clos doing. I want a new hoverboard. I also wants a nintendo swich and epic roring terex and a new tablit and a P.S.5 and a Kontro and a head set.
Love,
Matthew

Dear Santa,

How are you? I am nice Santa. Can I hav a nurf gun? And a video game PS5? And please can I hav a fon? And can I hav a gozilla popit?
Merry Christmas!
Your friend,
Stetson

Dear Santa,

I hop you have a good Chrismas. How's the family? I hope they're good and hope you are feeling Good. How's the elves doing? I hope my elf comes. I need football stuff, pls. I wont a one weel pls. I need to go to Sanfransisco. I wont a lot of popits pls. I need a new house for Christmas. I wont a camra for Christmas. I need a new tiar for my bike.
Your friend,
Hardy

Dear Santa,

How do your reindeer fly? I think they fly by magic powder. Am I right? How are you doing? How are the elves doing? Do you have a favorite elf? Can I have a nite lite? Can I see the North Pole? I would like to come visit you. Merry Christmas.
Your friend,
Conner





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We would like to thank the Weiser Community for all their business and support through the last 56 years, but the time has come for Naomi and Jeff to pursue new chapters in their lives. We will be open and finishing service calls until the end of December. Thanks again and many blessings this Christmas season.





The first graders at Pioneer Elementary School started the Weiser School District’s Christmas program season. The program consisted of festive songs and jokes asked by the students. Pictured above is the five first grade classes singing ‘I Want a Hippopotamus for Christmas.’ The song is about a child who only wants a hippopotamus for Christmas. ‘No crocodiles, or rhinoceroses I only like hippopotamuses and hippopotamuses like me too.’ The children are representing a rhonoceroses with their fingers being the rhino’s horn. Pictured below is Lily Bair telling her joke with the help of Sage Beesley. Photo by Jamie Brown

First graders entertain a large audience with their Christmas songs and jokes

by Jamie Brown

On Friday, Dec. 3, the first-grade classes rang in the Christmas season with music. They filled the Weiser High School auditorium with joy as they performed a selection of classic holiday songs as well as some silly holiday jokes. The program was directed by Mrs. Kanawyer with piano accompaniment by Lara Tolman.

The program started with the song “This is Christmas.” The song speaks about opening our hearts to everyone around us for this joyous season. Next came a song that highlights something every child experiences at some point during grade school, “All I Want for Christmas is My Two Front Teeth.” Inspiration for this song came from the writer, Donald Yetter Gardner, visiting his wife’s second grade class and the amount of kids missing their front teeth.

The first joke of the afternoon was “What do elves learn in school? The elfabet.”

The kids did a series of fun hand gestures to accompany the song “Must be Santa” which gives a whole list of descriptive phrases that could only be referring to the jolly man himself. Then they sang the classic “Rockin Around the Christmas Tree,” which was originally



performed by a 12-year-old Brenda Lee in 1958. They followed this with the rhyme “Five Little Candles.”

The next joke was, “How does a sheep say Merry Christmas? Fleece Navidad.”

Next, at a slightly slower pace was the more traditional and calming “Away in the Manger.” Then right back into the rockin mood with “Jingle Bell Rock.”

Then the kids sang one of my personal favorite holiday songs, “I Want a Hippopotamus for Christ-

mas.” This upbeat song about a young child wanting Santa to bring them a hippo for Christmas, much to their mother’s chagrin, was first performed in 1953 by Gayla Peevey who was 10 at the time.

The final joke was one that is closer to home. “Where is Santa’s favorite place to deliver presents? Idaho ho ho.”

The program ended with a good-bye poem thanking everyone for attending and the song “It’s the Most Wonderful Time of the Year.”



Santa Claus made his debut for the 2021 Christmas season during the Night Light parade on Friday, Dec. 3. Santa will be visiting Weiser on Dec. 18 from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. at 125 W. Idaho St. He will also be at the Weiser Elks Lodge, 38 W. Idaho St. on Dec. 17 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. At the Elks Lodge he will be handing out gifts until they are gone. There will be free hotdogs, cocoa, and goodies from Weiser Classic Candy. The event is sponsored by GSG Gold and Silver Pawn Shop, Quality Auto Repair and Weiser Classic Candy. Pictured above visiting with Santa is Adolfo, Grace, Chy and Cruz Cardenas. Photo by Nicole Miller



Santa's elves have set up a mailbox to send Christmas wishes to him at the North Pole. The mailbox is located in downtown Weiser in front of the Weiser Signal American's office, 18 E. Idaho St. Letters may be dropped off at any time and is checked regularly and delivered quickly to Santa. Aria and Addy Lo are pictured dropping off their letters. *Photo by Jamie Brown*



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Christmas Blessings

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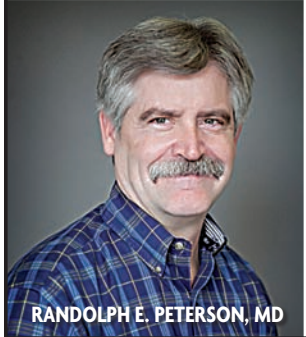
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Music teacher and director of the third grade Christmas program, Tori Thomas, described her students as talented and ‘spicy’ and knew she wanted to pick a western themed play. The students presented Christmas at the O.K. Corral to the joy of the large audience. Pictured above are the townspeople preparing the town of Snowy Gulch for their annual Christmas festival. *Photo by Nicole Miller*

Third graders save Christmas at the the O.K. Corral in classic Western

by Nicole Miller

Pioneer Elementary School’s third grade students presented their Christmas program on Dec. 9 at Weiser High School. The students presented Christmas at the O.K. Corral by Theresa Jennings, a musical play with a classic Western theme.

The story told of townspeople of Snowy Gulch as they prepared to celebrate Christmas with their annual festival at the O.K. Corral on the edge of town. Unfortunately, Bubble Gum Bart (played by Devon Jennings), annoyed by all the noise and happiness, tried to stop the celebration by threatening to cover the whole town in bubble gum goo.

Frightened and desperate, the townspeople telegraphed Santa Claus for help. He is busy during the holiday season, so he sends The Candy Cane Kid (played by Janaye Grant) to the rescue.

The Kid finds Bart at sundown, and helps him open up about why he hates Christmas. After a special song, Bart breaks down and admits to The Kid that he doesn’t really hate Christmas, he just feels like nobody likes him.

The townspeople respond by welcoming Bart into their celebration and into their town. The Mayor declares that Bart and his gang will join the community at the celebration. The Kid is a hero, Bart and his gang are accepted by their new friends, and the celebration of Christmas at the O.K. Corral is the greatest ever.

The townspeople, Santa, and elves, and Bart’s gang were played by: Abbie Rollins, Alan Sanchez, Anastasia Boles, Blake Perez, Emma Terry, Grace Cardenas, Gwen Potter, Joslynn Hicks, Lucy Tucker, and Olivia Froshiesar.

The rest of the third grade students helped fill the play with the original music as the chorus. The songs included “Christmas In The West”, “Bubble Gum Goo”, “Sticky Situation (a great rock-style tune that includes real Morse Code)”, “Tell Me” and the joyous hoedown finale, “Christmas Is O.K.!”

Music teacher and director, Tori Thomas shared that she knew she wanted to pick a show with a western theme because this group of students was talented and “spicy”. She also shared that the performance was extra special to the students because several of them had mentioned missing getting to have a live audience for their virtual Christmas concert last year. The live performance was extra special and appreciated by students and audience members alike.

Bubble Gum Bart, right, played by Devon Jennings, was trying to stop the celebration and threatened to cover the whole town in bubble gum goo. The townspeople telegraphed Santa Claus for help but due to his busy schedule he sent The Candy Cane Kid, Janaye Grant, to save the day. *Photo by Sarah Imada*



Steve’s Hometown Dealerships 32nd annual Hometown Community Benefit was a huge success this year. The benefit was able to return to a two day event with the Taste of the Treasure Valley held at the Malheur County Fairgrounds on Saturday, Sept. 11 and the golf scramble on Sunday, Sept. 12 at Scotch Pines Golf Course. During the Taste of the Treasure Valley event Steve Dominguez, owner of Steve’s Hometown Dealerships, presented three checks to deserving groups who help those in need during the holiday sesason. Pictured above is Joe Malay receiving \$10,000 from Dominguez for the Ho-Ho Express. Other recipients included Help Them to Hope, \$25,000 and the Next Chapter Food Pantry \$5,000. *Photo by Sarah Imada*

Hometown Motors gives big during Christmas season

Santa will visit from the North Pole to take children shopping for the Ho-Ho Express that is slated for Dec. 17

by Philip A. Janquart

Rewind, if you will, to last September, or any September in the last 32 years.

The month, more or less, marks the end of summer, but it’s also when Steve’s Hometown Dealerships holds its annual Hometown Community Benefit.

The benefit includes the Taste of the Treasure Valley and Charity Auction followed by the Charity Golf Scramble.

In its decades-long history, the two-day event has raised over \$700,000, all of the funds benefitting local communities.

Over \$60,000 was raised this year, the funds directly benefitting Joe Malay’s Ho-Ho Express in Weiser, Next Chapter Food Pantry in Ontario, and Help Them to Hope, an Ontario-based nonprofit that provides food boxes, clothing, and other necessities to people who might otherwise go without.

“It was one of our best years,” said Steve Dominguez, co-founder and owner of Steve’s Hometown Motors. “We were able to hold Taste of the Treasure Valley and Charity Auction live this year and we had tremendous success with that.”

So far, Hometown has purchased 350 bicycles and 1,500 presents for Help Them to Hope.

Each toy ranges from \$15 to \$20 in price.

“We spent a lot of money on toys this year,” said Dominguez, who is the organization’s vice president. “We had 600 applications from families in need and we’ll be delivering to those families Thursday, Dec. 16. The applications come from all over the Tri-County area.”

Hometown Motors has also given \$5,000 to Next Chapter, purchased 350 \$20 gift cards for the Ontario Food Bank, and donated \$10,000 to the Ho-Ho Express.

Dominguez said they are not through with the giving.

Considering the struggles everyone

has faced in the last couple of years, many families find themselves in particular need this Christmas and Hometown Motors has become a critical cog in the effort to give to those in need.

“There are so many families in our tri-county area that need help,” he said. “When I started with Help Them to Hope 25 years ago, I had no idea of the need, especially around the holidays.”

The experience underpins his philosophy of giving back.

That’s where the fundraising Benefit comes in.

The Benefit

The annual Hometown Community Benefit took place Sept. 11-12.

The event kicked off with the Taste of the Treasure Valley and Charity Auction Saturday, Sept. 11 at the Red Barn at the Malheur County Fairgrounds in Ontario. That wasn’t possible last year due to COVID.

The event featured wine and beer tasting complete with food from local restaurants at tasting stations. Participants, entertained with live piano music, took part in the silent and live auctions.

“This year we sold 33 VIP tables,” Dominguez said. “They spend anywhere from \$1,500 to \$2,500 for those tables.”

Many of the VIP tables were purchased by vendors who provide a variety of support services to Dominguez’ dealerships in Weiser, Ontario, and Fruitland.

“It’s a partnership that I believe, when we support people throughout the year, we hope they will support us with our community causes,” said Dominguez.

The Charity Golf Scramble took place Sunday, Sept. 12.

“This year we are completely sold out,” Dominguez told the *Weiser Signal American* in September. “We had 36 teams.”

There was also a barbecue, run by the Weiser Knights of Columbus, on the golf

course where people could eat throughout the day.

Ho-Ho Express

Malays’ Ho-Ho Express is a grand affair.

Hundreds of kids selected by Weiser School District administrators and teachers board school buses and, beginning in Weiser with a Weiser City Police Department escort, are taken to the Walmart in Ontario where they are allowed to do some Christmas shopping.

“We usually give about \$50 to each kid and try to get about 250 kids, with about that many helpers, so we’ll have about 500 people there. We spend between \$1,200 and \$1,500 over there in about 56 minutes,” said Joe Malay, who has teamed up with Hometown Dealerships for all 32 years.

“It’s pretty special,” he said. “The buses take us over and we usually get a police escort, and they go over with us, and the ISP (Idaho State Patrol) is out front with their lights flashing. We bring up the rear with Santa Claus. It’s controlled chaos, and it’s pretty cool.”

Upon returning to Weiser, kids have the option of getting their presents wrapped by volunteers cutting paper and curling ribbon in Weiser High School’s cafeteria.

With the support of local real estate company, Select Properties, Joe takes the entire student body at the Annex Charter School, as wells as select Weiser Middle School kids, to Bi-Mart in Weiser.

Select high school kids receive a gift certificate for Walmart in Ontario.

“Some of these kids just need a pat on the back,” Joe said. “And I do have to give Hometown Dealerships and their employees a pat on the back, too.”

The Annex event will take place Dec. 16, and the Ho-Ho Express is on Dec. 18 with buses leaving at 8 p.m.

Giving Back

“It’s something we feel compelled to

do, to get involved,” Dominguez said. “It’s important to us and it gives Hometown and all of our employees a lot of pride to service the community.”

Hometown’s golf tournament is not the only time the company gives back, the dealership providing help to families and other local groups and organizations throughout the year, including the livestock sale at the fair, the Weiser Memorial Hospital Foundation, and many more

“We get asked for donations almost daily,” Dominguez said. “There are a lot of good causes to support. Hometown was named “Hometown” for a reason: We believe in our hometowns. We take it seriously because it’s important to us.”

2021 Hometown Community Benefit Golf Scramble Results:

Open Division Net:

First – Ruszoni’s Pizza: Nick Reed, Rob Davis, JP Brady, Justin Snelling (46).

Second – Craig Stein Beverage: Travis Murphy, Tony Spano, Dan Stenston, Hector Rivera (47).

Third – Hometown Chevrolet: Jimmy Wilson, Nick Dominguez, Travis W., Todd M. (48).

Open Division Gross:

First – Cintas: Tyler Campitella, Jim Bodorphy, Kyler Gable (57).

Second – Stein Beverage: Joe Egana, Justin Wilcomb, Sammy Camacho (59).

Mixed Division Net:

First – JNJ Cornerstone: Mike Alvarado, Ron Jarmillo, Gwenn Crow, Lacy Jarmillo (53).

Second – Hal Davis/Nakamura: Deb Nakamura, Monty Hurd, Marv Dashiell, Larry Nakamura (55).

Second – ICCU: Tiffany Ford, Dan Jorgensen, Keslen Jensen, Todd Choules (55).

Mixed Division Gross:

First – AmeriTitle: Jonathan Edwards, Jordan Edwards, Lou Points, Colby Dean.

From the harvest table

A keep-it-simple food column by Chef Keith Bryant

My start in the food industry came at the age of 15 as a busboy. Chef Ray told me I didn't look comfortable in the front of the house, so he asked me to work for him in the kitchen.

Eventually, my own family started their own restaurant in Slidell, Louisiana. I was in college at the time and came home on the weekends to cook in the kitchen.

I also spent four years



in the Navy cooking in mess halls. In 1989 I got out of the military and went to work for overnight cruise vessels for the Delta Queen Steamboat Company out of New Orleans. Within two years, I worked my way up to executive chef. My career on boats lasted for 16 years. In my many years of cooking, I have prepared cuisine from all over the world, but my passion is Cajun cooking.



Christmas memories

Nobody knows as much as a mother. My mom always made sure during the holidays that the southern traditions were adhered to. I knew at Christmas time we would all load up in the station wagon and head to New Orleans when we were done opening up our presents at home, because Christmas day was spent at my Aunt's house with all my other cousins.

The morning of Christmas day while we were opening our presents Mom would prepare the ham for the ride over and be ready to put into the oven by 10 a.m. and lunch was promptly at 2 p.m. The hour car ride from Slidell, to my relatives house, was spent smelling all the wonderful aroma's coming from

the back of the car. In the South we make oyster dressing, this wonderful ham, and purchase fresh French bread from the local bakery. You could almost taste the sweet and sour pineapple on our tongue on that car ride and if you have one smell you will never forget it is the clove used to pin the pineapple on the ham. I think the best part is if you got one

of the caramelized cherries that were placed in the center of each piece of pineapple. As we got older and became adults, me and my brother would argue who made the ham the same way mom would. As I evolved as a cook, and learned many new techniques for cooking a ham, I would try different things to enhance the flavor of the ham.

Recipe

Ingredients
Yield: 12 servings
One 9- to 10-pound bone-in fully-cooked smoked ham (butt or shank half)
1 tablespoon whole cloves, optional
Two 20-ounce cans sliced pineapple
20 maraschino cherries
2 cups honey
2 cups light brown sugar

Honey Glazed Ham

Let the ham sit at room temperature for about 30 minutes. Preheat the oven to 325 degrees F. Trim off any skin from the ham. Use a sharp paring knife to score through the fat in a diagonal crosshatch pattern without cutting through to the meat. Push the cloves into the ham, if using, placing them at the intersections of the cuts. Put the ham, flat-side down, on a rack in a roast-

ing pan. Drain the pineapples, reserving the juice. Arrange the sliced pineapple all over the ham, securing with toothpicks. Add a maraschino cherry to the center of each pineapple slice and secure with a toothpick. Pour 1/4 inch water in the bottom of the pan and tent the ham with foil. Roast until an instant-read thermometer inserted in the thickest part of the ham (avoiding bone) registers 130 degrees F, about 2 hours 30 minutes (or about 15 minutes per pound). Meanwhile, combine the honey, brown sugar and reserved pineapple juice in a large saucepan set over me-

dium heat. Simmer, stirring occasionally, until thickened, syrupy and reduced to about 3 cups, 25 to 30 minutes. Set aside. Increase the oven temperature to 425 degrees F. Uncover the pan and carefully brush a third of the glaze all over the ham. If the water in the roasting pan has evaporated, add more. Bake the ham for 15 minutes more. Brush with another third reserved glaze and bake for 15 minutes more. Brush the remaining glaze over the ham and cook until the glaze is shiny and the skin is dark golden brown and crispy, about 15 minutes more. Let rest for 15 minutes.





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Happy Holidays from our family to Yours! Because of you were able to make this a huge success. The funds from the 32nd Annual Community Benefit will be distributed to the following charities this Holiday Season. Thank you to everyone who supported the Benefit. If you know someone in need this holiday please let one of our Elves know we will try to help out.



Help Them to Hope -
Help Them to Hope -

Over 1,500 Toys & Gifts Purchased
350 Bikes Purchased

Ontario Food Bank &
Oregon Food Bank

300, \$20 Dollar Grocery Gift Cards
for Christmas Turkey or Holiday Meals

Weiser Elks Food Basket Program-

\$1,500 Donation

Next Chapter Food Pantry -
Joe Malays Ho-Ho Express -

\$5,000 Donation
\$10,000 Donation



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