



THE SKUPE

Work to become,
not to acquire.

Elbert Hubbard



December 20, 2007



Grade 4 Celebrations

Diwali is a celebration of light. It usually is in November. Diwali is like our Christmas but we don't get presents and Diwali comes before Christmas and is also our New Year .

In our family, Christmas Eve is very important. We celebrate by eating supper at my house. We eat lots of fish, lobster & crab. My grandparents started this tradition in Italy where they grew up. They continued this tradition when they immigrated here 46 years ago.

In Mexico we celebrate Christmas like this: on December 16 we start with something that is called Posadas. There are 9 posadas. On each day of Posada we break a piñata. Each piñata has 7 picks. Each pick stands for a sin so the tradition says that if you break the 7 picks, the next year you wont have any sins. Day of the Dead is celebrated on November first and second and is cele-

Scrapbooks

The scrap book club which was held on Fridays at lunch will continue until the end of January due to popular demand. A total of 30 students of grade 3 and 4 have been crafting special memories of their childhood while spending special times with their friends. Here are some of their com-

mented so we don't forget our relatives that past away.

I was born in Holland and one of our special family costumes is Sinterklaas. We celebrate it on 5 December. Sinterklaas looks like a bishop and comes to our house to bring all the presents especially for the children.

My family is Greek Orthodox. Christmas is a very big holiday for us. We celebrate by beginning a sort of fast. This means we get to eat some things but we do not eat any meat, dairy and, on certain days, nothing with oil. This fast starts forty days before Christmas and ends on Christmas day with a big feast. I don't fast for forty days because that is too long!

Out of all the other Jewish holidays my favourite one is Hanukah which we celebrate to remind us about the miracle of a little drop of oil that lasted for eight days. We eat potato pancakes which are called latkes. We also eat doughnuts since they are made out of oil. We light the Menorah.

ments:
I love showing pictures of my family to my friends.
I get to use my imagination.
I like writing comments of my pictures.
I am proud of my work.
Scrapbooking is a perfect way to store past memories in a creative way.
It is so much fun!

Madame Bissonnette and Madame



4ième année

Les élèves de 4ième année ont visité la Maison St-Gabriel en lien avec leur étude de la Nouvelle-France. Des dames costumées en filles du roi nous ont expliqué le rôle de la maison dans l'histoire.

Cette demeure vieille de 300 ans renferme des trésors très intéressants. Les guides ont été impressionné par la qualité du Français de nos étudiants ainsi que par leurs connaissances sur la Nouvelle-France. Ce fut une matinée très agréable et informative.

Madame Bissonnette

The girls' Division 1 basketball team has been playing superbly during their last three games. As a result of their hard work and determination, they won two back-to-back games – one versus Royal Vale and the other against The Priory. Sam Yost was our lead scorer. The team won its third game against LCC by a 26-20 score.



**“Facts do not
cease to
exist
because they
are ignored”**

Aldous Huxley

It seems like only yesterday (it was really September 4th) that I joked with a teacher by saying, “Well, August is over; only 10 more months to go”. It hardly seems possible that we are well into December and that the holidays are upon us. The weather has also made the passing of time feel unusually quick. Nevertheless, here we are. The first part of the year is in the books, as they say.

I would like to thank everyone for your efforts and support, and wish you all a safe, healthy, relaxing and happy holiday.



Christmas Traditions

St. Nicholas

St. Nicholas was born in 280 AD, in Patara, a city of Lycia, in Asia Minor. He became the gift giver of Myra. His gifts were given late at night, so that the gift giver's identity would remain a secret. St. Nicholas was eventually named the patron saint of children, sailors, Russia and Greece.

St. Nicholas was a Christian priest, who later became a bishop. He was a rich person, and travelled the country helping people, giving gifts of money and other presents. St. Nicholas did not like to be seen when he gave away presents, so the children of the day were told to go to sleep quickly or he would not come! Nothing has changed and Santa Claus will not arrive this Christmas unless the children go to sleep early.

A famous story about St. Nicholas, is about a poor man who had no money to give to his three daughters on their wedding day. St. Nick dropped bags of gold

into the stockings which the girls had left to dry by the fire. The sisters found the gold and ever since, children have hung up stockings on Christmas Eve hoping that they will be filled with presents by Christmas morning.

Despite being quite young Nicholas had earned a reputation for kindness and wisdom. In the year 303, the Roman emperor Diocletian commanded all the citizens of the Roman Empire, which included Asia Minor, to worship him as a god.

Christians believed in one god and one god alone, so their conscience would not allow them to obey the Emperor's order. Angered by their stubbornness, Diocletian warned the Christians that they would be imprisoned. The Emperor



carried out the threat and St. Nicholas who resisted too was also imprisoned. For more than five years, St. Nicholas was confined to a small cell. He suffered from cold, hunger and thirst but he never wavered in his beliefs. In 313, when Diocletian resigned, and Constantine came to power Nicholas was released, and he returned to his post as Bishop of Myra. He continued his good works and became even wiser and more understanding by the time of his death on December 6, 343.

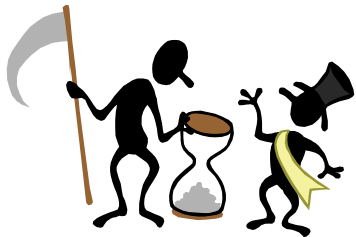
In the eyes of the Catholics, a saint is someone who has lived such a holy life that, after dying and going to heaven, he or she is still able to help people on earth. They often become patron to different groups of people - one such was children and many legends sprang up to explain his presence.

By 450, churches in Asia Minor and Greece were

being named in honour of him. By 800, he was officially recognized as the a saint by the Eastern Catholic Church. In the 1200s, December sixth began to be celebrated as *Bishop Nicholas Day* in France. By end of the 1400s, St Nicholas was the third most beloved religious figure, after Jesus and Mary. There were more than 2000 chapels and monasteries named after him.

In the 1500s people in England stopped worshipping St. Nicholas and favoured more another gift giving figure *Father Christmas*. Over the centuries, St Nicholas's popularity grew, and many people in Europe made up new stories that showed his concern for children. The name Santa Claus was derived from the Dutch *Sinter Klass* pronunciation of St. Nicholas. Early Dutch settlers in New York (once called New Amsterdam) brought their traditions of St. Nicholas. As children from other countries tried to pronounce Sinter Klass, this soon became Santa Klass, which was settled as Santa Claus. The old bishop's cloak with mitre, jewelled gloves and crozier were soon replaced with his red suit and clothing seen in other modern images.

BEST WISHES FOR A SAFE HOLIDAY
AND A HEALTHY AND HAPPY
NEW YEAR



2008

