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# The Scuttlebutt

Garfield's Student Newspaper

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## Holiday Issue



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**NOTE FROM THE EDITORS:**

Hey Bulldogs, greetings from your senior editors! A note to make it your New Year's resolution (if you celebrate New Years) to write for the scuttlebutt in 2019. We three hope you have a great Winter Break and Happy Holidays!

**Break Time**  
**By: Cherly Valdez**



During the thanksgiving break, I took advantage of leisure time to spend with my youngest sibling, aged six. With Christmas approaching, we decided to watch Jim Carrey's *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*. The 2000 film is an adaptation of Dr. Seuss' children's book. As Christmas neared, the Grinch recalled a time when he was made fun of for making a homemade gift for a girl in his class. Petrified by the memory, the Grinch attempted to ruin Christmas for others as they did to him. We watched as the film's main protagonist developed a warmer and loving nature. His transformation involved his ability to find happiness despite having a heart "three sizes too small." This version of the Grinch taught me lessons beyond Christmas and holidays, it taught me the importance of letting grudges go, it taught me that spending time with myself is necessary, it taught me to appreciate the loving people around me.

But when the trailer for Illumination's *The Grinch* was released, I was disappointed by its different approach to the original. Still, a few days before hitting the theater, and after rewatching *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*, I decided to give the animation a chance and figured my younger brother would enjoy it. Unsurprisingly, I left the theatre disappointed. The Grinch failed to incorporate key events of the original. Movie critic Sandie Angulo Chen even wrote that the 2018 adaptation "...doesn't come close to matching the effectiveness of the short-and-sweet original". Though both movies are close in numbers in rotten tomatoes and though *How the Grinch Stole Christmas* falls short, the 2018 film cannot compare to the 2000 Grinch adaptation. *How the Grinch Stole Christmas* is a classic Christmas movie and will continue being enjoyed despite a new version that targets younger audiences. I'm sure my younger brother will appreciate *How the Grinch Stole Christmas* more than *The Grinch* as he ages and has a better understanding of it's message.

**The Holidays**  
**By: Nicole Arceo**

During December, it feels like everything and everyone around us is gearing up for the most blissful time of the year: Christmas. This

holiday probably feels significant within our communities because it's popular in about 160 countries. Everything we do here in the United States during christmas is traditional such as religious traditions but **(Cont. page 3)**

what happens to countries like Japan where the majority are not Christians?

These countries eat fried chicken! And a lot of it. It's the busiest time of year for restaurant chains like KFC that have people order in advance. It's an unusual holiday meal but it spreads happiness throughout the whole country. An odd twist to holiday joy is the country Austria known for its tradition of frightening kids with the legend of Krampus. In the first weeks of december, a young man will dress up and move along towns with clattering chains and bells to spook up the kids who are guilty of being naughty. Although Halloween is the 31st in the United States, it is believed that witches and evil spirits will conjure up on Christmas Eve in Norway trying to steal brooms to ride on. For centuries many people would hide their brooms safely inside their house to prevent them from being stolen. In Colombia, for religious purposes, they celebrate Dias de las Velitas which is a day where they honor the Virgin

Mary and The Immaculate Inception. They illuminate neighborhoods with paper lanterns and candles and the tradition has grown to the extent where entire towns and cities are lit up with displays. No matter where in the world people of all different backgrounds will be celebrating and practicing their traditions during this holiday season.



## **How Stockings Came to Be**

**By:Juliana Sandoval**

Christmas is just right around the corner, and it's time to put up Christmas trees, lights, and stockings. However, people hanging up their stockings by the chimney hoping that St. Nicholas soon would be there may not know the dark tale that inspired the cheerful Christmas stockings.

The story begins with a noble who became a widow after losing his wife who died from a long and painful illness. The nobleman was left all alone to raise all three of his daughters. However, soon after he started running out of money due to bad investments. At that time, all three daughters were unable to get married so they were out of luck. The daughters were so desperate to earn money that they were close to turning to prostitution just to make a living.

Sinter Klaus, a former minister also known as **(Cont.page 4)**

St. Nicholas which is the real man that Santa Claus is based on, heard of the misery that the family was going through and decided to secretly help them. In order to save the girls from prostitution, St. Nicholas secretly left bags of gold under their chimney. However, the third gift of gold accidentally fell into a stocking that was hanging near the chimney to dry.

According to the legend, the father of the daughters caught St. Nicholas leaving one of the gifts one night while his daughters were asleep. When St. Nicholas saw that the nobleman had seen him he begged him not to tell anyone, however the word spread. The tale ends with all three daughters finding husbands and getting married with them. They became so wealthy that they could afford to support their father. As with your typical legends, the family lived happily ever after.

## **Christmas Traditions**

**By: Britney Juarez**

Believe it or not, although Christmas is one of the most popular holidays, it is celebrated differently in all parts of the world. The truth is probably that you and I have a different way of celebrating Christmas. For example, my family's version of Christmas is going to my aunt and uncle's house and preparing a nice feast, while watching Christmas movies with my cousins in the living room, like *Home Alone*, a movie you're all probably familiar with.

Yet, I have some friends who've told me that a tradition they celebrate is the nativity, the birth of Jesus, since they come from a pious family. In fact, some of my relatives in Mexico celebrate their Christmas by going to *posadas*, which are a Mexican tradition in which people hold a procession where they walk around the neighborhood while singing religious songs. The processions are said to represent the nine-day journey it took Mary and Joseph to get from Nazareth to Bethlehem, where Jesus was born.

Other types of Christmas traditions, include waking up in the morning and

going to the tree to look for your presents, Santa Claus supposedly left you. Sometimes, people also choose to hang their stockings by the chimney, which personally I've never done.

Another big Christmas tradition is buying a Christmas tree--whether it be an artificial tree or an actual tree. This is probably a tradition many people have in common. The tree is essential to celebrating Christmas because it plays a huge role when giving gifts. Without a tree, there'd be nowhere to put your Christmas presents!



**(Cont. page 5)**

If you're like me, you probably remember those old times, when you were in third grade and were forced to sing Christmas songs before winter break, in front of your parents. For example, when I was in elementary school, I remember having to sing the song "Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer". Even at that time I often questioned why I had to sing a song and have to perform in front of parents who were only there to take pictures of their kids.

Another Christmas tradition I often hear about is Christmas Caroling. Christmas Carols are often performed

by people who go walking around the neighborhood knocking on doors. Personally, I've never witnessed this Christmas tradition, but I still find it odd that people enjoy singing in front of strangers.

During this holiday, many people celebrate different types of traditions. However, it is always nice finding out about ways people spend Christmas because it sometimes encourages us to also practice these newfound traditions! In the end, the real meaning of Christmas is celebrating these traditions with your family and loved ones!

## **Teacher Interview Series**

### **Mr. Ramírez** (new A.P. Spanish Teacher)

### **Room: 728**

By: Lynette Salas

**Not a Spanish teacher interview without some Spanish!**

**1. ¿Cuáles son 5 adjetivos que lo describen a usted?**

- Positivo
- Apasionado
- Risueño
- Optimista
- pensativo

**2. ¿Qué estuviera haciendo usted si no era maestro?**

Yo sería periodista o si no trabajar en la carrera de bienes y raíces. Otra puesta que me gusta es escribir, ser autor.

**1. What're 5 adjectives that describe you?**

- Positive
- Passionate
- always smiling
- Optimistic
- thoughtful.

**2. What would you be doing if you weren't a teacher?**

I would be a journalist, or if not, I'd work in real estate. I've also thought about being an author.

**3.¿Qué no le gusta de la escuela Garfield?**

¿Sabes que? Ahorita estoy encantado aquí, no te pudiera decir algo negativo. Y esto es honestamente, porque yo ha trabajado en otras escuelas, y si me pongo a comparar, yo vengo feliz todos los días, me voy feliz, los estudiantes son muy respetuosos, y están preparados. Honestamente me encanta estar aquí.

**4.¿Cuál ha sido el reto más difícil que ha enfrentado como maestro?**

Yo creo que no solo para mi, pero también un reto que tenemos muchos maestros es que vemos a muchos estudiantes con apatía, que no tienen interés en la escuela. Y uno quiere que le echen ganas pero muchas veces se desanima uno, porque no se ve que están produciendo el trabajo, porque si pueden.

**5.¿Qué consejos le daría usted mismo a los dieciocho años?**

\*sonrie\* Sería a rasgarme más en la vida. Porque muchas veces uno pierde muchas oportunidades cuando nos se a resgia. Y luego se arrepiente porque no tomo esas oportunidades.

**3. What don't you like about Garfield?** You know what? Right now I love it and am so happy to be here, that I couldn't tell you anything negative. I honestly can't, because I've worked at other schools, and if I compare them, here I come to work and leave happy, and the students are respectful and prepared.

**4.What has been the most difficult challenge you've faced as a teacher?**

I think this isn't just a challenge that I face, but that many other teachers do as well. We often look at many students with apathy because some students show they have no interest in their education. We want them to put in the effort but we are sometimes discouraged when we see that students aren't doing the assignments.

**5.What advice would you give your 18 year old self? \*smiles\***

It would be to take more risks, because most of the time we lose many opportunities when we don't and end up regretting not doing so.

**Let us know who you would like to see interviewed next!**

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# ScuttleTunes

Listen to some new songs this season with the **"ScuttleTunes Playlist"** on Youtube, Christmas songs!

## **Christmas Tunes Origins**

**By:Paulina Lopez**

[https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLhLfseunMGmSlqRqnXsk6rEDA23dHw\\_WJ](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLhLfseunMGmSlqRqnXsk6rEDA23dHw_WJ)

**"Santa Claus is Coming to Town"** This tune may seem cheery and it is, but it first came from a sentiment of grief. This song was first played on Eddie Cantor's radio show in 1934. A book titled *Stories Behind the Greatest Hits of Christmas*, explains how Gillespie was a songwriter who had many hardships in both personal and financial ways. Gillespie's brother had just died when he got the call to write a Christmas song for Cantor's radio show. He first rejected the offer to compose a joyful tune because of the big grief he had. His mind changed once he started having flashbacks of his childhood with his brother and mother's warnings that Santa was watching on the subway ride. He was able to have the lyrics down in 15 minutes and then called composer John Coats to make this new tune a great hit.

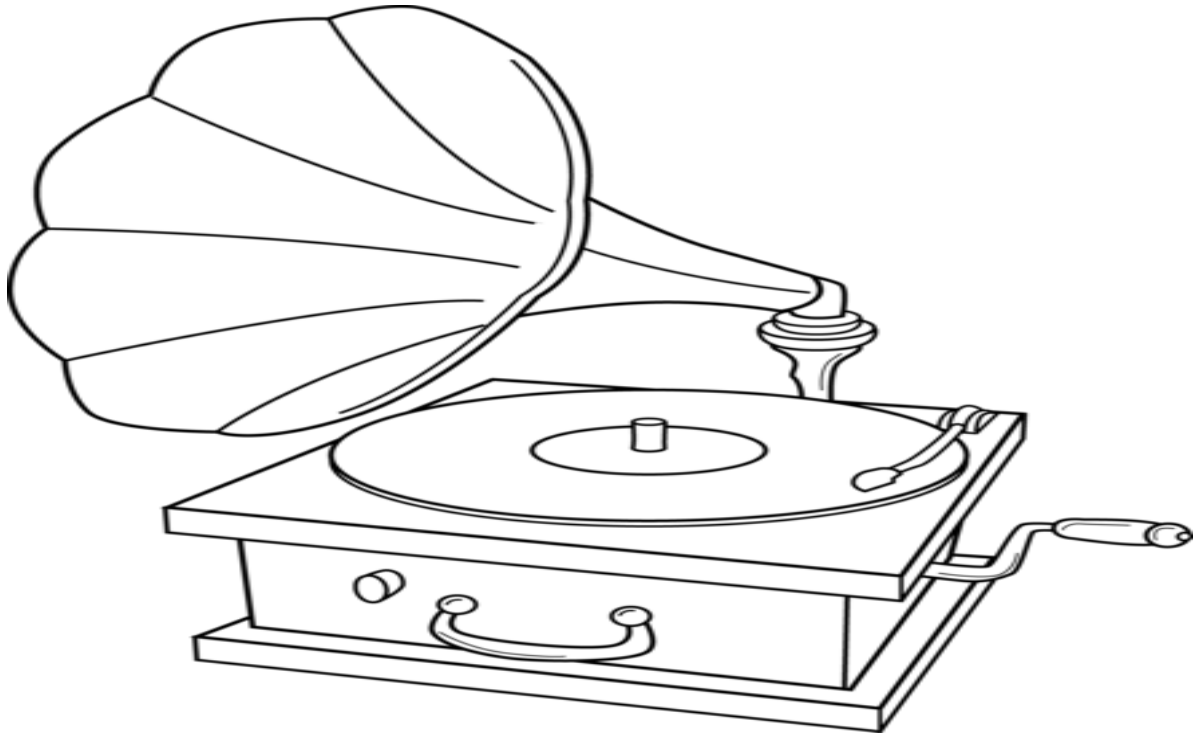
**"Deck The Halls"** This Christmas tune goes back to the sixteenth century. Most of its lyrics and song rhythm were inspired from a New Year's Eve song called "Nos Galan." The lines "Oh! how soft my fair one's bosom Fa la la la la la la la la," were changed to "Deck the halls with boughs of holly Fa la la la la la la la la." Scottish folk music scribe Thomas Oliphant transformed older songs into more modern lyrics

and melodies. "Deck the Halls" was published in *Welsh Melodies*, Vol. 2. in the year 1862. He became a translator of songs and lyricist for the court of Queen Victoria. This new renowned song of his became popular from sheet music around the 1880s.

**"All I want for Christmas in my two front teeth"** This playful song is recited by child with a simple wish. In 1944 Donald Yetter Gardner, a grade school teacher and his wife named Doris in Smithtown, New York, sat down with second graders to encourage them to write a song for Christmas. Many things were said by the children relating with the phrase, "All I want for Christmas is..." A couple of students said they wished for their two front teeth. Gardener was captivated by their request with the sound of their toothless lisping. That night, he went home and in 30 minutes wrote this Christmas tune he knew would bring him much success. It was ultimately recorded in 1948. He was so amazed by the success and joy it brought to him that he stopped teaching to become a music editor. He had many achievements until his death in 2004. He once said, "I was amazed at the way that silly little song was picked up by the whole country."

"Jingle Bells" is one of the most popular non religious tunes. It was not originally meant to be for Christmas time. It was written by James Lord Pierpont in the 1850s, was first titled "The One Horse Open Sleigh" and was meant celebrate Thanksgiving. A local church played the song on the organ and now boasts historical markers declaring it the

birthplace of "Jingle Bells." Although this is said, there are still debates about the validity of the birthplace of the song. It was renamed in 1857 when it was first published. History was made with this song when it became the first song to be broadcasted in space on December 16, 1965.



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