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The Lexington Concord



December 2021

The Evolution of Christmas Trees

By Darcie R.

Every year, millions of American households set up their Christmas Tree. These vary from white to green, artificial to real, large to small, among many other characteristics. There are many ancient ties with the Christmas tree to Egyptians, Romans, and Vikings. However, Germany is accredited to starting the tradition that is known today. When Christmas trees were brought to America, many Americans did not take part or approve of the tradition. People believed that Christmas was supposed to be sacred and not tarnished by frivolous decorations. Christmas Trees began to rise after a picture of



Queen Victoria and her family standing around a Christmas Tree. After the popularity of electricity increased, people began to put lights on their trees. The Rockefeller Tree is an American icon. This tradition was started in 1931. Today, putting up a Christmas Tree is a very popular tradition. This brings together families and builds memories.

Real Tree or Fake by Maya H

Most people get a tree to decorate for Christmas. The real question is, do you get a real tree or a fake tree? Many people use a real tree as part of their Christmas tradition. For example, every year my family goes to a tree farm together to pick out our tree. We then take a family picture for our Christmas card. Whether you get a real tree or a fake tree, decorating it is the best part. Putting all the lights and ornaments really just puts you in the Christmas spirit. The results have been split fairly evenly between which families get real trees and who gets fake. No matter what they both resemble Christmas just as much as the other and all trees show each families different personalities and traditions. The most popular tree farm in this area is Kleerview tree farms which is extremely friendly and even has Santa and a reindeer.

Note from the IT editor

Federal law says that schools can only use first names when referring to minors on the internet. So you will see the authors and anyone else mentioned by first name only, sorry for any confusion this might cause.

Watch how a Christmas tree is made!

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5-n_pPbAYbg



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Quick Tech Tip:

If you are working on a group project use your student OneDrive accounts and the whole group can work on the same file at the same time in real time.

You can access it by going to the Lexington Home page > Parents and Students > Student Email > login with your school computer login > OneDrive > create the files you need > then click share in the upper right > type in the person(s) name click share > have them check their school email (by clicking Outlook where you clicked OneDrive earlier) then you can all collaborate on the same document at the same time

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Ohio, The Beautiful

By Lainey K.

When I was younger, I used to think Ohio was a huge state. Everyday was an adventure for me. My family took me to Kingwood Center and watched the peacocks and had a picnic. It seemed like an exotic far-off place. We would go downtown to the carousel and then sit at the counter of Coney Island Diner. We would hike Mohican and climb the fire tower. Once, we road the bike trail from the deer park to Butler. My dad and I have traveled all over the state and played golf at some cool courses. He then scarred me for life by taking me to Cedar Point. The Gatekeeper is unnecessary for a ten-year-old to ride. There are multiple water parks. There are many adventures on Lake Erie, such as boating, fishing, cool restaurants and jet skiing. I know these are all warm weather activities in Ohio and we are heading into winter. So, here are some things to do in Ohio in the winter to make the state seem huge just like when you were little.

1. **Easton Town Center**—they have a Christmas light show, ice skating, Santa and carolers. Easton is an hour away and it has great shops and restaurants. I could spend days here and not see all that it has to offer.



2. **The Columbus Zoo and Aquarium Wildlights**—I love animals and Christmas lights, so this is a must for me. I get some hot chocolate and walk around looking at all the great lights and animals. They are open 5 to 9 most days and occasionally until 10pm.



3. **The Christmas Ranch** - It is located at 3205 S Waynesville Rd, Morrow, Ohio, 45152. It also opens at 5pm.

4. **Castle Noel** - 206 S. Court Street, Medina, Ohio. It opens at 9am.



5. **“A Christmas Story” house** — I know 24 hours of “The Christmas Story” can be overwhelming, but the house is open to the public.



6. Snow Trails - skiing, snowboarding, tubing
7. Golf Simulators - Ontario has year-round golf
8. Malabar Farm - great tours
9. Polaris and Top Golf - tons of shops activities
10. Kalahari Indoor Water Park - Fun in the sun in winter

I am guilty of hating on Ohio, but there are so many great things to do within just an hour’s drive. I guess sometimes we take what we have for granted. Don’t forget there are movie theaters, bowling alleys, sporting events, and a trampoline park to occupy your time this winter right here in Mansfield.

Christmas Around the World

By Karis H.

Christmas is becoming an increasingly popular holiday in America, full of old traditions and new ones. It has become widely commercialized, and in America there are different ways that it is celebrated. Every culture that celebrates Christmas also has its own festive ways to make the holiday special. Some of those involve dishes that only appear once a year, others give gifts that carry a particular meaning, and still others decorate in a particular way, hold festivals, or have parades to celebrate.



In Mexico, there are many similar traditions to ours, as well as many different ones. A common tradition is for the children to act out the Christmas story starting on December 12th when celebration begins. Nativity scenes are more common than Christmas trees in Mexico, and tradition calls for baby Jesus to be placed in the scene on Christmas Eve.

A popular Christmas Eve dinner in Italy is to eat seven different types of fish. This tradition is called the Feast of Seven Fishes theorized to represent the seven days of Biblical creation. They are also world famous for their Nativity scenes and, like in Mexico, baby Jesus is not placed until Christmas Eve.

In Japan, Christmas Eve is often celebrated more than Christmas Day and it is viewed as more of a romantic day. Because Christianity is such an uncommon religion in Japan, Christmas isn't really celebrated as a religious holiday there; it's not even considered a national holiday and most businesses treat December 25th as a normal day. Their New Year is celebrated more like our Christmas, by spending time with family, having a big meal together, and sending holiday cards.

Children in Australia have summer break from mid-December to early February because it's so hot. Other than this, their traditions are similar to ours: they hang lights, exchange gifts, and sing carols. Seafood or a barbecue are common Christmas meals, and these are usually eaten for lunch.

There are many other unique traditions and ways that people celebrate Christmas in other places. It's interesting to learn about these different things and the reasons that they started, but also that there are some places that don't celebrate Christmas at all.

A Fun Winter Treat

By Olyvia S.

In the winter, all I want to do is get cozy and watch a cute Christmas movie. Along with the movie, usually I will grab the perfect movie snack.... Popcorn!! I like to add a twist to the popcorn? Grinch popcorn is the perfect, sweet snack that is great for the holidays.

1. I start with 10 cups of popcorn. I make sure I get out all of the unpopped kernels. I don't want to bite down on one of those! I can use air-popped or microwave. Once I have the popcorn made, I salt it liberally. It is so nice to taste the salty with the sweet marshmallow coating.
2. Now I make the marshmallow mixture. Melt 3 tablespoons of butter in a medium saucepan. Once the butter is melted I add 3 cups of mini marshmallows. I stir until the marshmallows are melted. I turn off the heat. Add a couple of drops of yellow food coloring and mix until the marshmallow mixture is a bright yellow. When I have a good yellow color, I add in one very small drop of blue food coloring and stir. This combination of food coloring should get me the perfect "Grinch Green" marshmallow mixture.
3. Slowly pour the marshmallow mixture over the popcorn. Using a spoon, gently fold the marshmallow mixture in with the popcorn until the popcorn is mostly covered. The amount of marshmallow mixture I want to add is really up to my own taste. The more I add, the stickier the popcorn will be so I add it a bit at a time, stir the popcorn and give it a taste before you add more.
4. Now I pour the popcorn onto a cookie sheet covered with foil or a silpat liner. I drizzle a little bit of the remaining marshmallow mixture over the popcorn but do not mix it up. You will need the mixture at the top so the candy will have something to stick to.
5. I add 1/2 cup of mini marshmallows and red M&M's to represent the Grinch's tiny heart that grew three sizes that day!



Snow Balls

By Eden D.

Want to learn how to make a fun winter treat? The powdery mess is totally worth it for these amazing festive cookies. And the best part: they only take about 30 minutes to make! You will need these ingredients:

1 cup all-purpose flour
1 1/2 cup walnuts, very finely chopped
1/4 cup granulated sugar
Small pinch kosher salt
1 tsp. pure vanilla extract
1/2 cup butter, chopped and softened
1 cup powdered sugar



These holiday cookies are pretty quick and simple to make! Follow these steps:

~Preheat the oven to 350° and line a large cookie sheet with parchment. In a large bowl, mix flour, walnuts, granulated sugar, salt, and vanilla. Add butter and, using your hands, combine everything until the mixture resembles a coarse meal.

~Form dough into small balls and place on a prepared cookie sheet.

~Bake for 15 minutes.

~When they're still warm but cool enough to touch, roll cookies in powdered sugar.

White Christmas

By Cody F.

Where should you go for a picturesque Christmas? Colorado has many great winter towns and ski resorts. Vail, Breckenridge, and Aspen Snowmass are just a few examples. You are guaranteed to have a white Christmas. For the truest of Christmas scenery Sweden also has many beautiful vacation locations, such as: Stockholm, Gothenburg, Visby, and Kiruna. Reindeer are native to this portion of the world and you can go on a sleigh ride pulled by reindeer. If you want to stay warm for Christmas, a great place would be Maui, Hawaii. There is no chance of snow in Hawaii, but there wasn't any snow in Bethlehem either.



[White Christmas](#)



[Mele Kalikimaka](#)

Breakfast With Santa

Kylie G.



On December 4, the Key Club helped bring joy to the children of the community. *Breakfast With Santa* is an event held annually and brings in people from all around the area. There are pancakes, fun crafts, and of course, Santa. *Breakfast With Santa* was held at the high school and many students in Key Club volunteered to help with the event. They helped with things such as making crafts

and handing out drinks. They set up the day before, making snowflakes and decorating the tree, to make it even more magical. On the day of the event these volunteers stayed busy with the many people that came. Kids came and got to make gingerbread ornaments to take home and hang on their Christmas trees. The holiday spirit was high and *Breakfast With Santa* got everyone excited for the next couple weeks. These volunteers helped make lifetime memories for children from all around the area.



Teacher's Getting Into the Spirit

The North Pole elves Holly and Tim have been in the holiday spirit since Labor Day. They have played Christmas music and have had their decorations up for months. Some other elves have been getting a jump start too.



Christmas Tradition

By Cadie H.

Night moon glistens on the trees
Dreams are filled with “I Believe”
Family full of cheer,
Knowing morning is here
Around the fire they all gather
Sharing presents and laughter
Then outside to celebrate
Enjoying the moments until morning late
Then wispy cold air starts to blow
As children play in frozen snow
Morning turns into late afternoon,
And then they are able to see the moon,
Inside happy voices sing bright
As a snowman outside endures the night
His coal eyes sparkle as a dime
Oh how I love Christmas time.

More Christmas Traditions

By Emma D.

As December is upon us, everyone begins their Christmas traditions. As a yearbook staff there are several different traditions throughout. My personal favorite tradition is going shopping and picking out gifts for my friends and family. The holidays are a great opportunity for me to express my gratitude for the people in my life through the personal gifts I give them. As I passed around a sheet of paper, I had everyone write down their favorite tradition for the holidays. The favorites include; going out to see Christmas lights, watching Hall-mark movies, going to a tree farm to get their Christmas tree, decorating cookies, listening to festive music, and spending time with their families. Happy holidays! I hope all of you enjoy your winter break and have a great Christmas!



How to Have the Best Christmas Ever

By: Maddy H.



Picture yourself having the best Christmas ever. The smell of fresh-baked desserts filling the house; the tree glistening with perfectly hung lights; and a fire crackling as children play with new toys. We often start December with high expectations but we get left feeling stressed. The Christmas season may be filled with everything except joy. This year can be different! If you follow these simple steps you are guaranteed to have the best Christmas ever.

Step One: enjoy the build up to Christmas. Don't listen to Christmas music in October because by the time December rolls around you'll be tired of listening to Christmas music.

Step Two: Have a Christmas movie night. Everyone has a favorite Christmas movie so why not invite some of your friends over and have a Christmas movie night?

Step Three: Try online shopping. To avoid the stress, just shop for your family members online.

Step Four: Make a Gingerbread house. There is nothing more that screams Christmas than a gingerbread house.

Step Five: The last step is to start a new Christmas tradition. You could invite your family or friends to each buy a new Christmas decoration for your tree or you could go on a special Christmas Eve walk and stop in at a cafe for a Christmas treat. Make your Christmas tradition something that you look forward to and make sure it's meaningful to you. Get involved with as much as you possibly can to make sure this Christmas is memorable and meaningful.

A Bieber Christmas

By Leah P.



Justin Bieber's album from 2011 “Under the Mistletoe” is nothing short of a masterpiece. It became Bieber's third US number one debut and his fifth US top ten album. It sold 210,000 copies and was #1 on the US Billboard 200 chart in its first week. Justin was only 17 when he released this album which is extremely impressive. It is personally my favorite Christmas album. Even though this album has been out for 10 years, it is still very popular and never fails to get me in the holiday spirit. I would strongly recommend it to anyone.

[UNDER THE MISTLETOE](#)



The Legend of Sleepy Hollow (Minuteman Style)

By Sophie M.



This year, our theatre program put on a fall play, The Legend of Sleepy Hollow. Eighteen students were cast in the show, even a few from the junior high. It has been a long time since the school put on a fall production, so this was definitely something new and exciting for the students. The play was a

hit. Opening night, the show was almost sold out and the second night, people from all around the community came to support. While interviewing the cast, almost all of them said their favorite part about the whole production was the cast. Some members said, getting to know everyone, some said making memories with everyone, and some said becoming a family and creating new relationships. One cast member explained, “I just knew I wanted to be apart of it!... The bonds you make are unlike any other.” The show was definitely entertaining and fun, it was great to see the people you know take you into a different time with their acting and skill. This was a great production, and the school is very excited to see what the theatre program has to offer for the spring!

Crushin' With Big Time Rush

By An Embarrassed Girl.



Big Time Rush is my Fifth favorite band of all time, right behind The Beatles, The Rolling Stones, One Direction, and the Black-Eyed Peas. Big Time Rush consists of four members. Kendall, Logan, Carlos, and James. My favorite member is Logan, but Carlos is a close second. Logan has so many positive attributes, he is very smart, simply adorable, and would be a perfect boy for my enemies to lover's dream. Just like every romantic comedy ever made. Now, Carlos is silly, and wears a cute little bike helmet. Carlos would be the perfect fun boyfriend. Now James is my worst enemy. He is uptight and tries way too hard to be funny. I also hate his bandana costume. I am indifferent on Kendall. I do not particularly enjoy his presence on my tv, but I can live with it. I once had a dream about Big Time Rush, but they were a goth boy band. The slide in their apartment was all black and they wore leather jackets and sunglasses. It truly was a nightmare considering I was dating James.

Here is the link to my favorite song: [Halfway There](#)

The Rockettes By Kylie G.

The Rockettes are a key part to many holiday traditions. Their first performance of the season is during the Macy's Parade on Thanksgiving Day. The Rockettes continue to perform until new years day with over 200 performances by the end of the year. Their main show is called The Christmas Spectacular, which they perform four times a day. This means that the performers must keep in shape through out the whole season as there are over 150 kicks in each show. One myth about the Rockettes is that they are all the same height. The reason for this is that each girl is placed by height. The tallest go in the middle and then the shorter Rockettes fan out to each side. Will you be watching the Rockettes perform this holiday season?



[Rockettes in Action](#)

Short clip to introduce the Christmas Spectacular.



The Evolution of Bands

By Anna M.

Since the 1960's, each decade has been branded by a notable band that has dominated the music industry. First, the 1960's was the height of Beatle mania. The Beatles are still one of the most well-known music groups in history, which only proves the grip they had on society back in the day. The group's biggest hit was *She Loves You*, which sold over 1.3 million copies in England alone. Moving into the 1970's, Queen became the first British band in history to earn the Diamond song award with their monumental song, *Bohemian Rhapsody*. Selling over ten million copies just in the United States, this song would earn Queen fame that has lasted decades after the band's breakup. In 2018, a film with the same name was released, re-enacting the legendary band's time together. Following the influence of Queen, the 1980's were a turning point in the music industry. Music was turning away from the poppy feel-good music of the Beatles, and instead becoming unapologetically rock. No band of the 80's could do this better than Aerosmith, who paved the way for other rock bands with their biggest hit, *Dream On*. This song has been ranked multiple times on the Rolling Stone magazine's list of 500 Greatest Songs of All Time, which only proves the impact Aerosmith had on the 80's. The last decade of the 1900's brought forth the domination of boy bands: several of these bands began in the final years of the 80's and into the early 90's, however none were quite as influential as the Backstreet Boys. Beginning in 1993, the Backstreet Boys not only dominated the 90's Billboard charts but also the hearts of women around the world. Their monumental song, *I Want it That Way*, is perhaps the most well-known song of the 90's and early 2000's, having been released right before the start of the new millennium. For the first decade of the 2000's, boy bands were at the height of their popularity. There were many notable boy bands in the 2000's, however it is more important to note that female pop bands were making their debut at this time. Although most people know Beyoncé because of her solo career, she would not have come to fame had it not been for her band, Destiny's Child. First formed in 1990, they quickly rose to fame in the 2000's, releasing their biggest hit Bills, Bills, Bills in 1999. Their career was short lived, breaking up in 2006, however their breakup left room for another band to come to fame in the 2010's. In the year 2010, five contestants on the British X-Factor were placed into a band together which would lead them to become one of the most well-known boy bands in history. Although they had not originally been a band, One Direction proved that they were better at making music together with their debut single, *What Makes You Beautiful*. It is rare that a band's debut single is their biggest hit, however the song has sold over 7 million copies since its release in 2010. Although their later singles were almost as successful as their first release, One Direction cut their fame short when they announced an indefinite hiatus in 2016. In more recent years, a new band has taken the title of most influential band of the 2020's. BTS, a Korean pop band, has migrated from Asia over to the U.S by no surprise to many. Out of the 7 bands on this list, only three are American bands, so it made perfect sense that the newest addition to this list would be a band that only recently started recording songs in English. They made history with their song Butter, which was the most downloaded Billboard number one song in history.



[She Loves You](#)

[Bohemian Rhapsody](#)

[Dream On](#)

[I Want It That Way](#)

Test: Real or Fake



1



2



3



4



5



6



7



8



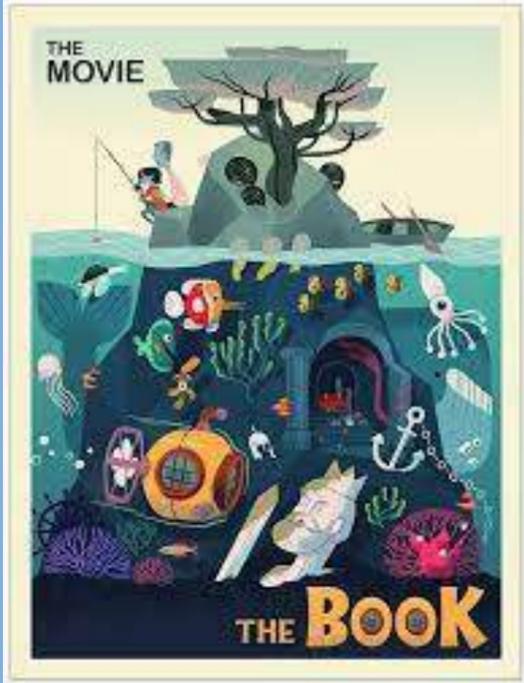
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Can you tell the difference between a real tree and a fake tree?

Answer on page 15

Lex Argue: the Book or the Movie?

By Chloe D.



It's finally winter-- the snow is falling, the wind is whipping, temperatures are dropping... It's the perfect time to cuddle up with a blanket and watch a good movie or read a good book. However, which one is preferred by the students of the surrounding area: the book or the movie? It's an age-old question that has finally been answered.

200 students from the surrounding area were asked if they would rather watch a movie or read a book. A wide range of answers were given, but one of the most popular answers in favor of movies is about attention spans. One student explains, "My attention span is low, so movies keep me more involved." Another student, preferring books, says, "Books give so much more detail and description."

One middle-road student describes, "It depends on what movie or book it is, and also on my interests and mood." Another student illustrates, "I like reading a book but then watching the movie that is based on the book. It's either really accurate to the book, or completely different. Either way, I like doing this."

Overall, out of the 200 interviewed, 32% of people enjoy books more, while 68% would rather watch the movie.



The History of Santa Claus

By Emma M.

Whether you say Santa Claus, Father Christmas, or Kris Kringle, this old man is notorious for being the best gift giver of the winter season. Santa got his name from a 4th century bishop. The bishop who was born in Turkey, and was prominent for gift giving and handing out offerings across the world. The red suit is significant with Saint Nicholas, as he was famous for wearing a red robe and belt. By the late 1700s the Saint reached U.S. headlines and America welcomed the idea, and started making St. Nicholas merchandise to sell at Christmas. A group of New York City newspaper artists interpreted the slim young Saint into the stocky old personage we know today. Now, Santa has become a staple in the winter season. Shopping malls, tree farms, and stores all over the U.S. have their own Santa Claus for kids to make lists to. Google has even partaken in the fun and created a Santa Tracker for kids to always keep an eye on where the fabled gift give is on Christmas Eve.

Father Christmas is a part of many Christmas traditions and stories. The white bearded, red suited, jolly man will always be remembered for his impact on the holiday seasons.



Spotlight ON

I normally shine the spotlight on a student, but I want to shine the light on:



There have been a number of not-so-smart Tik Tok challenges. You may think they are funny but it has a negative impact on Doug. All of these indiscretions require Doug to clean them up. Doug talks to all students as he sees them in the hallway, in the cafeteria and in the library. He tells you great stories and asks for nothing in return. So, next time you think something may be funny, think of how it affects everybody's friend, Doug.

Answers to Tree Quiz: Real trees are 4, 5, and 6.

Cowboy Awards

A cowboy is a person who sacrifices for others. A cowboy is person who does the right thing despite a personal hardship. A cowboy is person that doesn't seek fame and recognition. A cowboy does because he can. Each issue, the Lexington Concord will recognize its cowboys in the spirit of John Wayne.



Brandon S. - Just became and Eagle Scout and boy do we need scouting. Brandon says hello to all in the hall. He constantly wishes everyone well and has done many things to help the community.

January Club Activities

By Anna P.

Academic Challenge- The OCC Champion academic challenge team has a busy month coming up. The members meet every Friday and next month will compete in a competition in Cleveland on Jan. 18th. Look out for them on your TV as the competition will be recorded for Channel 5, ABC, and will air on Feb. 12th!

Bio Club- The Bio Club meets on differing weekdays and plans to continue their discussions in January.

Chess Club- The chess club meets every Friday and plans to continue playing more chess in January.

Drama Club- In January, the drama club will begin working on the spring musical, The Wizard of Oz.

French Club- French club meets on Fridays and next month they plan to continue meeting and plan activities following the New Year. The French Club often learns about French culture and celebrations by trying French foods during their weekly meetings.

Key Club- Key Club doesn't currently have anything planned for January.

Journalism Club- The journalism club plans to write more articles and cover winter sports like Basketball, Wrestling, Swim and dive, Bowling, and Indoor Track in January.

Leadership Council- Leadership Council is planning to clean out the trophy cases in January.

Leo's Club- Leos Club currently does not have plans for January.

Math Club- Members of the math club meet weekly and plan to continue working on problems together.

NHS- In January, NHS plans to volunteer to work concession stands at JV/V basketball games and sell more T-shirts for the student section at games.

Spanish Club- Spanish Club members meet weekly and also enjoy learning about Spanish culture through foods and plan to continue this in January.

Student Council- In January, Student Council plans to offer students and teachers cookies and hot chocolate after winter break.

Secret Identities

By Anna P.

“Mr. Kaple! Mr. Kaple!” If you yell he might answer but not all the time. Why is that? Well that's his nickname. His real name is Gru! His secret is no longer hidden. He teaches his kids like how Gru taught his minions. They all listen and are submissive. He wants to take over the world. And don't forget about his partner in crime Doctor Nefario. Mr. Stickler's secret identity is revealed. First, he has a lab coat just like Dr. Nefario. Second, he is a science teacher. Can you not see them taking over the world? Or trying to steal the moon?

