



# THE LEXINGTON CONCORD

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THE HOLIDAY ISSUE

January, 2023

## Christmas Around the World

By Darcie R.

### Christmas in Japan

**Santa:** サンタクロース (pronounced Santakurōsu)

**Merry Christmas in Japanese:** メリークリスマス (pronounced Merīkurisumasu)

**Popular Foods:** KFC, kurisumasu keki

**Summary:** Christmas is more of a day of happiness rather than a religious holiday. Christians represent only 1.5% of the Japanese population, and it is not considered a national holiday. The celebrations closely resemble how Americans celebrate Valentine’s Day. One fun tradition is people visiting Tokyo Disneyland and looking at all the Christmas decorations there. Another interesting aspect is on Christmas Day, KFC is the meal to eat. People order their meal up to six weeks in advance and wait hours to get their KFC.



### Christmas in Egypt

**Santa:** Baba Noel

**Merry Christmas in Arabic:** عيد ميلاد مجيد (pronounced “Eid Milad Majid”)

**Popular Foods:** Kahk, Fata

**Summary:** Rather than Christmas being celebrated on December 25th, it is celebrated on January 7th. In Advent, the 43 days leading up to Christmas, the Coptic Orthodox Christians fast; they do not eat any products that come from animals. On Christmas Eve, Christians go to a special church service. Additionally, they have a feast after the service, and they eat all the foods they missed while fasting during Advent. Often on Christmas day, people will gather together with family and celebrate the holiday.



### Christmas in Chile

**Santa:** Viejito Pascuero

**Merry Christmas in Arabic:** Feliz Navidad

**Popular Foods:** Cola De Mono, Pan de Pascua, Asado

**Summary:** Chile is in the Southern Hemisphere, so December 25th is during their summer. Decorations include Christmas trees, lights, and especially Nativity scenes. Chile is predominantly Roman Catholic; therefore, the nine days before Christmas include special church services. The main celebration is on Christmas Eve, and they open their presents at midnight. Christmas day is spent with families relaxing.



More unique traditions in Chile:

<https://www.trafalgar.com/real-word/chilean-christmas-traditions/>

Watch a video about more Christmas celebrations:

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=VNd13gTsdA>

## 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.



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# Veteran's Day

By Eva M. and Ashley C.



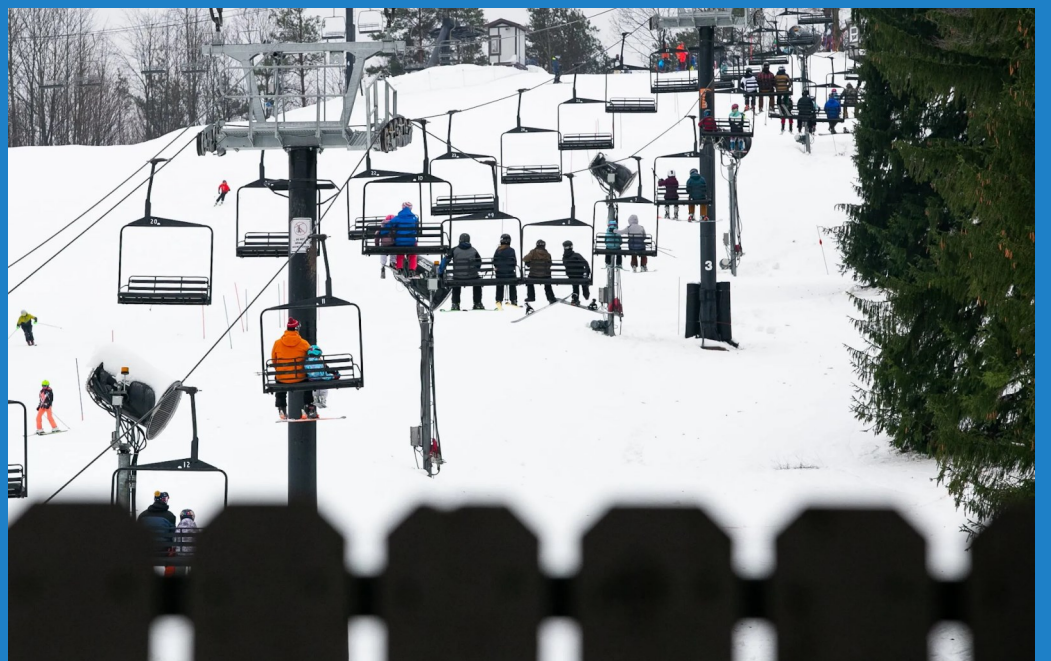
Veterans Day has been observed since 1918. Originally known as Armistice Day, Veterans Day is on November 11th, the eleventh month and the eleventh day. Originally, it was dedicated to celebrate the one-year anniversary of the cease fire that ended World War I. Every year on Veterans Day, we take a moment of silence to honor our Veterans. Many countries observe Veterans Day on November 11 or a few days before or after. There are always so many ways to honor our veterans every day. We observe Veterans Day as an opportunity to commemorate the contributions of our living

veterans to show our appreciation. A lot of people think Veterans Day and Memorial Day are the same thing. On Memorial Day, we honor men and women who have died in battle for their country. Veterans Day celebrates all of those who served our country no matter how long or where. Small acts of recognition can mean a lot and make them feel appreciated. Saying “thank you for your service” is a simple act you can do to honor our veterans and take time to appreciate them for what they did for us and our country.

# Winter Fun

By: Audrey N.

The opening day for Snow Trails was Friday, December 9, 2022. With limited snow, skiers and snowboarders needed to be patient. Temperatures finally dropped, and on the weekend of December 17, there was a lot of snow making by the crews at Snow Trails. Whether you enjoy skiing, snowboarding, go tubing, or just hanging out with friends in the lodge, Snow Trails is a great way to get through the winter in North Central



Ohio! The rental area offers equipment such as helmets, ski boots, skis, ski poles, snowboards, and snowboarding boots; everything you need other than warm clothes. Standard passes from Snow Trails range from \$325-\$615 depending on if you would like to include rental equipment in your purchase. A gold pass costs \$350-\$595 and gives you access to all slopes, any day. Snow Trails is a fun place for friends, family and learning. Of course, single-day lift tickets are also available. No tickets are necessary to just hang out with friends.



# Skiing or Snowboarding?

By Haley D.



Ski season is approaching, and many are excited to finally be able to get back on the slopes. Lexington students get to enjoy Snow Trails during the winter months. So there is a question that needs answered: which is better, skiing or snowboarding? I interviewed a few students who ski, snowboard, and or do both to see what they think is the best. When I asked students whether they prefer skiing or snowboarding, most said skiing. “I feel like skiing is overall just easy to pick up and get back into after the off season,” says freshman Lily T. She skis and snowboards. She and a few other students also mentioned that falling on skis is a lot less painful than falling on a snowboard. “Skiing, 100%, I feel like you can do more and go faster, and it’s easier to pick up on,” states Hallie D., who also skis and snowboards. Others along with Hallie also mentioned that you can do a lot more tricks on skis.

Only a few interviewed said they prefer snowboarding. “I prefer snowboarding because it’s superior and looks cooler,” says Landon P., a snowboarder. Some also said they prefer snowboarding because they feel more secure with having both legs attached to the board rather than having one on each ski.

So, what is the answer to the question? “Skiing! It’s obviously superior. You can do cooler tricks skiing than if you snowboard,” says skier Iris P.

[Ski v Snowboard Video](#)



# Why the Turkey?

By: Emily W.

Thanksgiving is a time for many things: spending time with friends and family, watching football, making Christmas lists and shopping, and eating big family meals. Thanksgiving means eating a variety of foods that we don’t eat on a regular basis. Some of these foods are pumpkin pie, green bean casserole, stuffing, cranberry sauce, and most importantly, turkey. Why turkey? What is so special about turkey and Thanksgiving? The turkey is never proven to be served on the first Thanksgiving. However, these birds were very plentiful during the 19<sup>th</sup> Century with over 10 million turkeys in the United States at that time. It wasn't until 1863 that President Abraham Lincoln made Thanksgiving an official national holiday. A turkey is chosen to be spared by the President each year as a part of the Thanksgiving tradition. Benjamin Franklin proposed that the Turkey be the national bird. Mr. Franklin lost the debate, and the American Bald Eagle is the national bird.



A more practical approach to answering the question is the size and cost of turkey. Turkey is far cheaper than beef, and when a person is serving a large family meal, the turkey can cut costs. Additionally, cows provide milk, and turkeys do not.



Chicken is a viable cost alternative, but chickens are much smaller. In addition, chickens lay eggs daily. Turkeys only lay one clutch a year. So, the chicken keeps on giving. When Americans are going to glutton themselves, the turkey is the best environmental and economic choice. The turkey is a staple of Thanksgiving in America today. Turkeys are seen all over the grocery stores during the middle of November, and the turkey is the center of attention as a centerpiece on most tables.



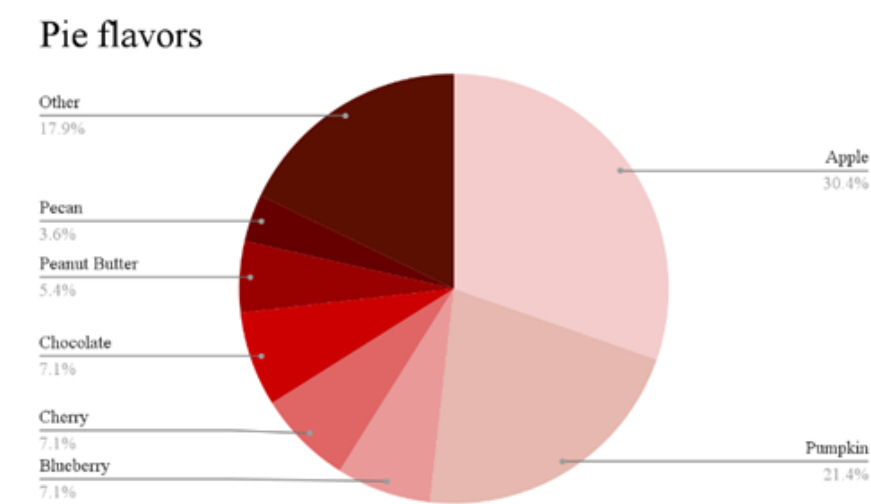
# The People’s Pie

By: Campbell S.



According to national polls, apple pie is the most beloved pie in the United States. Since Thanksgiving is a holiday when people enjoy eating a variety of different pies, I wanted to see which one reigns superior at Lexington High School. I interviewed approximately 10% of the student body. All these students have one thing in common: they love pie! It turns out our school is basic, and 30% of people thought that apple pie is the best pie. Pumpkin pie came in second place with 21%. Following pumpkin pie, blueberry, cherry, and chocolate all tied, each earning 7% of the total pie. Next in line was the peanut butter pie with 5%. All the flavors behind peanut butter were only 2% of the total of what people thought the best pie was.

People love apple pie because it gives them a sense of warmth with all the spices and the delicious filling. As Americans, we often associate our food with our feelings. Hence, so many people favor apple pie because of the pure and immaculate feeling. Food like apple pie could also bring back memories like cooking in the kitchen with your grandma or having your whole family together at Thanksgiving. Overall, we can say that the national poll was correct. Apple pie reigns superior to any other pie flavor. Pies are a staple in America for the Holidays.



The three most popular are apple, pumpkin, and cherry. My personal favorite is chocolate. This sweet treat was brought over to America with the pilgrims. Pie has its roots in ancient Egypt and Greece. Most of the earliest pies were predominantly made with meat. Did you know the largest pie made weighed 10,540 kg?

## Pumpkin Pie

By Olyvia S.

### The Ingredients

- 1 (15 ounce) can pumpkin puree
- 1 (14 ounce) can EAGLE BRAND® Sweetened Condensed Milk
- 2 large eggs
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- ½ teaspoon ground ginger
- ½ teaspoon ground nutmeg
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 1 (9 inch) unbaked pie crust



### Baking Instructions

1. You'll first need to preheat the oven to 425 degrees. Then you can mix all the ingredients for your filling: pumpkin puree, sweetened condensed milk, eggs, cinnamon, ginger, nutmeg, and salt. Whisk it all together until smooth.
2. Pour the mixture into your pie crust (store-bought or homemade is fine). Bake in the preheated oven for 15 minutes.
3. Then you'll reduce the heat to 350 degrees and continue to bake for 35 to 40 minutes. This helps the pie cook evenly without cracking. To determine if it's done, insert a knife 1 inch into the crust; if it comes out clean, it's done. The center should be just a little jiggly.
4. Let cool and serve, refrigerate, or freeze. Then, enjoy!



# The Cultural Exchange:

## Andrea R. Compares America and Spain

By Darcie R.

This school year, Lexington High School has many foreign exchange students. Part of the program is a cultural exchange. Many students will not have the opportunity to travel to Europe, so these programs can bring Europe to America. An interview with Andrea (pronounced with a soft *a* sound), she shared her insights on the similarities and differences during the holiday season. Andrea is staying at Lexington for the entire school year and has experienced many typical American experiences in her time here. Lexington is blessed to have her as well as the other exchange students throughout the building.



**Q: What was your experience with Thanksgiving? How does the holiday season differ in Spain?**

A: There is not really a holiday like Thanksgiving in Spain. I really liked the big turkey, the table, and the many different dishes that were made. Christmas is not as big in Spain. In all aspects, everything is bigger in America than in Spain, so the decorations are bigger. In my home in Spain, our Christmas Tree was roughly five feet tall, but here they can be big. Christmas does not start as early as it does here, but it lasts until January 6th.

**Q: What is the biggest difference between the United States and where you lived in Spain?**

A: In Spain, we walk to a lot of places, but here you need a car to go everywhere. Also, the food is different. Where I live, we eat a lot of seafood and more natural things. American food is pretty good though.



**Q: How do schools in America differ from schools in Spain?**

A: School in America is more entertaining, but there is more homework. The tests are very similar to the homework, so if you do the homework, you are prepared for the tests. In Spain, maybe you have less homework but then the exams are larger. The tests require a lot of studying because they are more difficult. In Spain, there are more classes during the day. At Lexington, there are only seven classes, and you go to the same ones every day. In Spain, we have more classes, but we go to different classes each day.

**Q: You recently have joined the swim team. How has your experience been with the team?**

A: When I was deciding on joining the swim team, many people told me the swim team was good, and therefore, competitive and intense. Swimming competitively instead of for leisure was big adjustment. I used to do competitive kayaking, but it is not related to competitive swimming. It is still challenging, but it is a really nice way to exercise, and there are many good people on the team.



**Q: It is much more temperate where you live in Spain. How have you adjusted to the weather?**

A: I am not used to the cold. Where I live in Spain, the summers are not as warm, and the winters are not as cold. It has never snowed there. I like snow because everything is white and pretty, but it is definitely a big difference.

Learn more about Ribadeo by clicking this link: [www.spain.info/en/destination/ribadeo/](http://www.spain.info/en/destination/ribadeo/) or watch a video : [m.youtube.com/watch?v=sAdA52-V5rA](https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=sAdA52-V5rA)



Andrea attending homecoming with fellow exchange student, Maja S.; visiting Walmart for the first time with fellow Lexington student, Lydia Schroeder; Andrea going apple picking at Apple Hill Orchards; Andrea supporting the football team in the student section with Lexington students, Cora P. and Darcie R.



# CHRISTMAS in NOVEMBER?

By Amelia H.



With the holiday season upon us, many people have forgotten about Thanksgiving, and started decorating for Christmas. I was curious to see how many families decorate for Christmas in November, compared to how many decorate in December. Among Lexington students, 45% of their families decorate for Christmas in November. This is not surprising because Christmas advertising and marketing begins in early November. People are encouraged to

get into the Christmas spirit in November to save money on Black Friday and Cyber Monday. Shayne W. says, “my mom decorates after Thanksgiving at the end of November. My mom loves Christmas, so we always decorate early.” She then goes on to say, “it’s a great tradition that my family has, and I will pass it on to my kids.” Martha Stuart, a famous entrepreneur, says in her blog, she planned to string up the outdoor lights and decorate the house with her grandchildren in the first week of December, and then do the holiday table settings on December 19<sup>th</sup>, and hang the family stockings on December 21<sup>st</sup>. I don’t know if people schedule Christmas with that much detail, but it does show how much thought people put into the season. People decorate for Christmas at different times, and it doesn’t matter if you decorate in November or December. All that matters is the Christmas joy!

[Christmas Light Show](#) (great video)

## Thanksgiving Around the World

By Emma W.

Canada celebrates the same way America celebrates Thanksgiving. In Europe, the idea of Thanksgiving generally involves the celebration of the autumn harvests. Largely religious in nature, the celebration occurs around the time of the main harvest, early October. The celebration has lost some of its original meaning and is regarded now as an occasion for commemorating labor and reflecting on issues that impact the community. Brazilian ambassador Joaquim Nabuco returned home from a trip to the United States very enthusiastic about the commemorations he saw in St. Patrick’s Cathedral on Thanksgiving Day. It is very interesting how other countries give thanks.



# Christmas in Germany

By: Maja S.



Christmas is a very popular holiday celebrated all over the world. However, Christmas is celebrated with different traditions. In Germany, the holiday is celebrated during the entire month of December. Starting in November, you'll find Christmas markets with booths selling delicacies and traditional Christmas foods and drinks. One popular treat is Christmas fruit punch and mulled wine, which will warm you in the cold months. Typical food that is always sold is traditional German sausages, caramelized nuts, and glazed fruits. Additionally, crepes (which

is French) are always a popular snack. There are booths with crafts and handmade Christmas gifts. It is the perfect place to do some Christmas shopping. The Christmas markets are a fun winter activity to do on cold days, and you'll find them everywhere. A visit to one of Germany's traditional Christmas markets will awaken the Christmas mood and will be an unforgettable experience for both culture and culinary.

A different tradition that is practiced in households is the advent wreath. This wreath is often self made out of real fir branches and decorated by the entire family. Four candles are placed on the advent wreath. This custom begins four weeks before Christmas (usually in the month of December, but sometimes in late November). Every Sunday, one candle is lit, and when all four candles burn, it is Christmas (or the last Sunday before Christmas, depending on the calendar day of Christmas). This is a highlight of the week since you're coming together as a family to light up each candle, sing Christmas songs, and eat one of the famous delicious German Christmas cookies.



## *Die Hard*: A Christmas Movie

By: Jacob B.

Since 1988, people have questioned whether *Die Hard* was a Christmas movie. To this day, the general populace has not been able to decide. Each side has their unwavering opinion. To see if we can solve this dilemma, we asked people on each side of the argument what they think and why. First, a few teachers were asked their opinion. Mrs. Moeglin believes that *Die Hard* is a Christmas movie. When asked why, she said, "It focuses around a Christmas party, takes place on Christmas Eve, and his wife's name is Holly." Ms. Thorburn thinks that it is not a Christmas movie. To elaborate, she explained:



"Because even though I am not a big Christmas fan, it is supposedly about love and peace and stuff. Just because he is trying to make peace with the bad guys does not mean it is a Christmas movie. Be real." Then, the students were interviewed. Connor N. was asked what his thoughts were on the subject. After revealing that *Die Hard* is a Christmas movie, he says, "It's snowing the whole time. There is a big tree out front. It is violent, but he is going to a Christmas party. It's gotta be a Christmas movie." Darcie R. disagrees. She stated, "If you change the holiday, it doesn't really change anything. If it was an Easter party, the plot wouldn't change." After the inquiries, there is still no exact answer to the dilemma. We'll have to see if people can agree on one side next year!

**Special note from the editor:** Connor, there is no snow in *Die Hard* as it is set in Los Angeles. Now, in *Die Hard 2*, there is a blizzard. Darcie, no corporation has an Easter party. John McClain wouldn't have been on the plane heading to LA to see his family if it wasn't Christmas. He was a cop in New York. After reading this, I had to make fists with my toes!



# Teachers Share Their Christmas Traditions and New Year’s Resolutions

This year, several new teachers joined the staff at Lexington High School. This includes Ms. Dawson, Mr. Rogers, and Ms. Klink. Ms. Dawson teaches Biology, Ms. Klink teaches English 10 and Creative Writing, and Mr. Rogers teaches American History and Psychology.



Ms. Dawson

“I did not make any New Year’s resolutions because I can never keep them. My favorite Christmas tradition is making cookies with my mom and eating a lot of junk food on Christmas.”



Mr. Rogers

“I did not make any New Year’s resolutions. However, one of my favorite things around Christmas is that my wife always makes Chex Mix, and it is the best you will ever have, so I eat about 10 pounds of Chex Mix around Christmas.”



Ms. Klink

“My New Year’s resolution this year is to try and get up earlier. I usually make New Year’s resolutions in order to make a change in my life, but I always feel like I have to make a resolution because of tradition. My favorite Christmas tradition is going to Westside Market in Cleveland on Christmas Eve to get the meat and other things for our Christmas meal the following day.”



# A Gamer Christmas

By Troy K.



This year there are seemingly countless new games dropping around the holidays. Of these new games, there is an adventurous open world Pokémon game based on a region in Spain called Paldea. Pokémon gamers are now able to enjoy the recently released Pokémon scarlet and violet games available to be purchased on the Nintendo Switch. The sequel to the highly popular The Legend of Zelda: Breath of the Wild, which is titled The Legend of Zelda: Tears of the Kingdom, can be pre-ordered. Although it won't be released until May 12, 2023. In the game users play as Link in the world of Hyrule, but now with floating islands and new powers for Nintendo Switch users. Another new game is Just Dance 2023.

With this year's Just Dance, gamers can once again show off their amazing moves, but not like Jagger. This game holds value beyond entertainment as it can be a great facilitator for weight loss. It can be bought for many systems, including PS5, Xbox Series X|S, or the Nintendo Switch. In addition, there is Goat Simulator 3, the sequel to the highly esteemed Goat Simulator series, where a goat controlled by the player makes mayhem across a town. This exciting and enjoyable game will be released for PC, PS5, and the Xbox Series X|S.

Another game dropping is Warhammer 40,000: Darktide. This is a thrilling new release in the first person genre where the player fights chaos for all of mankind. Warhammer is available on Xbox Series X|S and PC. Callisto Protocol is a survival horror game. Callisto Protocol has been lauded as being highly difficult, appealing greatly for players desiring a challenge with their games. This newly released game is available on PS5, PS4, and Xbox One, and



Xbox Series X|S, along with PC.

For gamers who are want to pay less money for their entertainment, they are in luck with Overwatch 2. This game is also widely available on Nintendo Switch, Xbox One, and Xbox Series X|S, PS5, PS4, and PC. This year offers new superhero games such as Gotham Knights. This popular game is also open world taking place in Gotham, but interestingly, this game follows Batman's death. Gotham Knights is availa-



ble on Xbox Series X|S, PS5, and PC. For gamers desiring a game taking place in more simple time, they now can play Pentiment. This enjoyable mystery game takes place in the 16th century where the player is an artist investigating a murder. These games are now available on PC, Xbox One, and Xbox Series X|S. This year, gamers of all kinds have been given countless options to enjoy and to find a way to escape their busy lives.