

NMS MONTHLY

DECEMBER EDITION

2020



**QUOTES,
POLLS,
&
QUIZZES**

**ARTICLES
&
INTERVIEWS**

**POEMS,
STORIES &
ILLUSTRATIONS**



**“ No act of kindness,
no matter how small,
is ever wasted.”**

-Aesop

QUOTES OF THE MONTH

**“At the end of the day, it’s not about
what you have or even what you’ve
accomplished-**

-it’s about who you’ve lifted up.

Who you’ve made better.”

-Denzel Washington



Links for Quizzes

[December Poll](#) By: Sarah Netto

[December Quiz](#) By: Lily Hebert

[December holiday facts Quizizz](#) By: Ridge Tholen

COMIC



Valeria Santamaria



Valeria Santamaria

New Year's Around the World

by Hunter Davis

Countries celebrate the coming of the new year in varied ways. In your community you may eat black-eyed peas or watch fireworks. New Year's traditions vary around the world, however. Some international traditions include eating grapes and smashing plates.

In Denmark it is customary to smash plates against the door of your neighbors. This brings luck and wards off bad spirits. It is also said that the more shards in front of your door the more popular you are.

In Spain people celebrate the new year by eating a dozen grapes. This is also a social event in big cities where people gather around town squares and eat the grapes together and socialize.

Those are a couple New Year's traditions in other countries.

What do you think you will do for 2021?



Little Flurries of White

by Kirthana Golla



Little flurries of white drop from the sky

1,2,3,4,5...

The sun illuminates the sky

A cold breeze flies through the sky

6,7,8,9,10...

The laughter of children filled the atmosphere

Men out of snow being made

11,12,13,14,15...

Lights being hanged alongside buildings

Carols being sung

16,17,18,19,20...

Presents being bought, the season of giving has come

Smiles are exchanged

Hugs are shared

Happiness comes but does not go

21,22,23,24,25...

Little flurries fall from the sky as snow covers the rooftops and the ground

Congratulations to 6th grader Ella Schoeller for winning the Holiday Card contest. Her winning design will be on Northwestern Middle School's Holiday greeting card. Dr. Looney liked it so much that he chose this design for Fulton County's greeting card. The contest was sponsored by Mr. Novak. Below is her winning design:



Stuck on Christmas

By Harper Mayer and Zaira Qureshi

“Hurry up,” Mia said, her voice ringing through the house.

“Don't forget your jacket guys. It's starting to snow!” her mom yelled. Mia, her parents, and her twin brothers were going to their aunt's house for Christmas. Mia was 11 years old, and her brothers were both 7.

“Jack, where's your heavy jacket? It's begun to snow,” her mom scolded.

“Honey, we have to leave before the snow gets too heavy.”

Mia was so excited to go to her Aunt Kathy's house, because she always had the BEST Christmas Eve dinner. Her mouth was watering just thinking about it. Once they all got in the car, it was about 1:00 pm. The GPS said they should get there around 5:00. The whole family was going to be there. Mia and her family would spend the night, and open presents the next morning.

“Matthew, leave Jack alone,” Mia's mom said. But he didn't listen. Instead, he said, “Whoa, Jack, it's snowing so hard!” Butterflies fluttered in Mia's stomach. Would they be able to make it to Aunt Kathy's?

By 3:00 PM, ice had covered the road. Mia saw her parents swap worried glances with each other. Finally, Dad pulled into a dirty gas station. Mom whipped out her phone and dialed Aunt Kathy's number. While Mia went inside the gas station, her mom talked to Kathy. Mia heard some of the conversation but could not make out the words.

“Bad news, guys,” Mom said as Mia climbed into the car. “We can't make it to Aunt Kathy's for dinner.”

“No!” whined Jack and Matthew at the same time. Mia couldn't believe what she was hearing; she had been going to her Aunt's house every single Christmas.

“Where are we going to go then?” Mia asked in a worried tone.

“Don't worry, I've found a motel,” Dad reassured her. About 15 minutes later they pulled into the motel. Mia hated it already. She could tell it was going to be the worst Christmas ever...

The motel was old and smelled of mothballs. “Excuse me, we are checking in. We booked a room online.” Mia's mom said to the old man at the desk. “Oh... yeah, the internet is down, you can book one right now,” he answered in a crusty voice. Once she got in the room, she jumped on the bed but immediately jumped up.

“What’s wrong, honey?” Mia’s dad asked.

“The beds are hard!” she shrieked.

“Well, we just have to make the best of it,” said Mom.

“I would rather still be stuck in the snow than—” Mia broke off as a sharp knock sounded on their motel door.

Matthew raced to the door and flung it open.

“Aunt Kathy!” he screamed. “Uncle Mike!”

An hour later, a fire was crackling in the fireplace. A table was full of delicious chicken. Mia was sitting on the couch, next to her cousin Grace. As Mia’s gaze flitted around the room, falling on each of her smiling family members, Mia couldn’t help thinking that this was the best Christmas yet.



The Winter Short Story

By Caroline Netto

“Jake wait up! You're going too fast!” Grace yelled, out-of-breath, running.

“Or maybe you are going to slow!” Jake remarked. “I beat you.” Jake stopped panting and rosy faced. Jake leaned against the pole for the monkey bars.

“We weren't having a race.” Grace skidded to a stop. “Where is Molly?”

“I **pant** am **pant** here **pant**,” Molly panted like a dog in between words. Molly ran up, clearly tired. Molly pushed her round, brown glasses up the bridge of her nose. As Jake stretched getting ready to race to the playground again, Grace looked around.

“Who are they?” Grace said, pointing to a family sitting on the ground under the jungle gym.

“Grace, it's rude to point,” Jake reprimanded. Jake's and Molly's eyes followed Grace's finger to look at a family with a cardboard sign and a beige suitcase overflowing with clothes and toys.

“Who are they?” Molly questioned.

“I don't know.” Jake replied.

“We need money, please help we lost our jobs to the pandemic.” Grace read their sign aloud.

“I'm going to ask Mom and Dad for money to help them!” Molly announced as she sprinted away back towards their house with Jake and Grace not far behind. As they reached the house their pace slowed, and they held their stomachs while breathing hard.

“Can**pant**we**pant**have**pant**money.” Grace said in between breaths.

“Yeah, for what?” Their Dad replied. As the Dad watched the kids try to catch their breath, so he decided to give them some money so they could just catch their breath.

“Thanks.” Jake said as he ran down the street towards the family in the park. As they slowed the family looked up. They looked up wearily and looked very cold.

“Here, you need this more than us.” Molly handed the mother her scarf and mittens. Jake handed them his extra gloves and Molly her earmuffs. The children looked excited as they put on the winter apparel. The parents helped the kids and then thanked them for the things they gave. Jake then handed over the money to them and the parents started to cry.

“Don't cry.” Grace said shocked at their reaction.

“No, we are just so thankful!” The family thanked the children and then started to move away since the snow was piling up around them. “Thank you so much!”

Season of Giving

The title 'Season of Giving' is written in a light blue, rounded font. The letter 'o' in 'Season' is replaced by a red and white striped Christmas ornament with a green bow. The letter 'i' in 'Giving' is replaced by a small red and white striped Christmas ornament with a red bow. A red and white striped Christmas ornament with a green bow is also positioned above the 'o' in 'Season'.

Due to COVID-19, many families have lost jobs and homes. To help, you can donate clothes, food, and money to many organizations. Our PTO is doing a drive for gift cards and money for this holiday season for all the families in need. You can also donate to the PTO's website. You can bring grocery gift cards to the front office in an envelope.

thank you!

The December Newspaper was made possible by these people:

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Thanks for reading newspaper and have a great break!

The Northwestern Monthly Team