



St. Bernard of Clairvaux Catholic School Celebrating Diversity

Newsletter December 2011

The Many Faces of St. Bernard of Clairvaux

At our school we benefit from the diverse background of the many students within our school community. Our students and staff feel strongly that it is important to acknowledge and celebrate the cultural and ethnic diversity. We have found the face of God to have many complexions. We also believe that prejudice and negative stereotypes arise from ignorance and a lack of understanding. We therefore hope to educate and inform through this newsletter, in an effort to raise our understanding, increase our respect and demonstrate the kind of love and compassion that Jesus displayed for all he encountered. Listed are the many nations that

are represented among the students walking through our hallways.

I would like to compliment and thank the students who have helped them to write this current Diversity Newsletter so that we can gain a better appreciation and understanding of the various cultures that make up St. Bernard of Clairvaux Catholic School. I would also like to invite parents to also submit any information or works that they would be willing to share with our community. If you are interested please contact me at the school.

Jesus answered, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind." This is the greatest and the most important commandment. The second most important commandment is like it: "Love your neighbour as you love yourself".

Matthew 22: 37-40

The Many Names of Santa Claus written by Daniel DeOliveira

Pere Noel (French)
Father Christmas (United Kingdom)
Vader Kersfees (South Africa and Iraq)
Babbo Natalie (Italy)
Hoteiosho Cagod (Japan)
Ded Moroz (Russia)
Baba Chaghaloo (Afganistan)
Pa Natal (Portugal)
San Niklaw (Malta)
Kaledu Senelis (Lithuania)
Baba Noel (Iran)
Kanakaloka (Hawaii)
Weihnachtsmann (Germany)
Papa Noel (Egypt)
Dyado Koleda (Bulgaria)
Gaghant Baba (Armenia)
Daidainna Nollaig (Scottish Highlands)
Deda Mraz (Serbia, Bosina and Herzegovina)
Pere Noel (French Canada and Belgium)

Papa Noel (Brazillian)
Noel Baba (Turkey)
Jultomten (Sweden)
Dun che lao ren (Chinese)
Mos Cracium (Romania)
Swiety Mickolaj (Poland)
Papa Noel (Spain)
Julenissen (Norway)
Papa Noel (Latin America)
Santa Claus (Jamaica)
Dadi na Nollaig (Ireland)
Mikulas (Hungary)
Joulupuleki (Finland)
Viejo Pascuero (Chile)
Babadimri (Albania)
Sveti Nikola (Croatian)

We have compiled a list of the various countries in which our community members originate. If your country is not listed please contact the school to inform us of the oversight so that it can be corrected.

463 Families

Bahrain
Bhutan
Brazil
Canada
Cayman Islands
China
Costa Rico
Croatia
England
Egypt
Germany
Ghana
Greece
Holland
Honduras
India
Indonesia
Iran
Iraq
Ireland
Italy
Jamaica
Jordan
Kuwait
Lebanon
Malta
Mauritius
Mexico
Netherlands
Nigeria
Philippines
Poland
Portugal
Qatar
Romania
Russian Federation
Saudi Arabia
Scotland
South Korea
Spain
St.Lucia
Syria
Trinidad and Tobago
Uganda
Ukraine
United States
Venezuela

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year by Joseph Kindaro



*Together We Can Make a
Difference*

Navidad Alegre y un feliz año nuevo (Spanish)
Joyeux Noël et bonne année (French)
ذة جديدة سنة عيد ميلاد مجيد وس (Arabic)
Čestit Božić i sretna nova godina (Croatian)
Prettige kerstdagen en een gelukkig nieuw jaar (Dutch)
Wesołych Świąt i Szczęśliwego Nowego Roku (Polish)
Fröhliches Weihnachten und Gutes Neues Jahr (German)
기쁜 성탄과 행복한 새해 (Korean)
Maligayang Pasko at isang masayang bagong taon (Filipino)
Buon Natale e un felice anno nuovo (Italian)
С Рождеством Христовым и с новым годом (Russian)
Natal Alegre e um Ano Novo feliz (Portuguese)
Веселого Різдва та щасливого Нового Року (Ukrainian)
Merry christmass si An Nou fericit (Romanian)
Merry Christmass và chúc mừng năm mới (Vietnamese)
快樂christmass和新年快樂 (Chinese)
Merry christmass και ευτυχισμένο το Νέο Έτος (Greek)
陽気なクリスマスにと幸せな新年 (Japanese)
Veselé Christmass a šťastný nový rok (Slovak)

Christmas in Italy Written by Ashley F.

Hi, my name is Ashley and I am in Mrs. Magallanes dela Cruz' grade 5 class. I will inform you on what goes on at Christmas in Italy. Like every country in the world, we all celebrate Christmas in our own unique ways, and this is what our Italian family does. First we have a big feast with our family, sometimes after you eat you can choose if you want to pray around the nativity scene. Some of my favourite foods that we make are pasta with homemade souse and breadsticks with prosciutto wrapped about them. We also have a Bufana, in English it's a nice witch who hands out presents. They don't have a Santa Claus there because they don't know him. Also, we play games too like Tombala, in English it is called bingo. The Bufana comes on January 6th to town. Some families it Italy and here open their gifts on January 6th instead of December 25th. Sure you wait for a long time but it's worth it. This is how we celebrate Christmas in my Italian family.

*"Understanding comes
through communication,
and through understanding
we find the way to peace.
Ralph C. Smedley."*

Merry.
Christmas

Christmas in Venezuela by: **Fiorella C.**

Hello, my name is Fiorella. I am going to tell you how we celebrate Christmas. Well first my family usually comes to our house if we stay in Canada for the holidays. If we go to Venezuela then we go to my grandparents' house to celebrate. Now when all the guests arrive we usually play Christmas games and listen to Christmas music. One of the games is that we hide presents around the house and then the children have to find them. Another game we play is picking a name out of a bag and then we exchange presents with that person. Everyone has to bring a present for this exchange. My favourite part of all is the food. My family has this tradition which is to make all these special foods. Some of the foods that I enjoy are halla (made from special leaves and they put dough on the leaf and then on the dough they put olives, meat, peas and other foods), potatoe salad, and tequino (it's like a cheese finger but better). Then we just chill and have fun. That's our way to celebrate Christmas.

Christmas in Columbia by: **Trinity O.**

Christmas in Columbia is very special, they are very festive and celebrate Jesus' birth just like us. Christmas there is like Christmas here but with a little bit of a twist to it. Instead of the children receiving their presents under a Christmas tree, they get them at the foot of their beds. The families sing carols and enjoy a special chicken soup called Ajiaco/(ay a co), we have Santa and they have El nino Jesus/(el ninyo He zeus). They decorate a tree with lights and ornaments like us too. They eat different foods like empanadas/(em pa na thas). Christmas is always a time for festivity and tradition in Colombia.

Venezuela Christmas by: **Andrea L.**

Christmas in Venezuela is Great! There's great things to eat, see and do! The hambread and hallacas are Christmas foods and are absolutely delicious! You can see Beautiful and colorful fireworks! There are also great Christmas parties to go to and the weathers so nice, you can spend Christmas on the beach! Go to Venezuela for Christmas!

The Best Christmas Gift I Ever Received Was,

Grade 8 responses – Homemade CD, Guitar, Spending time with family I just met, iPod Shuffle, my brother, love from my parents, my grandmother coming for a visit from the states, party with all my family members, family visiting from different parts of the world, Jesus is the best gift

Grade 7 responses – Jordan Space Jams basketball shoes, beads and accessories, paintball gun, a computer, iPod touch, I phone 4, X Box, Blackberry, Leather jacket.

Grade 6 responses – I Pod, Ugg Boots, Guitar, Baby Grand Piano, I Pod shuffle, Video Game Console, Wii, PS3, Cell Phone, Soccer Ball

Grade 5 responses – I POD Nano, X Box 360, Karoke MAchone, Lap Top, PS3, PSP, Jordans

Grade 4 responses – I Pod touch, Barbie Set, Air Hockey Table, Soccer Jersey, PSP Go, PSP, Astro Car, Rainbow Magic Book, Yoo-hoo Friend

Grade 3 responses – I Pod, Ice Skates, Soccer Jersey, Lego, 3DS, Galaxy Tab, I Pad, Snuggly, Build a Bear, Monster High

Grade 2 responses – bakugan, hockey sticks, bey blades, helicopter, DS game, DS system, Fidget friends, play station 3, I Pod touch, Mooshi Monster,

Grade 1 responses – Teddy Bear, Spinning Top, Christmas Tree, Batman, Bey Blade, Soccer, Barbie, Monster High, Mario Toys,

Kindergarten responses – Light Saber, Barbie Princess Charm, Xbox 360, Mario and Luigi Soccer Game, Batman and Robin Action figure, A Disney Princess Pocahontas Doll, Spiderman Action Figure, Toy Monster Truck, Bumble Bee Transformer, Cat Stuffed Animal named Figaro