



STALLION PRIDE

ISSUE 5 VOLUME 5 DECEMBER 2011



Holiday season brings back memories

With Christmas on its way, Slider students and faculty are beginning to feel the season's spirit!

We all have our favorite items that we've waited for all year long, that we hope to see under the tree on Christmas morning. While many of us want clothes,

“...they believe in Santa which makes it more fun for them.”

and some of us still want toys, we all look forward to relaxing and spending time with family and friends. Some Slider teachers and students have shared their most precious memories of this jolly holiday. When sixth grade math teacher, Ms. Romero, was five years old, she loved the “Precious Places” doll houses because they would light up on the inside. Sixth grade science and social studies teacher, Mr. Voorhees, said that when he was six years old, he wished for an electric train, and later on at age twelve, he wanted a bicycle.

Seventh grade math teacher, Mr. Arreola, commented that he remembers wanting Transformers toys throughout his childhood. Seventh grade history teacher, Mrs. Nutt, said that when she was seven years old, all she wanted was a horse. Eighth grade ELAR teacher, Mr. Jones, said he wished for the Millennium Falcon from Star Wars. Mrs. Dominguez, eighth grade math and algebra teacher, explained that she was twelve years old when she asked for a scooter. Mr. Ballard shared that his childhood Christmas wish was a remote-controlled red Corvette.

Theater teacher, Mrs. Kern shared that the best gift she ever received was a boom box that she really wanted, but the worst gift she ever received was a fruit cake.

Overall, teachers asked for a huge variety of gifts as kids, but when it comes to Christmas traditions, the differences aren't as vast. All of the teachers agreed that they love to spend the holiday with their families! Mrs. Thompson said that she usually travels to her home in North Dakota. Mrs. Ayala said that every year since her two sons were born, she has bought a unique

ornament for each of them and will give them their collection when they have their own families and Christmas trees.

Most teachers agreed that the best part of Christmas is seeing children open their gifts. “I always tease my kids, saying, you're not gonna get it, but we do get them the special gift they want, and they are so shocked when they open their presents,” said Mr. Casas. Mrs. Nutt spoke of her joy when seeing her grandchildren on Christmas, “They're young and they still believe in Santa, which makes it more fun for them.”

Students are also getting into the spirit, “We always make some really good fruit salad!” Azlea Bueno said. Shelby Harper explained her tradition, “I sleep in my brother's room, but really we're so excited, we just stay up and talk. Then, at midnight we get up and have delicious hot chocolate and open presents.”

Summarizing, Ms. Thompson said, “Christmas is how it makes people think of others.” So everyone, enjoy your holiday and make sure you stay on the “Nice” list! Happy Holidays!

BY AUDREE ZURICK AND VICTORIA LICON

Principal's Corner



In a few short days, students and teachers will begin the Christmas break. It is always a favorite time of year for our Stallion community as we join our families in celebration and tradition.

On the cover of this issue, you should read some of the recollections of our teachers from Christmas past as well as expectations of this year's holiday.

This time of year also reminds each of us the importance of kindness, generosity, and goodwill towards all people. During the next two weeks, I hope each of you will spend a few minutes lending your talents and skills to help those less fortunate. It doesn't have to be a grand organized event. It can be something simple that will make a difference in another's life. It can be something as easy as donating a gift to one of the many organizations serving our community.

So many times the greatest gifts you can offer is the gift of your time and energy in helping in your neighborhood. Let's not waste that incredible spirit of the season and make a difference during your winter break.

Before we go, let's celebrate some good news with our eighth grade boys basketball team brought back another district championship which capped off a perfect season.

Also I want to congratulate our band program for an outstanding performance this week during the annual Christmas Concert. In addition, the band was invited to share their music with travelers at the airport this week.

Have a wonderful break!

Seventh grade math learns 'profitable' lesson

Seventh graders got to bake and eat sweet treats, all in the name of math! Seventh grade math teachers, Mr. Arreola, Ms. Rodriguez, Mrs. Portillo, and Mrs. Apodaca came up with a great idea to teach their pre-Advanced Placement students a lesson in profit and loss through rates and unit prices.

"Students learned how to plan, schedule their hours, and budget," said Ms. Apodaca about the project.

Students got into groups of four or fewer and decided what type of treats they would make. They had to work within a predetermined budget of no more than \$25 to buy all ingredients needed to bake the cookies, brownies, or donuts. Before students began baking, they had to find and list each ingredient such as flour, oil, baking soda, eggs, vanilla, salt, shortening, chocolate chips, sugar and their unit price.

Then they had to determine the final unit price of each cookie. They also had to find a sensible price to sell the cookies for, but still make at least 100% profit. Students carefully baked the three dozen cookies, because at school they would be judged on taste while their projects were being

evaluated. Aaron Apodaca said, "I was really happy with how our cookies turned out, this is the first time I ever baked, and they were actually edible. I learned what it takes to budget and profit from a product from start to finish."

On December 5th through the 13th the cookies were judged by their classmates.



Along with the cookies, students presented a slideshow or poster board, using the same ranking system, and including pictures of them baking the cookies.

The students really enjoyed making and presenting the cookies and brownies, but what they liked best was eating them!

BY VANESSA BECERRA AND GRACIE FAVELA

Spanish classes present La Pastorela play

It was an epic battle of angels versus demons when students from Mrs. Saucedo's seventh and eighth grade Spanish classes put on the Spanish play, "La Pasterola". The play was performed for select classes last week during first and second period.

A pastorela is a Mexican version of the European medieval miracle play, which was introduced in Mexico in the 1500's by missionaries. Traditionally, it is a tale of the shepherds



on their way to visit the newborn baby Jesus in Bethlehem. Underlying the drama is a conflict between good and evil, depicted by the Lucifer as he tries to stop the progress of the shepherds. Like the students in Mrs. Saucedo's classes, the Mexican people added their own touches to the plays originally taught to them by the priests.

"It was a lot of fun planning the pastorela, it's exciting and kids enjoy preparing, acting, singing, and adding to the script," explained Mrs. Saucedo. In Slider's version of the play, five devils tried many creative things to distract the five shepherds on their journey. They tempted the hungry shepherds with junk food, made them fall asleep, and used television to entertain them. Female devils even tried distracting the shepherds from going to Bethlehem. It was a battle of good versus evil, ending with the angels and their leader, Miguel, defeating Lucifer and his demons and the shepherds finally arriving in Bethlehem to welcome baby Jesus.

"It was really fun doing this play, I loved it and want to perform it again," stated seventh grader Marisela Zubia. To the play, students also added a series of traditional songs and music. These additions show how each region, and pueblo in Mexico included their own local flavor. "The long hours payed off, and the play turned out very good, it was a success, it could not have gone any better," said seventh grader Noah Barrio.

BY RAYMOND MENDOZA AND VANESSA ANTILLON

Theatre Arts classes make authentic ginger bread houses

Slider's theatre arts classes got into the spirit of Christmas by designing and creating custom Ginger Bread houses. Teacher Mrs. Kern uses this project to introduce students to the topic of set design and help them visualize houses of different time periods.



Before they began, groups of no more than three students had to design an original ground plan, using an architectural style they have been studying, such as Colonial Revival.

To assemble the house, the students brought heavy cardboard for the base, duct tape, icing, aluminum foil, and a plastic knife to spread the icing. Candy canes, wooden sticks, graham crackers and milk cartons were also used for design. Groups got creative and used pretzel sticks for wooden flooring, cereal as shingles, and bon bons as ornamental tops for railings. Some even added tiny pine trees to create snow covered landscapes.

As a finishing touch, students applied candy decorations, licorice, and powdered sugar to create the look of snow on doors and windows. Several aspects of the project were graded

including: the initial house design and authenticity of time period portrayed, the original design of the house, creativity with the use of materials, and completing the project on time.

Advance theatre was faced with the additional challenge of designing the interior of the house, as well. "It's super fun to be creative with the house and it was good to work as a team making an awesome gingerbread house," said Abby Hernandez.

Completing this project was challenging because it required using a hot glue gun to glue the house together. If there is not enough glue, and it would fall apart, too much glue would melt the candy. Mrs. Kern said, "It's a messy project, but a fun one. It gives students a first hand look at architectural design, they go into set design knowing what to expect."

Students enjoyed creating the houses almost as much snacking on the building materials. "Making a gingerbread house was challenging, especially the interior, but this project gave us all the chance to work together and enjoy the Christmas season," said Holden Rivera.

"It's super fun to be creative with the house..."

BY ALEXIA MUNOZ AND IVANA PLAYER

Slider bands perform holiday music

Students in Slider's Jazz Band were honored to play for Superintendent Dr. De la Torre, along with Assistant Superintendent, Pat O'Neil and the Socorro ISD Trustees last week. The band was chosen to play a series of holiday songs for the special guests.

Songs that were played by Slider's Jazz Band included, "Jingle Bell Rock," "Thriller," "Louie, Louie," "White Christmas," "Nutcracker Swing," "Jammin' with Charlie," and "Frosty the Snowman."



"The Jazz Band played exceptionally and blew everyone away," said a very happy Ms. Hernandez.

Just prior to the performance, Stallion band members received new uniforms, which boosted their confidence during their performance. The new uniforms consist of black vests and hunter green bow ties. "It was an exciting experience to perform for the superintendent," said eighth grade band member, Jose Acevedo. "This was a great way to show how talented Slider's students are and prove that we are an amazing school," said Damian Ramirez.

All band members, including Beginning Band, Jazz Band and Honor band performed their yearly Christmas Concert this week at Slider. They did a fabulous job performing Christmas songs, including "A Dash of Christmas," and, "It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year."

Winding up their holiday schedule, the band also received an unexpected invitation to perform holiday songs at the El Paso International Airport on Thursday, December 15th. Congratulations, Jazz Band, and thank you for your wonderful performances!

BY ALEZZANDRA DIAZ

PTO's first ever Christmas Crafts Fair

This month, Slider students, as well as area residents, had the chance to beat the long holiday lines at local store when the Slider Middle School's Parent Teacher Organization held their first annual Holiday Craft fair. The main attraction was the many vendors selling a variety of Christmas gifts and treats. There were Hello Kitty paintings, decorated and dipped apples, marshmallows from "Sweets and Treats," and intricate jewelry from "Precious Gifts."

There was a jumping balloon for the kids and presentations by groups from around El Paso, including Master Lee's Tae Kwon Do Academy, where two skilled young students gave the attendees a small taste of what they learn at the Academy, using everything from nun chucks to knives. Two advanced ballerinas gave performances from "The Nutcracker."



Next, the adorable Helen Ball dance team, the Darling Dalmatians, wowed the crowd with dance moves to Katy Perry's, "Hot N Cold," and "Firework," Taio Cruz's "Dynamite", and Mariah Carey's "Last Christmas".

Also performing, was an impressive, all "defense and... no rules," Kung Fu Group, and Montwood High School's Flag girls with risky sword and flag tossing. Finally, Montwood High's mariachi students serenaded the crowd with traditional Mexican music. Eighth grader, Katherine Henry, said, "the fair was a success- especially for a first try!" Haley Langsweirdt, a sixth grader who attended the fair, exclaimed, "I really liked a lot of the stuff they had, and the performances were fun to watch!" The money raised by the PTO on space and table rentals will be used to support Slider sports, dances, and extracurricular activities.

BY KATHERINE HENRY AND BRANDON DE LARA

Eighth grade boys basketball finishes season undefeated

The eighth grade boys have done it once again! The District Championship went to the Stallions on Saturday, December 10th, at Slider.

The championship game was held at Slider due to the team's unbeaten record, which also created some nervousness for fans eager to see the team keep their spotless record.

The game against the Ensor Eagles was taunting and rigorous. Both teams knew the championship was on the line and played aggressively from the opening tipoff.

From the start, Slider led the game and left the Eagles in the dust. Neither team was able to generate much in the form of offense during the first quarter, with the period ending with an 8-4 score in favor of the Stallions.

Coming back from the halftime intermission, the Stallions led 16-10 and the game began to lean towards the Stallions during the second half. Jacob Rojero, had exceptional rebounds and scored quite a few two pointers throughout the game, making it difficult

for the Eagles to defend. Just when it seemed that the Eagles were adjusting, Andrew Perez, Tristen Licon, and Chance Maxwell stepped up and became forces that left the Eagles virtually unable to stop the Stallion machine. The game ended with the Stallions winning 42-21, for an undefeated record of 9-0.

Both the seventh grade boys and the seventh grade girls finished the season as Divisional Champions by outscoring Montwood Middle. The seventh grade girls won 32-23. Victoria Licon said, "from third place, we really worked our way up to win divisionals, we are happy to

make it to the Conference Championship." Sofia McGee and Shaylah Dominguez led the team in scoring throughout the season. The seventh grade boys, led by Odell Graham and Christian Perez, also won their division, 55-30. Coach Valdez commented, "I'm extremely glad my boys could pull off this emotionally and physically draining win, I'm very proud of them."

BY DAMIAN RAMIREZ AND ALEZZANDRA DIAZ



Starlets take first place in USA National Cheer Team competition

Relentlessly practicing for their first competition of the year, the Starlets entered the Junior High division of the USA National Cheer Team competition.



The team practiced relentlessly to perfect their routine in preparation for the contest.

The prizes for first place of their division included a banner, trophy, and jackets for the entire squad. The team from each division with the

highest score got a fully paid bid to any competition of their choice. Teams with the score of 85% or above from their division, including Franklin High School and the Texas Bandits All-Stars, got a full paid bid to any competition of their choice. In addition to the Starlets, Montwood High School's Varsity squad also won a partially paid bid.

The Starlets started their performance with super sharp motions, while holding their flyers in the air. After the flyers pulled off amazing spins they were successfully caught by the bases, the strongest girls at the bottom.

They performed a variety of gymnastics on the floor, some without hands. They ended the performance with an amazing dance. They did a great job of staying in unison, and their routine was nearly perfect. "It takes true dedication and a team effort to accomplish a squad's goals. My Starlets were amazing and I am so proud," said Starlet coach, Ms. Sierra. When it was done, the Starlets knew that all their hard work had paid off. "I can't wait for our next competition!" said seventh grade Starlet Ivana Player. They proved to everyone out there that the Slider Starlets are number one!

...ending their performance with an amazing dance.

BY IVANA PLAYER AND ALYSSA LOPEZ

Top 5 Christmas Gifts

1. Money
2. iPhone 4s
3. Laptop
4. Xbox 360 Kinect
5. Beats headphones

Merry Christmas
and a Happy
New Year!



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