



Christmas 2018

Rio Calaveras

The Class Times

December 2018

The class newsletter written and published by Mr. Pham's Fifth Grade Students - Class of 2019

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

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

- * Our Parents,
- * Mrs. Hall,
- * Mrs. Mata,
- * The Office Staff,
- * and the Wonderful Staff at Rio Calaveras

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

Thank you all for your love and support.
We'll be back at our Rio in 2019!





What does Christmas mean to me?



Christmas is a very special day to me because I get to see my family members that live far away. When we are done opening our PRESENTS, we have breakfast. We heat steamed rice and meat. When my family leaves, we go and sleep. This is what Christmas means to me.

• **Emma**

Christmas to me is about spreading joy and having fun with your family and opening presents. On Christmas morning, you can drink eggnog and hot cocoa. It's also a time to connect with your family who have not seen you in a long time.

• **Lyeon**

Christmas is the time of joy, singing, food, presents and fun time for the whole family. This is what Christmas means to me.

• **Julian H.**

Christmas means giving and happiness for kids. You get to decorate the Christmas tree and Santa (AKA parents) will put presents under the tree without you knowing. We have family night with a lot of food. My parents usually make mashed potatoes with ham. Lots of people will come. We play games and then eat. Christmas is always a special occasion for me and my family.

• **Deven**

Christmas is a time to be happy opening presents, eating food, and spending time with your family celebrating Jesus' Birthday.

• **Michael.**

Christmas is a season of giving, and yes, receiving also. I especially enjoy seeing the bright eyes and wide smiles on students faces when they talk about presents, family, and the Christmas spirit. It's a time to be thankful for the wonderful students I have in class and sharing the joys of the season with them.

Have a wonderful Christmas! • Mr. Pham

Christmas is to celebrate the day when Jesus was born... and opening presents! Christmas is spending time with family and friends.

• **Jayden F.**

Christmas means to give and see others happy and being with family and not worrying about anything.

• **Faith.**

Christmas to me is a special way to spend with loved ones and food. Not just food (although it's great) but also giving. Every year, our church holds a foundation for the poor people and we always donate! This is what Christmas means to me.

• **Nina**

Christmas is Jesus' Birthday, a time to spread joy, gather with the family and eating food. Christmas means joy because everyone is cheery and I feel all the magic that comes on Christmas morning. Also, Christmas means gathering together making memories with family. You will never feel alone because you have your family around you celebrating Christmas together. Finally, Christmas means food because we will make and eat a lot of food because we spend a lot of time on it every year making tamales and different kinds of Mexican food. These are the reasons of what Christmas means to me.

• **Stephanie**



Have yourself a merry little Christmas...





My favorite part of Christmas is waking up and feeling happy that it's Christmas. I also love it when we open presents. At night, my whole family has a talent show and it's really fun. We get to show our talents. We also bake cookies. I LOVE CHRISTMAS!

• **Malindy**

My favorite part of Christmas is spending time with family. We will go watch "The Grinch" and play with cool stuff we got from the store. Also, at night, we eat good food like cookies, milk, cake and some real food like chicken, fish, and rice. Finally, we watch a little TV... That's all.

• **Ashir**

My favorite part of Christmas is when I open presents. But the most favorite is the food and family. Sometimes we celebrate Christmas at Disneyland. This Christmas, I'm going to my dad's house in Gilroy and get to meet my cousin and go to places for fun. My cousin and I always make decorations together.

• **Sharlene**

My favorite part of Christmas is the gifts because I like to see what I get and play with the gifts. I don't get everything I want, but I'm still happy to have gifts. They are fun.

• **Aaron.**

My favorite part of Christmas is opening the presents and spending time with family. My next favorite part is when everybody eats and we will be STARVING I tell you. We eat all the food, even the hot pockets. These are my favorite parts of Christmas... Can't wait for it.

• **Gabriel**

My favorite part of Christmas is the food! Everyone is happy and talking and usually we have a Christmas party, which means a lot of friends and family! We would have turkey or ham, mostly things you would eat at Thanksgiving. Which is okay. There is a lot of good food that would cover almost a whole table. That is my favorite part of Christmas.

• **Skylar**

C My favorite part of... Christmas



My most favorite part of Christmas is the gingerbread cookies, presents, and a chance to see my relatives. I get to make the cookies with my aunt; open presents that I always wanted; and have a fun time with my relatives. That's the reason why I enjoy Christmas.

• **Sophia**

My favorite part of Christmas is when my family gets together and we all go to my Aunt Julie's house and open some presents there after we all eat and spend time together. It is so nice to see all my family that I don't get to see so much. Now you know what my favorite part of Christmas is. Season's Greetings.

• **Grant**

My favorite part of Christmas is opening presents and being with my family. On Christmas, we open presents and play with what we got. Then we eat some food, then we hang out.

• **Carlos M.**

My favorite part is spending time with my family and opening presents, getting the stuff that we want. We also get to meet our family that are far away. We drink hot cocoa and eating good food.

• **Henry**



How do you and your family celebrate CHRISTMAS?

Well, on Christmas Eve, we usually go to my cousins' house and we have a party. We eat A LOT of food like tamales, tacos, and rice. On Christmas morning, we open all of our presents and we are all happy because of one thing: Being Together at Christmas Time!

• **Carlos R.**

We celebrate Christmas by going to church on Christmas eve... We spend time with relatives to eat a lot of food. PHO!!! We also play games like "White Elephant" together. And then, the best part about Christmas is the PRESENTS!!! I get gift cards, money, and toys. This is how my family celebrate Christmas.

• **Matthew**

I celebrate Christmas twice every year, my dad's then mom's side of the family. On the morning of Christmas eve, we open presents right away! Then we eat breakfast and later that night, we go to our mom's family. All my cousins, aunts, and uncles are there. We would open PRESENTS, play games, eat, and go home. On Christmas morning, it's my dad's side to celebrate. Open more PRESENTS, eat, and play. This is how my family celebrates Christmas: Twice!

• **Olivia**

My family celebrates Christmas by having a party on Christmas eve. Waking up on Christmas morning, we eat a good meal and then open presents. We would take our toys to our cousin's house to play and then eat some more. We also watch scary movies instead of Christmas movies. We eat, we play, we celebrate

• **Taanvi**

First, we eat, then we open presents, then we play with the things we got while the grown-ups sit and talk. I would eat pizza with tamales. This is what we do on Christmas.

• **Julian**

My family celebrates Christmas on the 24th. We all stay up until 1:00AM. Then we pass out gifts and have a big party, play Secret Santa. It's a lot of fun.

• **Yohan**



My family celebrates Christmas by having a big feast and opening presents while drinking hot chocolate. We always have it at my grandma's house. We gather around the room saying hello's and how are you's. After that, we go to open presents under the tree. I usually get some hot chocolate with my brother and cousins. After the destruction of wrapping paper, we have a big feast. That is how my family celebrates Christmas.

• **Christopher**

Although I don't celebrate Christmas, but on Winter break, our family usually spends time together by going on a vacation at various places. This year, we are going to LA. I look forward to spending a lot of time with my family. Have a great break everyone. ☺

• **Jayden R.**

We celebrate Christmas at our cousin's house. Spending time together with family and relatives. At night, we open our presents and then we play "White Elephant." That's how I celebrate Christmas.

• **Malyssa**

My family and I celebrate Christmas opening presents and eating at our house on Christmas Day. We also go to my grandparents house to open more presents and spend time to gether. (We also eat a lot!)

• **Jaylana**

My family and I celebrate Christmas by first praising God. We then eat and open presents. We thank the people for giving us presents. Then we sit around and have some family talk time.

• **Tyeon**

The way my family celebrates Christmas is really fun.

My parents make tamales, atole, posole and then eat until we are stuffed. After eating, we go to the tree and take a picture, then it's opening and playing with our presents all night! After Christmas, we get to sleep in. Usually, my cousin and I wake up early in the morning to play games or watch videos. That's how we celebrate Christmas.

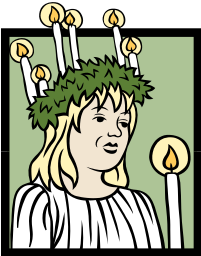
• **Eduardo.**

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.



Dear Parents,

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

CLASSROOM COMMUNICATION

We are almost at the mid-point of Trimester 2, that means we're approaching the half way 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 children 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.

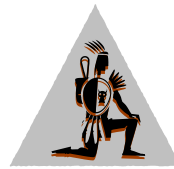
As always, please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

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 21st. The students really enjoyed having the treats. We also like to thank those parents and staff members that stopped by our classroom to share the fun with us. It was an enjoyable experience for all.

Toan Pham



December Character Awards

GENEROSITY

Generosity is a quality that's a lot like unselfishness. Someone showing generosity is happy to give time, money, food, or kindness to people in need.



Taanvi



Stephanie

6 pillars

Citizenship



Christopher



Grant

Celebrating Christmas

1. Decorations

With the Christmas season, we put up decorations in our classroom. We made long paper chains that stretches to the four corners 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 these 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 21st, we had a class carnival where we are divided into 9 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 C7

Christmas Talent Show

On December 14, 2018, Room C7 students participated in the annual Room C7 Christmas Class Talent Show. We had a lot of fun performing and watching many cool and fun acts like singing, dancing, a comedy show, a breathtaking Jamar dancing performance, and even a "Karate" demonstration from Emma. 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 circuitry, magnetics, and working with and building robotics. It's going to be an exciting half year exploring and learning new things.

Thank You!

special parents...

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

Parents who've donated classroom supplies. We are so grateful:

- Thank you to **Anonymous Parents** from the Book Faire who've given books to our class library.
- We appreciate the support from various Parents for our class RoAch activities.
- Finally, thank you to all Parents who donated goodies to our Carnival Store.

special people ...

Helping our Class at Rio Calaveras



Mrs. Hall



Mrs. Mata



Ms. Alma



Ms. Debbie



Ms. Tai



Mrs. Morales



Mr. Johnson



Ms. Andersen



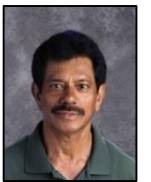
Mr. James



Ms. Attaway



Ms. Martinez



Mr. John

Campus Safety Monitors & Supervisors
Our Custodians: Mr. John, Mr. Lee
Mrs. Yolanda 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 (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 myself. The elves were going in the opposite direction.

Making Snowflakes

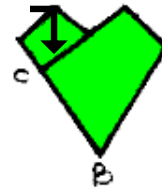
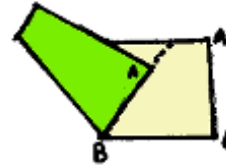
Creating paper snowflakes is fun! Just follow the steps below and you'll soon have a whole flurry.

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



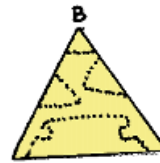
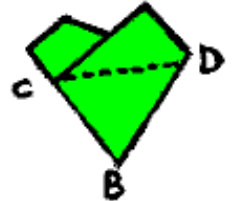
2) Fold it in half. Find and mark the center point along the fold.

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. 24 - Jan. 4
January 7

January 14

January 15
January 17

January 21
January 24
January 28

Merry Christmas

Mr. Pham's Birthday
Winter Break
Back to School ☺
Malindy's Birthday
Teacher Training Day
NO SCHOOL
Nina's Birthday
2nd Trimester
Progress Report
MLK Day - No School
Faith's Birthday
STEAM Night