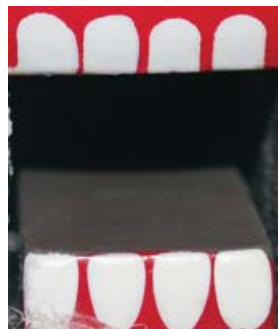


# What the heck is that???

Look at the following pictures and try to guess what each one is!

\*Hint, they are all christmas themed!!!  
Look on theVCHStalon.com for answers.  
Good luck!!!



Photos by Anya Vollstedt

Talton  
vchs

Vol. XII, Issue 3  
December 16, 2011

It's Beginning to Look a  
Lot like CHRISTMAS!  
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page 11



**THIS SHOT:** Magi from the East came to Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship Him."

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# Hello, Christmas Break!

What just happened?

It's over. Granted there's more to come, but for now, say hello to these hard-earned weeks of breaks! It's over. First semester completed, final grades following closely behind.

And what of goals? Whether we admit it to ourselves or not, we all have goals. An agenda, a target that we have placed for ourselves. It now comes down to: did I meet my goal?

If I did, congratulations! I met my mark! I achieved what I set out to do. It's time for a figurative pat on the shoulder.

If I didn't, how close was I? What did I do or not do that obstructed my path? It's time to take a minute a ponder.

It's also important to realize that it's not just school that matters. Granted this comes up a lot, but there ARE other things that matter. Family, our walks with God, our friends. Not dismissing school altogether, but take the time we need to enjoy these other things and be thankful for what God has blessed us with.

And back to school.

For those of us who accomplished our goals, it's time to restart the process. We know our limits, it's time to try pushing them: aspire to do even better.

For those of us who were so close, but still fell short, there is a tomorrow. We must take the time to analyze ourselves. Take the thought we devoted to establishing why we didn't make it, and put that same thought towards planning HOW TO make it. Decide how we want to proceed.

No matter how hard it may seem, however daunting and far-stretched the road may appear; we can do it.

## The Talon is for YOU -- submit your story ideas, articles, photos, letters to the Editors, jokes, comics, snacks, cartoons, movie reviews, cookies, poems, short stories, screenplays, ideas for video games, time management tips, and anything else you want us to know or have.

# Top 10 News Stories of 2011

2011 may have been a fun year for some and also could be bad for others. For some the year flew right by. Here are the top ten major events that happened in 2011, according to the *New York Times* and CNN:

**10** Back in January there was an attempt to assassinate Congresswomen Gabby Giffords.

**9** Back in February, Egypt had a revolution and President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt resigned.

**8** Then in March Libyans protested which caused gas prices to raise 20% from the past year.

**7** A major event that brought the country of Japan together was the earthquake and tsunami.

**6** Back in April the United States had tornadoes in the South that claimed many lives and also caused a lot of damage.

**5** President Obama released his birth certificate.

**4** William Windsor and Kate Middleton's royal wedding was viewed by many and was the talk for a while.

**3** On May 1<sup>st</sup> Pope John Paul II was being moved closer to being designated as a saint.

**2** In November Gaddafi's death in Libya occurred. Then his son Self al-Islam was captured shortly after Gaddafi's death. This event ended the Civil War in Libya between the dictator's forces and those who want a more democratic government.

**1** The most important event of 2011, according to these international news organizations, was the death of Osama bin Laden. The death of Osama bin Laden was May 9<sup>th</sup> after the Navy Seals and CIA Operatives went in and assassinated him at his compound in Pakistan.

by A. J. Hearn

# Ready for Snow?

Going snowboarding and skiing is something that a lot of people like to do. There are many great ski resorts by Lake Tahoe, like Northstar, Boreal, and Heavenly.

From Vacaville, NorthStar is about 2 and half hours away. Heavenly is about 3 hours away, and Boreal is about 2 hours and 20 minutes away. These are great places to go and spend the day on the slopes with family and friends.

A lift ticket for one day at Heavenly is priced at \$55.

At NorthStar, a day lift ticket is about \$90, and at Boreal it is also \$55.

These tickets are for teens, ages 13 to 18 years old. All these resorts are open from November to April 7 days a week

by Antoinette Owens

by Taylor Figueira



Photo by A. J. Hearn

One favorite Christmas tradition is visiting the famous Candy Cane Lane in Vacaville, where the whole neighborhood lights up their houses.

## Families Enjoy Christmas Traditions

Every year families and friends come together and celebrate Christmas, and usually have traditions that people enjoy to get in the spirit.

Popular favorite Christmas traditions include eating good food, giving presents, and/or celebrating the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. The students of VCHS talk about their favorite traditions:

"Going to Candy Cane Lane is my favorite Christmas tradition because the lights are pretty," Katelyn Reid said.

Reid says her family goes to church on Christmas Eve and puts up a nativity scene at their house to incorporate Jesus into their festivities.

"My favorite Christmas tradition is going to family's houses. We hang out with families, go to church, and eat, and open presents," Christopher Rhodes said. Christmas is his favorite holiday

because it's celebrating Jesus' birth. He enjoys spending time with his family and eating good food.

"On Christmas we sit next to the fireplace with the family and just open presents and talk," Gary Nguyen said. "And we make hot chocolate every year. We watch Christmas movies afterwards."

Joelene De Guzman said her favorite Christmas tradition is decorating her Christmas tree with her mom and her grandma. It's her favorite tradition because she likes how there are so many generations involved and she thinks it's cool how many times her grandma has decorated a tree in her lifetime.

Christmas traditions are something many people continue to carry out for possibly their entire lives. They create memories that last for a lifetime.

by Tessa Moore

# Ruling the Music Charts: Top 10 Songs of 2011

What were the top songs of 2011? Here are the results, based on how long they were on the charts and total sales, according to billboard.com (the music industry's ranking magazine):

- 1** Rolling in the Deep – ADELE
- 2** Party Rock Anthem – LMFAO (Feat. Lauren Bennett and GoonRock)
- 3** Give Me Everthing – Pitbull (Feat. Ne-Yo, Afrojack, and Nayer)
- 4** Pumped Up Kicks – Foster The People
- 5** Super bass – Nicki Minaj
- 6** Just a Kiss – Lady Antebellum
- 7** Stereo Hearts – Gym Class Heros (Feat. Adam Lavine)
- 8** Moves Like Jagger – Maroon 5 (Feat. Christina Aguilera)
- 9** Love You Like a Love Song – Selena Gomez & The Scene
- 10** Someone Like You – ADELE

The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" (which means "God with us")  
Matthew 1:23



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Volume 12 Issue 3 December 16, 2011

The *Talon*, the student newspaper of Vacaville Christian High School, is a public forum for student expression and is published regularly by the Newspaper Production Class and Journalism Class. Opinions expressed are those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect the position of the administration, student body or advertisers. The *Talon* staff welcomes and encourages submitted letters, stories, cartoons, and/or any other student feedback. See guidelines listed below.

Please deliver all submissions to the *Talon* box in Room 102 by posted deadline.  
The following policies apply:  
1. Unsolicited articles and suggestions for story ideas are welcomed, but no guarantee is made as to whether they will be printed in the *Talon*.  
2. Letters to the Editor are to be signed when submitted to the Staff. Names may be withheld from publication only with the approval of the Editorial Board and Adviser. The Board will select the letters to be published.  
3. The paper reserves the right to edit submissions for length, repetition, and suitability of content.

# Seniors Win Christmas Spirit Week



November 28th to December 2nd was Christmas Spirit Week. Students dressed up on every day to win class points and ended with a rally.

All spirit days featured a Christmas theme and class participation won the class points towards their rally. Monday, coming off of Thanksgiving Break, students and teachers dressed up in red and white, wearing Santa hats for Santa Day. Following this, Tuesday was Tacky Sweater Day and classes showed off their cheesy Christmas clothes, and on Wednesday students sported snow gear, warm jackets and hats, and even a couple of snowboards for Snow Day.

"Snow day was my favorite day because I could bundle up and feel warm, without looking crazy," Mara Gates said.

On Thursday, Fancy Christmas Dinner, girls and boys showed off classy clothes. Friday was class colors day—freshmen wore red, sophomores wore white, juniors wore green, and seniors wore gold. After lunch, all headed over to the gym for the rally.

Annika Arana and Kelly Siegal, rally coordinators, opened up with prayer before doing a quick spirit check.

Deck the halls competition results were announced. The freshman class won, with seniors in second place. Sophomores came

in third and juniors fourth.

A series of dodge ball games between ten chosen people from each class were played, the first being between the sophomores and the freshmen, freshmen coming out victorious. Juniors beat the seniors in the following game, but seniors beat the sophomores next. Finally, the freshmen beat the juniors, winning all of their dodge ball games.

Another spirit check followed with a game of musical chairs with five students from each class. No stopping, touching the chairs, or walking too slowly was allowed. The last two students in were Junior Andrew Blik and Senior James Aarhus. Aarhus was disqualified after yanking the chair from the middle when the music stopped, so the juniors were named winners of that game.

"My favorite part was musical chairs," said Emily Coats, who had competed in the game.

A gingerbread house building competition that had taken place off to the sides of the gym throughout the whole rally was then judged. Juniors came in fourth, sophomores in third, seniors in second, and freshmen in first.

"The rally was so amazing. The freshmen almost won," Jaime Liles-Victor said. "I can't wait for the next rally."

This concluded Spirit Week; the seniors won. Freshmen followed behind by only about twenty points. Juniors came in third and sophomores in last.

"Winning the rally is like nothing because the seniors rule the school," Lindsey Ward said.

Senior class advisor Miss Salamone said, "I'm ecstatic. I really feel like they came together as a class this week to win the rally."

Overall, Spirit Week was a great week according to students and a time when each class could work together towards the goal of winning while having fun along the way.

by Annie Knitter

# Express Yourself! Talent Show Well Attended

On December 2 the First Annual Winter Talent Show and Dance took place. The talent show started the evening off from 7:00 to 8:30, followed by the dance from 9:00 to 11:30. The talent show was composed of three categories: singing, dancing, and miscellaneous.

The winner of each category won a ticket to Prom this year, second place won a ticket to Driven Raceway, and third won a movie ticket. The grand prize winner was awarded one hundred dollars for gift cards to anywhere on Scrip.

"I signed up because I wanted to be involved in the event and I like to sing, and I wanted to broadcast my talent," Samantha Magnaye said.

For the singing category Hannah Stadnick won first place, Marcey MacDonald won second, and Casey Smith achieved third.

Kyle Isom won the dancing category, followed by Sean Person and his Napoleon Dynamite dance in second and Jaime came in third.

"It was fun I felt nervous at first and I was afraid I would mess up at first but overall it was

really fun," Kyle Isom said.

In the miscellaneous category Nathan Wong achieved first reading his poem, Scott Gardner won second bouncing a golf ball on his club, and the toe-painting team of Terra Malcolm, Kelly Siegel, Vivi Diaz, and Arianna Bio got third.

Overall Kristen Fantozzi won the grand prize. "I was so shocked that I won. I am very thankful to God for that," Fantosi said. The dance drew a much smaller crowd than the talent show but still was a success.

"It was okay but I didn't like some of the music that they played," Isom said.

"Honestly it was a little slow but it was fun, just not as much fun as it could have been," Fantozzi said.

by Nick Russell



Kyle Isom performs his winning dance at the Talent Show on December 2.

Concert Choir presented their Christmas Concert at Orchard Avenue Baptist Church on December 8. Solos by Kyle Pazdel, Hannah Stadnick, Luke Barker, Annika Arana, and Casey Smith were featured during the concert, attended by scores of music-lovers. Directed by Miss Leah Salamone, the choir performed Christmas carols as well as popular secular songs about the season, including "Let it Snow, Let It Snow, Let It Snow," "Rudolph, the Red-Nosed Reindeer," and "It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year."



Photo by Haley Gibson

# Students Eager to Run to Movie Theaters



Title character Tintin flees from danger in "The Adventures of Tintin."

Just as students get out of school for winter break, studios plan on releasing some of the biggest and most popular movies of the year.

"I want to see all of the action in the new Mission Impossible and I hope it won't disappoint!"

Lindsey Ward said.

One of the movies coming out is *The Adventures of Tintin: The Secret of the Unicorn*. This CGI-animated family film is about a boy named Tintin who sets off in search of a sunken ship

and the treasure within. The movie, directed by film guru Steven Spielberg, is based on a popular French comic book series by Georges Rémi. *The Adventures of Tintin: The Secret of the Unicorn* is rated PG and is in theaters December 21, 2011. Information about this movie was taken from the website [us.movie.tintin.com](http://us.movie.tintin.com)

"*The Adventures of Tintin* looks like an interesting animated movie," Amanda Walker said.

There is also the new Cameron Crowe film *We Bought a Zoo*, rated PG, which is gathering Oscar buzz alongside other contenders *The Artist*, *Shame*, and *The Tree of Life*. *We Bought a Zoo* is about a man who moves his family to a struggling zoo in an attempt to save it from foreclosure. The film releases December 23 and stars Oscar-winner Matt Damon and Golden Globe nominee Scarlett Johansson. Information about this movie was taken from the website [IMDb.com](http://IMDb.com).

Other films coming out include the long-awaited fourth *Mission Impossible* movie and the second chapter in Guy Richie's *Sherlock Holmes* series. *Mission Impossible: Ghost Protocol* and *Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows* are going to be released on December 21 and 16 respectively, and are both rated PG-13. Information about these movies was located at [IMDb.com](http://IMDb.com)

"I want to see *Mission Impossible: Ghost Protocol* over break because it is full of action. The others were great and I look forward to seeing this one," Payton Osborne said.

by Zack Sharp

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## Basketball League Play to Begin in January

### Girls Ready for Tough Season

Lady Falcons varsity basketball team kicked off the season with a CIF Foundation game, which they played against Dixon High at home. The girls lost, 31-56.

"Teamwork is extremely important. Without good chemistry there isn't really a team, and without teamwork you can't succeed in practice let alone in a game," Amber Cooper said. This is Cooper's first year playing basketball at VCS.

Tea Scott agreed with Amber. "Teamwork to me is super important because, I was always taught that there is no "I" in team," Scott said.

Athletes have a lot to manage, with school work on top of practice and games. Especially when finals are coming up, time management gets really important.

"School on top of all the practices is hard, but you just have to manage your time well, and pick your priorities," Miranda Foley said.

The varsity girls practice everyday from 6 to 8 p.m.



There are six seniors and four freshmen on the team, with a total of ten girls on the team. Many members of the team have been playing a very long time, ever since they were little.

"I love learning something new about the game everyday, literally. Basketball is the sport," Amber Cooper said. "I think that builds a person's character and it helps us with life lessons because you must learn how to work with others. I started playing when I was ten years old."

by Devyn Baum

### Varsity Boys Start Pre-Season Strong

The VHCS boys basketball team has had a modest start this year, however is confident in the rest of the season.

"At first I was worried," said Brock Gustafson, "but now that we have played a few games together, I know we'll do well this year."

Amongst the many schools that our team will be facing, two stand out above the rest.

"Bradshaw is our rival," Gustafson, "but the toughest team we're going to play is Highlands."

A regular practice starts off with warm-ups. Drills and suicides are spread throughout practice. Next, the team runs through plays. Towards the end of practice, if time permits, the team plays short scrimmages.

A practice is ended with cool-downs, followed by a run referred to as a 17. 17's have to be finished in a minute and five seconds or less. If not completed within the time-frame, the player is required to do an additional set of suicides.

The varsity team has a current record of three wins and two losses. The varsity team has not competed in a league game.

Their next game will be on December 28, 2011, as part of the Falcon Christmas Classic Tournament.

by Emre Basaran

## Wrestling team: 'History in the Making'

The VCHS wrestling team had a strong start this season. Several wrestlers have earned medals during tournaments. The team is made up of six veteran wrestlers and several rookie wrestlers.

"I think we are going to do very well," said Trevor Knoroski, "at least go back to sectionals."

Wrestlers compete in tournaments and inter-school meets called "duel matches" and "double duels." Duel matches are when two schools compete against each other. Double duels are when two schools are paired up and compete against another pair of schools.

"A tournament is basically an all day event where teams wrestle against ten to fifteen other teams," Tyler Legouillon said. "Medals are based

on how many matches you've won."

The guy's wrestling team has competed in one tournament and one double duel. The girl's wrestling team has participated in one tournament.

Scoring points and winning a match in wrestling is something that differs from all other sports. A wrestler scores points by exposing his or her opponent's back to the mat. The back has to be at less than a ninety degree angle to the mat for points to be earned. For maintaining a less-than-90 degree angle for three seconds, a wrestler can earn two points. For maintaining that position for five seconds, three points are awarded. A round ends in one of two ways: at the end of 2 minutes, or with a pin. A pin is keeping your opponent's

shoulder blades on the mat for at least three seconds. If the round ends without a pin, the person with the most points wins the round. Each match includes three rounds.

"The average practice, we usually start with running and exercises, and then techniques, and then iron man," Fernando Salas said. "Iron Man" is a practice technique in which one person enters the ring, and every member of their group faces off against him or her, until the wrestler has wrestled every member.

The first wrestling home match in VCHS history will take place January 4, 2012.

"If anyone thinks they can handle it, come out," Trevor Knoroski said.

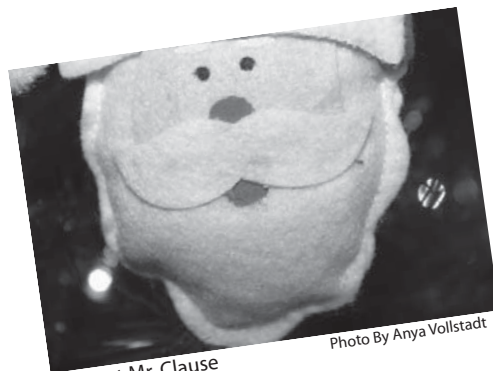
by Emre Basaran and Daniel Ewing

# Personality Profile: Have a Talk with *Old Saint Nick*

“The thought of giving gifts to people, it’s what I live for,” Santa said.

Santa is probably the nicest man in the world besides God and Jesus. Santa is always a hard worker and does his best. Santa is a good person too; he helps out the elves and also makes sure that everyone is having a fun day. Around Christmas time Santa has to wash the reindeer and also to make sure that all the toys are done. Sometimes he has to go on a diet before Christmas day to make sure he can eat all the cookies.

The trip around the world is probably the hardest thing about his job. Santa’s sleigh can go any speed that he needs to go. One big problem



Meet Mr. Clause

Photo By Anya Vollstadt

with his trip is all the climate changes that he has to go through, like the snow, the desert and the rain. Santa said, “I wear a multi-climate coat so I’m always the right temperature.”

Santa is very busy during the Christmas season. “My normal day around Christmas time is very busy, from looking over the toy makers, to doing practice runs with the reindeer, to looking on the ‘Nice’ list; you can say I am very busy,” Santa said.

“My normal day after Christmas is very relaxed; the most common thing that we do is play sports with the elves and spend time together,” Santa said.

by Thomas Wary

## What are our Favorites during Christmas Season?

Results of a poll of VCHS students offer answers

### Favorite Christmas **M**ovies

- Nightmare Before Christmas..... 30.7%
- Elf ..... 28.7%
- A Christmas Story..... 7.7%
- Charlie Brown- .....6.6%
- Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer ...5.4%
- Its a Wonderful Life.....4.3%
- The Santa Clause ..... 1.1%
- Other ..... 15.4%

### Favorite Christmas *S*ongs

- Jingle Bells..... 14.6
- Jingle Bell Rock ..... 14.6%
- All I Want for Christmas is You..... 11.2%
- Silent Night ..... 10.1%
- O Holy Night..... 8.9%
- Let it Snow .....7.8%
- Santa Clause is Comin’ to Town..... 5.6%
- We Three Kings ..... 4.5%
- Winter Wonderland ..... 3.3%
- Chesnuts Roasting..... 2.2%
- We Wish You a Merry Christmas ..... 2.2%
- Other ..... 14.6%

### What We **W**ANT for Christmas:

- Money .....35.8%
- Phone..... 17.5%
- Gift Card..... 7.6%
- TV ..... 5.4%
- Clothes..... 6.5%
- Pet..... 6.5%
- Xbox 360 w/ Kinect .....2.2%
- Other ..... 17.5%

# Christmas Giving *Without* Breaking the Bank

Christmas time is here, the time to give! There are many ways you can give gifts cheaply, but not trashy. Since it’s the holidays, many stores have great sales. Try seeing what stores are having a sale and find something for your friends or family there, to take advantage of great deals.

“I would give accessories, such as earrings or necklaces,” Ashley Hall said.

Sentimental gifts always work for your friends or family. Even if you don’t know how to sew or knit, you can make something warm for the winter season. Something that is very easy to make is a scarf. All you have to do is find a fabric of your choice: you can have a cute pattern for a girl, or a guy’s favorite movie or even just solid colors or patterns. Then just cut the fabric to a nice length and width and at the end of the fabric cut small strands to add a nice touch!

If you have a close family member or friend, you can make something personal. You can find a picture of you and the person you are giving the gift. After you have your picture, you can either buy a nice frame to put the picture in or you can buy a



Photo By Kendra Rowland

plain frame (like a wooden one) that you can paint, color or draw on to personalize it.

“I’ll get my friends something cute, and probably add a small gift card,” Tiffany Conama said.

Another easy thing to do for friends that you might not be so close to is buy a gift card to one of their favorite places. But since a gift card is ordinary and always expected, add something with it. Add a pair of Christmas socks or a personal handmade card!

“I’d give someone socks or even just a regular Christmas card,” Taylor Summers said.

If you wanted to buy something for someone you’re dating and you’re on a low budget, something personal and sweet will always work. If you have the ability to draw or paint, make them a picture. That is something that they can keep forever and it will show that you care about them.

“I would give someone gum and anything Nike,” Carl MacLean said. “I even one time got gum as a gift and also deodorant.”

Even though we like to give and receive expensive gifts, sometimes the gifts that cost us the least can be the most meaningful. So you don’t have to look for the most expensive thing, give them something you know they will like!

by Kendra Rowland

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# Christmas – Great Fun Around the Tree

## CHRISTMAS GOODIES

A long standing tradition of many families can be making a nice, warm batch of baked goods for family and friends or even Santa Claus around Christmas time. Baking can be a fun way to get everyone in the kitchen and have an enjoyable and delicious time. Some family recipes are handed down generation by generation and can make for some special holiday traditions each year.

“Every year around Christmas time my family makes a batch of lemon bars together. They’re super yummy and are really fun to make. They’re also pretty easy to make if you follow the directions correctly,” Lauren Grabowski said.

“Every Christmas morning my mom makes these amazing cinnamon rolls from scratch and some homemade icing to go along with it. She makes the dough with cinnamon and they’re so soft and moist!” Kyle Pazdel said.

by Alison Fortin

### Lemon Bars of Goodness

Preheat oven to 350 Fahrenheit. In a bowl mix together:  
1 cup softened butter  
2 cups all purpose flour  
1/2 cup white sugar.

Press this into the bottom of a 9x13 inch pan. Then bake for 15 to 20 minutes or until it is all nice and golden.

In a different bowl whisk together:  
1 1/2 cups white sugar  
1/4 cup flour  
4 eggs  
2 lemons that have been juiced

Pour contents of the second bowl over the baked crust. Bake for an additional 20 minutes in the oven at 350 Fahrenheit. Let the bars cool – they will firm up as they cool.

### Mouth-Watering Cinnamon Rolls

Get roll dough, like you would use for bread rolls and roll it out to a 10x13 rectangle.

Spread butter from edge to edge. Sprinkle a mixture of cinnamon and sugar over butter (you may add pecans now if you would like).

Roll up into a tube length wise. Slice into 12 pieces. Place pieces into greased pan and bake for 30 minutes.

Spread icing over rolls and serve hot. Add extra icing for extra sweetness!

Icing – Mix together:  
1/2 cup powdered sugar  
2 to 3 tablespoons milk  
1/2 teaspoon vanilla

## You did **WHAT** for Christmas?? Families have unique traditions

Christmas is growing nearer, and among the wonderful occurrences of the holiday season, traditions make up a prominent part of the experience. Amongst the number of traditions, there is a tendency for a few of these to be a little out of the ordinary, and even unique.

Rajkamal Pander said he enjoys his annual tradition to teepee Jon Field’s house.

Other traditions emphasize the importance of family.

“There is this special Mexican bread,” Samantha Torres said. “It’s shaped in a circle, and everyone has to cut a slice. There is one baby in a slice. The person that gets it, something good will happen to them.”

“Our family, we pool our money together and donate to charity every year,” Madison Gaborko

said.

“Every year we have this tradition, where we have a list with family member names from oldest to youngest,” Charlotte Norris said. “We go down that list, and the person that year becomes Santa and passes out presents to everyone.”

Other traditions tend to be a little embarrassing.

“Every year my aunt buys us pajamas,” Kristen Fantozzi said. “No matter how ridiculous they are, we have to wear them on Christmas Eve.”

Traditions are an important part of Christmas. They can be beneficial to others, or plain silly. Overall, they make memories to be cherished many years to come.

by Emre Basaran

## Real vs. Fake: Battle of the Trees

Is yours real or fake?

Is that green bush in your front room a real or fake tree? Your Christmas tree is one of two options: it’s either real or fake. Many people struggle with the choice of continuing the family tradition or having a mess-free tree.

A real Christmas tree would require a tarp to catch the needles, pruning if not already, a stand for the tree, and changing the water as often as possible. Keeping the tree alive for

Christmas can also be a struggle if you get the tree too early.

A fake tree doesn’t have that pine scent to waft through your house to bring the Christmas cheer.

There are many benefits and disadvantages to having a real or fake tree for this holiday. Real trees are sometimes cheaper than a fake Christmas tree and are recyclable. Artificial trees do not aggravate allergies for those who are sensitive to allergens.

by Shyanne Lum

## How to SURVIVE Owing a Fake Christmas Tree

Fake Christmas trees are easy to store and build, only need to be bought once and leave none of the mess that real trees leave behind, forcing a family to do the tedious task of vacuuming. Here are a few tips for the care of your wonderful fake “tree”.

1. Whether your tree is plastic or pre-lit, make sure your tree stand is on a flat surface. Make sure it remains on a flat surface at all times. If your tree is not secured down, it has an increased 37.216546489% chance of toppling over and smashing those irreplaceable Christmas ornaments from the Wal-Mart clearance bin, all over the floor.

2. For pre-lit trees, make a routine of plugging and unplugging the tree. Make this a top priority if you have purchased a pre-lit. Just imagine if one night when you have had a little too much eggnog, instead of unplugging your tree, you leave it on overnight. This might cause a fire that spreads all through neighborhood that your insurance refuses to pay for.

3. Remember: you do not have to water a fake Christmas tree. Another glorious advantage to owning a fake tree is that you do not have to water it. Now you can enjoy the football game in peace without having any kind of responsibility.

Hopefully, these few tips on caring for your fake Christmas tree has both benefitted you, and increased your life span.

by Ed Donofrio



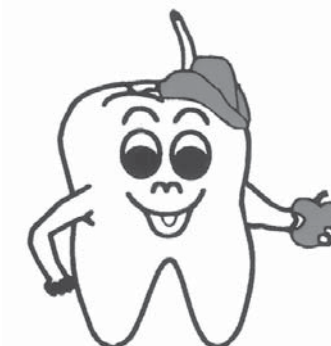
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### Student Survey says:

Real trees 40.2 %  
Fake trees 59.8%



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