



The Dragons Talk

Toying With Participating in a Toy Drive

Toys for Tots (TfT) is a program that is run by the United States Marine Corps Reserve. It was developed in 1947 by reservist Major Bill Hendricks in Los Angeles, California. TfT is very successful. It's helping underprivileged children in our community have a meaningful Christmas season. If you can't donate to any toy drive, that's okay. Alternatively, you could donate your time by helping nearby donation locations. You could help organize items, sort out items, or you could drop off collection bins. TfT is a misnomer toy drive, it's not only for tots (toddlers). The age limit is up to 12 years old, but in many communities, if the toy drive is popular enough, they may be able to extend the age limit.



You can be a part of TfT by donating items at our yearly Christmas program. This year our Christmas program will be on Tuesday, December 19th. Be mindful, there are restrictions for the toy drive. The toys have to be new, unwrapped, and preferably worth \$10 or more; although the toys can be homemade. You cannot

give used toys, toys that look like weapons, toys that contain candy or any food source, nor toys with any type of chemicals. "Where does one donate these items?" You may ask. You can donate at Driscoll ISD, Build-A-Bear Workshops, doctor's offices, car dealerships, police stations, or local libraries; these places allow you to contribute and get involved with your community. Let's help make all children happy on this joyful holiday. Thank you for being a part of this toy drive.

-Miranda Segura

Christmas Time is Here!

Christmas is known to be "the most wonderful time of the year". Speaking of years, did you know the celebration of Christmas started in Rome in about the year 336? During the Christmas season people have many traditions that they may do, such as: gift-giving, gift-getting, passing out tamales on Christmas Day, and the advent wreath that many churches do. Advent is observed by using a wreath with four candles that symbolize hope, peace, joy, and love. Families often come together as one when they celebrate these traditions. Christmas brings people together and I think that's why it's the most wonderful time of the year.

-Elijah Molina & Adriana Hinojosa

December 7th Will Live in Infamy

Pearl Harbor was the location of a surprise attack from the empire of Japan. Thus the attack on Pearl Harbor is the reason the U.S. joined WWII. The Japanese empire made a few tactical errors when they performed these attacks. They did not bomb the oil fields, or the ship yards. This led to the U.S. having its naval fleet up and running quickly. One of the many reasons that the Japanese empire declared war on the U.S. is because we canceled trade with them. Japan had needed trade from the U.S. to keep its

economy and navy together. The attack on Pearl Harbor is one of the reasons the atomic bomb was dropped. Our war with Japan started with an air strike and ended with one too.



-James Cummins

Stop Pollution-Be The Solution

Light pollution, the brightening of the night sky with excessive amounts of light, causes problems for wildlife and stargazers. It affects stargazing because there are always lights on during the night in cities. So, it's going to be very bright in the night sky. It's bad for the wildlife, because when animals migrate they use the moonlight and starlight for navigating. When birds see the light pollution at night, it can cause them to become disoriented and wander off their migration course. Millions of birds die from crashing needlessly into illuminated buildings. Sea turtles die because of light pollution also. Artificial lighting can cause newly hatched sea turtles confusion and they meander inland only to die of dehydration or hungry, vicious, ruthless predators.

To stop light pollution, you can turn off your lights when they are not in use, or face those lights toward the ground, directed and shielded away from the night sky.

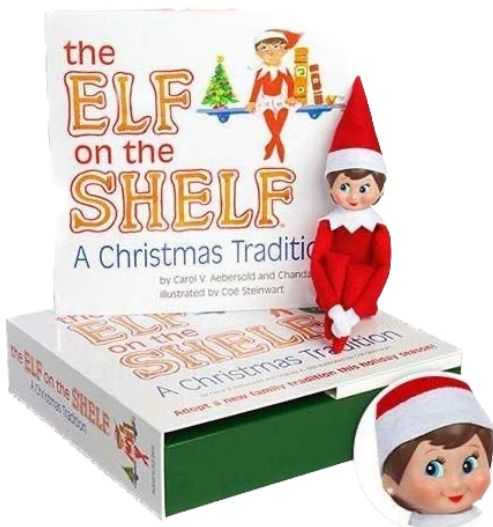
-Gabriella Perez



The Dragons Talk

These Elfies Ain't Takin' Selfies

Who created the Elf on the Shelf? Well, it was Carol Aebersold and her daughter Chanda Bell. In 2005, they published the book "The Elf on the Shelf." The book came with a small *Scout Elf*. The idea for the Elf on the Shelf is that during the Christmas season, while Santa is busy getting ready for Christmas, the elf is Santa's eyes and ears. Therefore, the Elf on the Shelf flies back to Santa Claus every night to give a report on whether the child has been good or bad. Although the Elf on the Shelf is basically a spy, children love them, because every time at night, when the elf comes back, it hides or does something crazy. When the kids find the elf, it's an interesting sight. Lots of children enjoy finding the Elf on the Shelf. Sometimes they get up as soon as their parents tell them to, so that they can find the elf. The Elf on the Shelf plays a pretty big role for some families during the Christmas season, so make sure you thank them for their entertainment and their hard work for Santa. Have a very merry Christmas.



-Adriana Hinojosa

The Man Behind The Beard

Santa Claus is one of the joys of Christmas. The actual name of Santa Claus is Saint Nicholas of Myra or St. Nick. He was a genuine bishop of Greek descent. His origins can be traced back to the 4th century when Saint Nicholas was a bishop in the town of Myra in what is now Turkey. According to legend he was known for his generosity and kindness and would secretly give gifts to those in need. Over time the story of Saint Nicholas evolved and combined with various holiday traditions to become the modern day Santa Claus we know today.



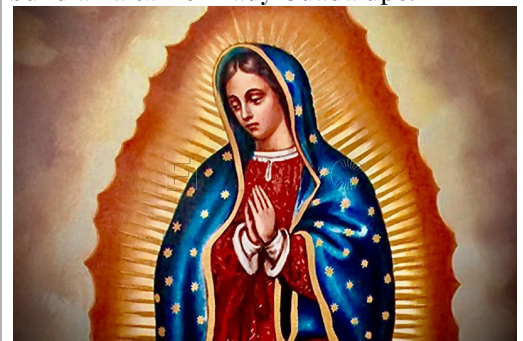
Nowadays, he brings gifts to children around the world on Christmas Eve. Santa Claus is a beloved figure in many cultures and has become a symbol of the holiday. I hope Santa continues to bring smiles and happiness to the holiday season for many years to come.

-Jacen Serna

A Day of Celebration

Lady Guadalupe Day is celebrated on December 12th primarily near Mexico City, Mexico. Lady Guadalupe is the

Virgin Mary. Some people believe that she changes her name and appearance for the different places where she manifests. Lady Guadalupe appeared four times to Juan Diego who was a peasant. After her first appearance, he wanted to build an altar for Lady Guadalupe which the Bishop, a spiritual leader, refused to do. Juan Diego told the Bishop that he was telling the truth about what happened, but the Bishop didn't believe him. The fourth apparition was the most important one. It happened on December 12th, 1531. She appeared to him when he was on his way to get a pastor to bless his dying uncle. She told him not to worry, that his uncle was going to get better. She also told him to get some blooming flowers at the top of a hill. He was confused because the flowers that she was asking for were out-of-season. Regardless, he trusted Lady Guadalupe, so he did as she said. After she arranged the roses in Juan Diego's cloak, she told him to bring them to the Bishop as proof of this appearance. When he was on his way to the Bishop he dropped the roses revealing an imprint of the Blessed Mother on his cloak. This made the Bishop believe what Juan Diego was telling him. So the Bishop agreed to build an altar for Lady Guadalupe.



On this special day people gather to pray, dance, and sing in honor of Lady Guadalupe and her appearances.

Lady Guadalupe is a symbol of faith!!

-Estrella Tejeda