

December 2023



Christmas 2023

Rio Calaveras

The Class Times

The class newsletter written and published by Mr. Pham's Fifth Grade Students - Class of 2024

For past newsletters, please go to www.OurClass.us

In this Christmas Season, we'd like to wish:

- * Our Parents,
- * Mrs. Hall,
- * Mr. Oki, Ms. Johnsen
- * The Office Staff,
- * and the Wonderful Staff and Teachers at Rio Calaveras

**A Peaceful, Merry Christmas
and a Warm, Happy New Year!**

Thank you all for your love and support.
We'll be back at our Rio in 2024!





What does Christmas mean to me?



Christmas means to spend time with your family, eat good food, open gifts, and also give gifts. I learned that we need to be grateful for what we get, either big or small. We are thankful for what we have.

• **Alvaris**

Christmas means not just looking forward to opening presents but also seeing your friends and family opening what you gave them and the smiles on their faces. Thinking about others and not just yourself is what makes Christmas, Christmas. Of course, you want to see what you got when opening your presents but that doesn't mean you forget about others. So, give without expecting anything back.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

• **Hadiqa**

For me, Christmas is Jesus' birthday. It means giving and caring. It's not just all about the toys, money, and the stuff you received. It's also about seeing someone happy, with a big smile on their face when you give them a gift.

• **Jazmine**

Christmas means spending time with family and opening presents with them. I like to open presents that I really want. That's my favorite part of Christmas

• **Jonah**

Christmas is about giving, receiving, and spending time with my family on Christmas day. I love setting up the tree.

• **Damien**

Christmas is like a holiday that I celebrate Jesus' birthday, I eat, I play, and I spending time with family and friends. I also open presents and give presents.

• **Salvador**

Christmas is about the birth of Jesus, spending time with family, and opening gifts. It also means about spreading joy through giving gifts. Christmas means going to church on Christmas Eve.

Christmas means to gather with family. We eat together at my grandma's house. We eat pho, spring rolls, or fried chicken

• **Merry Christmas... from Aaron**

Christmas means opening presents, eating food with family and friends, celebrating Jesus' birthday, playing Secret Santa, and most of all, spending time with family. Merry Christmas from...

• **Jonathan**

Christmas means to celebrate Jesus and people in your family. The true meaning of Christmas is giving to the people in need like the can food drive. You feel really good when you get to see their smiles on Christmas. Make sure you donate to people in need. Merry Christmas!

• **Karter**



Have yourself a merry little Christmas...





My favorite part of... Christmas

My favorite part of Christmas is the food, presents, and THE FOODS like tamales, posole, and pasta. But Christmas is Jesus' birthday is the most important part. I'm thankful for my mom and dad because they take care of me and provide me with food and give me presents.

• **Love...Analy**

My favorite part of Christmas is giving, giving kindness to others and not receiving anything in return. My next favorite part is spending time with my family and helping cook yummy food, and the best part... making and decorating cookie "fresh out of the oven!" 😊 My third favorite part about Christmas is having hot chocolate and warming up under the blankets watching Christmas Chronicles (AKA favorite movie! 😊) The next favorite thing is building Gingerbread house! Finally, is decorating the Christmas tree! 😊

• **Bella**

My favorite part of Christmas is when I spend time with my family and my grandma, grandpa, aunts, cousins, and uncles. I love to hang out with them and open presents. We then pray and sing to Jesus. Merry Christmas to all. ♥

• **Jaslene**

My favorite part of Christmas is opening presents, drinking hot cocoa, and spending time with my family (mostly with my favorite cousin). When I open presents, it's surprising and fun! No knowing WHAT'S in the box is an amazing feeling. I'd go to my aunt's house every year for Christmas. Her house is always filled with decorations and the most AMAZINGLY good food. I also get to see my favorite cousin.

• **Danica**

My favorite part of Christmas is to eat Pho.

• **Nguyen**

My favorite part of Christmas is playing and spending time with my family and cousins. I also like to eat the food like Semai and other Indian or Fiji sweets. I also like the presents. I love spending time with my dog and have her do tricks before I give her a treat!

• **MERRY CHRISTMAS Aria**

My favorite part of Christmas is going to my grandma's house on Christmas and opening gifts that she gets for us and my cousins. Sometimes we sing Christmas songs. That's my favorite part.

• **Olivia**

My favorite part of Christmas is seeing my family and the food, the show, taking night walks, opening the presents, building a snowman, and having snowball fights. My favorite part of Christmas is also putting decorations on the Christmas tree.

• **Isaiah H.**

I LOVE Christmas! And I love to open presents on Christmas day! Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

• **Asante**

My favorite part of Christmas is spending time with my family hand hanging out with my cousins and open presents and eat food.

• **Sivohn**

Winter Activities

What I will do during the winter break is to play Roblox, help in the kitchen, and stay up late at night. My family probably won't celebrate Christmas. Good thing I can do Christmas stuff in class like Secret Santa and drink hot chocolate.

• **Fusi**

During the winter break, I spend time with my family. I also go to my cousin's house and play with them. We family also goes to the mall and shop for a couple of hours. At nighttime, we watch movies and eat popcorn before going to sleep. We also go to other places like San Francisco.

• **Mohammad**

During the winter break, I'm going to go to my uncle's house to play board games and video games and playing cricket. We would go to Reno and play arcade.

• **Syed**

How do you And your family celebrate **CHRISTMAS?**



My family and I celebrate Christmas by gathering on Christmas Eve and wait until it is midnight to open gifts. I usually would chill with my cousins. On my dad's side, we celebrate on Christmas Day. We will wear our PJ's and make food to eat.

• **Israel**

On Christmas morning, my family and I go to church so we can get our blessings! Afterward, we open presents and my grandma makes tamales! Our family then give each other gifts. P.S. Have a great Christmas! 🍪

• **Layla**

I celebrate Christmas by going to my auntie's house and we open presents, play games and eat. But mostly we spend a lot of time and having fun together and playing tag with my cousins and giving my cousins presents.

• **Tyler**

My family and I celebrate by opening one present on Christmas eve. We go to church on Christmas every morning. We open presents it goes youngest to oldest. My family usually comes over and we spend time together. My mom makes very delish food. We play this game that's called Saran wrap ball game.

• **Grace**

My family and I celebrate Christmas by going to my grandma's house, my aunt's house, and my other grandma's house. We eat pozole, tamales and drink hot chocolate! After eating we all run to the tree to open our presents. When everyone's done, we eat and play some more. At my aunt's house, I don't usually eat because I'm still full from grandma's house, so I just talk to my cousin while everybody else is eating. When everyone's done eating, we open the presents. Then I repeat that over again.

• **Melanie**

We do lots of things on Christmas because my family, cousins, and other friends are Mexican. We sing happy birthday to Jesus on Christmas, and we open one present and the rest of the presents we open at Christmas Day with the family. When we give each other presents, we love to see each other smile and being happy.

• **Merry Christmas! Lesly**

We usually celebrate Christmas by decorating the house with lights, LED candy canes, and a light-up statue of Mary, Baby Jesus, and Joseph. Then we go to my grandma's house and some of my relatives also came. We eat my grandma's delicious food including pumpkin and pecan pies. ♡ Besides all that, Christmas is about Jesus and giving, plus enjoying yourself. Happy Holidays!

• **Neema**

My family does a lot of things to celebrate Christmas like I can't even count! For example, my family uses an Advent calendar that is probably 900 years old. On Christmas Eve, my family and I bake desserts and cookies for Santa and if we have some, we like to give carrots to those reindeer, who only get paid minimum wage. On Christmas Day, we always open presents and then take Christmas photos. Later, our family goes to our grandma's house and eat some really yummy food.

• **Kalysta**

My family celebrate Christmas by bringing half/part of our family members over and eating different varieties of Hmong dishes/food such as eggrolls, Hmong sausages, and papaya salad. We decorate our tree white or gold. We might even listen to Christmas songs. One thing that is very special to me and family is praying to God and Jesus. Be thankful for what kind of life we are living... and that's how me and my family celebrate Christmas.

• **Faith**

I celebrate Christmas by playing with my dog and giving him treats and playing with my cousin. We do activities and eat whatever my mom makes.

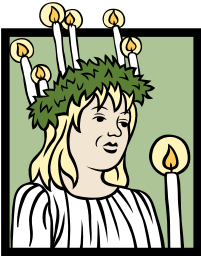
• **Isaiah W.**

Celebrating Multiculture



CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS AROUND THE WORLD

One of the most important days in the Christian year is Christmas, the day set aside to celebrate the birth of Jesus. While it is a religious holiday for Christians, Christmas has become a time of gift-giving and feasts for many other people also.



SANTA LUCIA – SWEDEN

Early on Santa Lucia's day, the oldest girl in the family, wearing a white robe and a crown of candles, brings coffee and saffron buns to the adults

LOS POSADAS – MEXICO

For eight nights before Christmas, people re-enact the search of Mary and Joseph for shelter. They go to a home and ask to be let in. The owner of the home refuses at first, then invites them in for a party.



POLISH CELEBRATIONS

Celebrating begins on Christmas Eve and lasts until January 6th. Straw under the table represents the manger. An empty place is left at the table for any stranger coming to the house. The oldest person at the table takes a bite from a rice wafer symbolizing love of peace. The wafer passes from person to person ending with the youngest child.



KWANZAA

Kwanzaa is an African-American holiday. For seven days activities are organized around seven principles (unity, self-determination, collective work and responsibility, cooperative economics, purpose, creativity, and faith). Each day one of the seven principles is explored and a candle is lit for the principle.



HANUKKAH

Hanukkah is one of many Jewish religious holidays. It honors an ancient struggle against the Syrians who occupied Jerusalem and tried to force the Jews to worship other gods. When the Jews drove the invaders away, they found only enough oil in the temple lamp for one day. Miraculously it lasted for eight days, giving them renewed courage. They celebrate today by lighting candles for eight nights.



WISHING ALL STUDENTS AND FAMILIES A VERY HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON. THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT IN ALL OUR LEARNING EFFORTS.

CLASSROOM COMMUNICATION

This is the mid-point of Trimester 2, that means we are at the halfway of 5th grade year! Time is going fast, and I will continue to do everything I can to give the students a great year. Thank you, Parents for supporting what we do in class and helping your child succeed at home.

I will continue to send home Learning Schedules every week and a Newsletter at the end of each month to share with parents what we do in class. Our class online website www.OurClass.us, provides classroom information and a gradebook that you can check your child's grades at any time. Finally, PLEASE check CLASS DOJO for updates, announcements and to contact me directly through private messaging.

As always, please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Thank you for your continuing support.

THANK YOU!

Our Class would like to thank families that have donated goodies to our winter carnival's "Santa Store" on December 22nd. The students really enjoyed having the treats. We also like to thank the staff members that stopped by our classroom to share the fun with us. It was an enjoyable experience for all.

Mr. Pham

December Character Awards

CITIZENSHIP

Do your share to make your home and school better • Cooperate with each other • Get involved in class and school activities • Be a good classmate • Follow home and school rules • Respect everyone • Protect school property • Pick up trash • Be kind to all



Jazmine



Tyler



Faith



Nguyen

Citizenship

Celebrating Winter

1. Decorations

With the Christmas season, we put up decorations in our classroom. We made long red & green paper chains that stretches to the walls of the classroom to the middle. We also cut paper snowflake and hang them on the paper chains, and we put up lights and Christmas trees in the class.

2. Secret Santa

During December, we played Secret Santa in which we each picked a name from the students in the class. Throughout two weeks, Secret Santas have been giving clues and goodies to the person they picked. It was really fun. On Dec. 21st, we revealed to each other who their Secret Santa is and gave a small present.

3. Class Carnival

On Friday, December 22nd, we had a class carnival where we are divided into 10 groups with each responsible for a game booth. We have tickets redeemed with our class money that we've earned since the beginning of the year. We used our tickets to play carnival games and bought goodies from the class store. It was a lot of fun at the carnival. Pictures to come on our class website.

NEWS

Events and Happenings in Room B1

Christmas Talent Show

On December 15, 2023, Room B1 students participated in the annual Class Talent Show. We had a lot of fun performing and watching many cool and fun acts like singing, piano playing, comedy shows, a funny *Lorax* skit performed by the Girl's Gang. Even Mr. Pham joined in with a song. It was so much fun, and it was great to see the students having a wonderful time showcasing their talents.

There will be another Talent Show at the end of the year. Start practicing!

(Pictures & Videos are posted on www.OurClass.us)



December STEM Project



In December, we did a fun STEM project called "Operation Santa Drop" where students have to work together to find ways to help Santa land his sleigh as safe as possible using napkins as parachutes. The project was fun for students to learn about gravity and air resistance.

In the new year, we will begin our electronics/robotics program by learning about computers, circuitry, and working with robotics. It's going to be an exciting half year exploring and learning new things.

Thank You!

parents...

We'd like to acknowledge and thank our parents for the many things you do for us.

- Parents who've donated classroom supplies. We are so grateful.
- We appreciate the support from various Parents for our class RoAch.
- Thank you for the "Secret Santa" gift to support our class activity.
- To all Parents who donated goodies to our Carnival Store.



Rio Calaveras Staff...

Helping our Class at Rio Calaveras



Mrs. Hall



Mr. Oki



Ms. Alma



Ms. Cuellar



Ms. Attaway



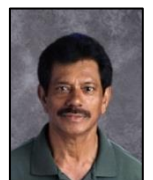
Mrs. Morales



Mr. James



Ms. Andersen

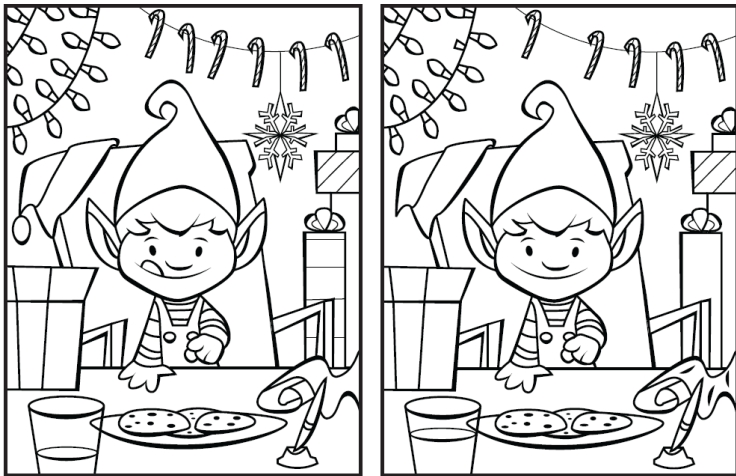


Mr. John

Campus Safety Monitors & Supervisors

Our Custodians: Mr. John, Mr. Lee, Ms. Bee Mrs. Juanita and the Cafeteria Staff

A mischievous elf wants one of Santa's cookies.
Find 7 differences between the two pictures.



12 Days of Fun Winter Break Activities

1. Make gingerbread houses
2. Go on a holiday lights tour
3. Make wreaths
4. Have a Christmas movie night
5. Make popcorn and cranberry garlands
6. Play in the snow
7. Bake Christmas cookies
8. Go caroling or have a sing-along
9. Attend a Christmas concert
10. Make homemade Christmas ornaments
11. Have a hot chocolate buffet
12. Donate toys to charity



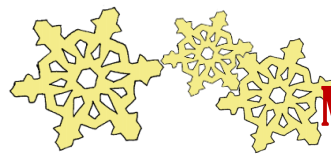
Christmas Riddles

1. What do you call Santa Clause after he's fallen into a fireplace?
2. What is Frosty the Snowman's favorite breakfast cereal?
3. What did Santa say to Mrs. Claus as he looked out the window?
4. What has 4 legs, 4 ears, 1 tail, 2 bottoms, 4 eyes, 2 noses and 2 mouths?



5. Where do reindeers like to stop for lunch?
6. Why doesn't Santa Claus eat Twinkies?
7. Why did they let the turkey join the band?
8. What did Tarzan sing at Christmas time?
9. As I was going to the North Pole, I met nine elves;
Each elf had nine reindeers, Each reindeer had nine bags,
Each bag had nine puppies, And each bag had also nine cats,
Reindeers, elves, puppies and cats,
How many were going to the North Pole?

1. Krisp Kringle! 2. Frosted Flakes 3. It looks like rain dear myself. The elves were going in the opposite direction. (reindeer) 4. Santa Claus on a reindeer 5. Deery Queen 6. He prefers CupCakes 7. Because it had the drum sticks 8. Jungle Bells 9. Only



Making Snowflakes

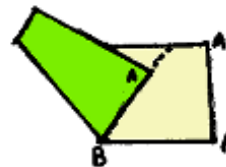
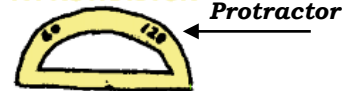
Creating paper snowflakes is fun! Just follow the steps below and you'll soon have a whole flurry.

1) Start with a piece of paper. The bigger the paper, the bigger the snow.



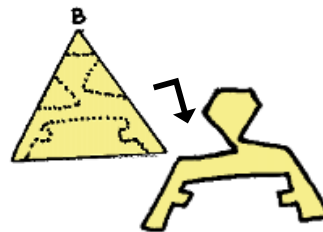
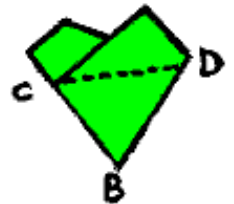
2) Fold it in half. Find and mark the center point along the fold.

3) Divide into three equal 60-degree angles, using a protractor if necessary. Then mark lines to fold on at each 60 degrees from the center point.



4) Fold left side (A) toward center on left side penciled line. Fold right side (A) toward center on right side penciled line.

5) Measure the distance from (B) to (C). Mark an equal distance from (B) up right side, which will be (D). Cut across from (C) to (D).



6) Let (B) become the top. Cut out a design, leaving some of the folded edges uncut. Unfold your design.

what's up

December 25

Dec. 25-Jan. 5
January 8
January 10
January 13
January 15
January 19
January 20
January 25

Merry Christmas

Mr. Pham's Birthday
Winter Break
Back to School ☺
Progress Reports
Hadiqa's Birthday
MLK Day - No School
Teacher Training Day
No Shool
Kalysta's Birthday
Bella's Birthday