



Central Scoop
December 2019
Edition 03

Editor's Note
by Lilly

As Christmas rolls around and you join your family, we hope you find it's the perfect time to show off your newly acquired knowledge and entertain everyone at the dinner table with what you learned from the Central Scoop this month. Happy holidays to you all! :)

Quote of the Month

found by Maddie

“Life is like a boomerang.

What you give,

you get.”

~ Unknown

Table of Contents:

- **Laugh. Out. Loud.** pg. 3
 - Comic Corner
 - Jokes
 - Silly Stories

- **Brain Games** pg. 7
 - Riddles
 - Puzzles

- **Did You Know?** pg. 9
 - Fun Facts
 - National Days
 - News
 - Extra Curricular Update

- **How To...** pg. 15
 - Recipes
 - Crafty Corner

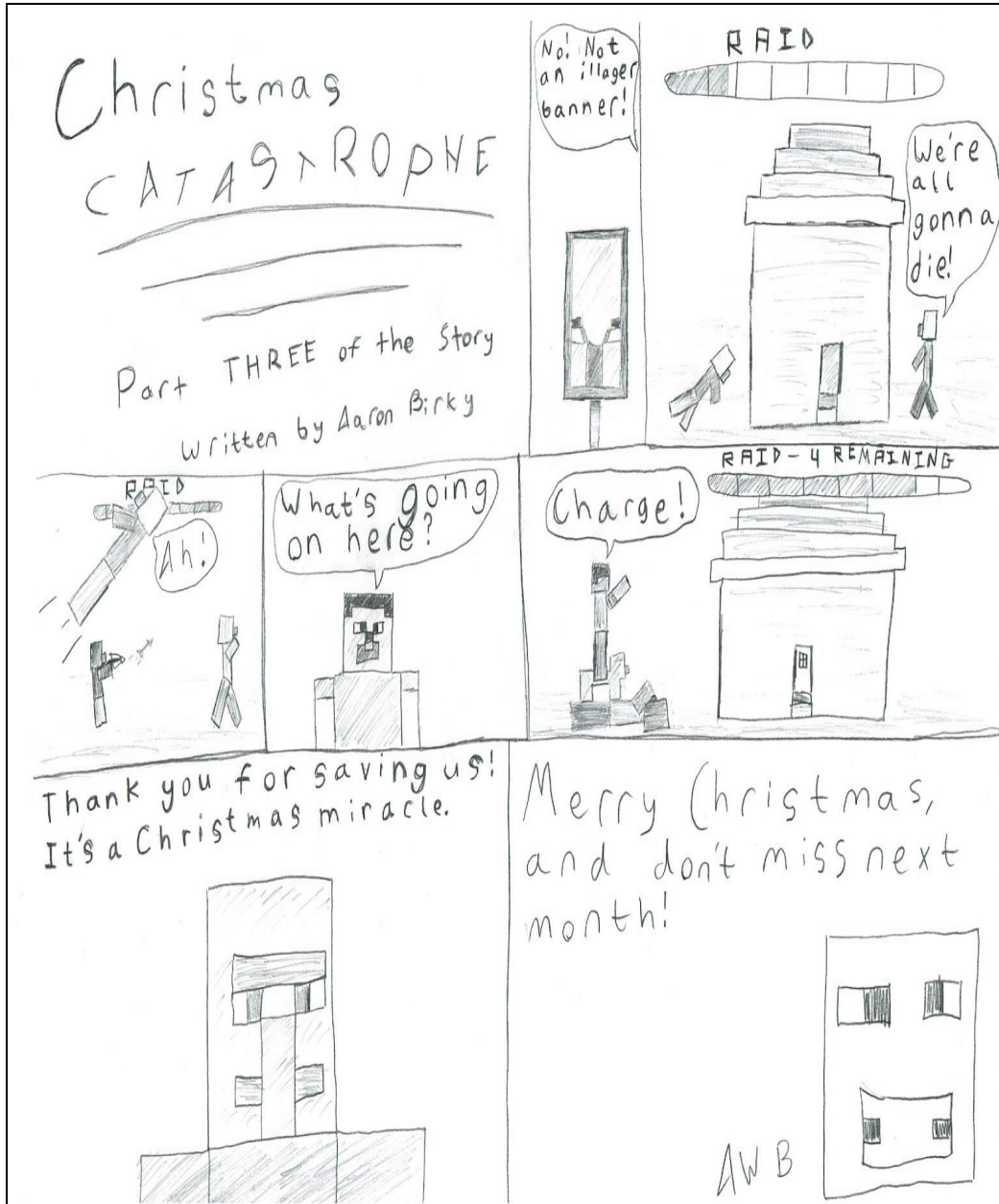
- **Student Suggestions** pg. 19
 - Book Review

- **Student Surveys** pg. 20
 - Poll

Laugh. Out. Loud.

Comic Corner

by Aaron



Jokes

by Kaitlyn

Junior: What did the mantel say to the stocking?

Dylan: I don't know. What?

Junior: Stop hanging around!

After being away on a business trip for the week before Christmas, Tom thought it would be nice to bring his wife a little gift.

“How about some perfume?” he asked the cosmetics clerk.

She showed him a bottle costing \$50.

“That’s a bit much,” said Tom, so she returned with a smaller bottle for \$30.

“That’s still quite a bit,” Tom complained.

Growing disgusted, the clerk brought out a tiny \$15 bottle. Tom grew agitated. “What I mean,” he said, “is I’d like to see something real cheap.”

So the clerk handed him a mirror.

Clara: What did Adam say on the day before Christmas?

Maddy: I have no idea.

Clara: It’s Christmas, Eve!

Newt: What do snowmen like to eat for breakfast?

Tina: Pancakes?

Newt: Nope, Frosted Flakes!

Ron: What do you call a fear of Santa Claus?

Hermione: Claustrophobia, duh.

Ron: Darn it.

Luna: What do you call Santa when he has no money?

Ginny: What?

Luna: Saint "Nickel-less"!

Harry: What does Tarzan sing during Christmas?

Albus: I dunno. (Who's Tarzan?)

Harry: Jungle Bells, of course!

Abe: Why does Santa have a garden?

Irv: So he can hoe, hoe, hoe!

Santa: What is a parent's favorite Christmas carol?

Mrs. Claus: Silent Night.

Friedrich Claus: *Mom!*

Beethoven: Why did the dog hang up his stockings?

Scooby: I don't know... What?

Beethoven: Because he was waiting for Santa Paws.

Source: <https://www.ducksters.com/jokes/christmas.php>

Silly Stories

by Renee

"Jingle jingle!" I wake up to the noise of jingle bells on the morning of Christmas Eve. I groan and try to go back to sleep, but Holly the elf, my sister, rips off my blankets and squeals in my ear, "Jingle! Get up! It's the day before Christmas; we have much to do to help Santa prepare!"

"But Holly, I'm tired!" I grumble.

"I don't care!" she replies. I finally drag myself out of bed. Even though I'm an elf, I absolutely cannot stand Christmas.

Everyone's so happy! I try to be cheerful, but since none of the other elves like me, I'm pretty grumpy most of the time. But if I don't help out on the busiest day of the year, Holly will be so disappointed in me. I put on my festive red and green outfit adorned in bells and get to work. My first job is to feed the reindeer with some of the other elves. Arriving at the stables, I see that I'm late and all the others are already almost done. They glare at me and stalk out, leaving me alone with the stinky, dirty animals. All the other elves love the reindeer, but I can't stand the grime. I latch the gate behind me as I trudge off to my next job. This one is my least favorite—packing presents. There's *never* enough room in Santa's sleigh for all of the presents I'm assigned to fit in. Today, though, I'm only given thirteen packages. They easily fit in. The other elves' gifts probably won't, but that's their problem, not mine. I know I can take a break now, but I'd rather get my other two jobs done now so I can get them over with. I go to the kitchen to start making snacks for Santa and the reindeer in case they get hungry, but on the way, I overhear a group of elves talking about Santa.

"He's *still* in the shower!" one of them exclaims. "I don't know if he'll have enough time!"

The other elves gasp.

"He takes *forever* to get ready!" another one adds. "I heard he spends half an hour doing his hair—when he'll end up wearing a hat over it anyway."

I can't believe it! To be on time to deliver presents, Santa will have to leave in only a few hours. I shake my head and continue to the kitchen. After whipping up a batch of peanut butter cranberry cookies for the reindeer and white chocolate chip cookies for Santa, I go to his room to fish out his red coat, hat, and black boots from last year. However, it seems oddly quiet in his room. I expect to hear the shower running, but it's silent. Then, I see something shocking. Santa's still in his bed fast asleep! His alarm must have not gone off!

“Santa!” I scream. “It’s twelve thirty!” He rolls over and opens his eyes. “Get up! You’re going to be late!”

His eyes widening, he jumps up and says, “Thank you so much, Jingle! You saved the day!” Mrs. Claus suddenly comes bustling into the room.

“Are you done in the shower, honey?” she calls. But then, she sees Santa and realizes he’s just woken up.

“Jingle saved the day!” he says. “She woke me up just in time!”

As he runs off into the bathroom, Mrs. Claus congratulates me. “Wow Jingle! You really did save the day! Well, see you later; go finish your job!” She runs off and I quickly find Santa’s outfit. When I come out, a crowd of elves greets me.

“It’s her!” one of them says. “She’s the one who woke up Santa just in time!”

“Is it true?” a young elf asks. I nod, amazed that everyone already knows.

“Hey, Jingle, do you want to see the new baby reindeer with us?” a pair of elves named Joy and Sparkles ask. I nod, filled with joy for the first time in forever. It’s a Christmas miracle—I have friends!

Brain Games

Riddles

by Layla

You will know that I am coming
From the jingle of my music,
But exactly who I am is not an easy thing to tell.
Children, they adore me,

for they find me jolly,
but I do not see them when the halls are decked with holly.
My job often leaves me frozen, and
I am a man that all should know,
But I do not do business in times of sleet or ice or snow.
I travel a lot on business,
But no reindeer haul me around;
I do all my traveling firmly on the ground.
I love the time of Christmas,
But that's not my job season,
And I assure that is because of a weather reason.

Who am I?

I can help with special occasions,
Birthdays, Christmas, and all celebrations.
You need scissors and sticky tape.
Make sure you have something inside of it!

What am I?

I am a dreamlike fairyland but I can be horrific to many when I
cover the land with ice.

What am I?

If the end of the year is on December 31st, then...

What is the end of Christmas?

You can find me in abundance in Greenland, in a box, and in a
sweet treat, but you'll never find me in an oven.

What am I?

Answers:

1. the icecream man
2. wrapping paper
3. winter
4. the letter 's'
5. an ice block

Puzzles

by Aaron

6			3				5	
					8	9	1	
		5		1		4		
9	4			5			6	
	7		8		6		4	
	8			2			3	1
		2		8		6		
	5	7	6					
	6				3			5

Last month's puzzle:

2	9	7	1	3	6	4	8	5
4	3	6	5	8	2	1	9	7
5	1	8	9	7	4	6	3	2
8	6	3	4	5	7	9	2	1
9	7	5	2	1	8	3	6	4
1	4	2	6	9	3	5	7	8
6	2	9	8	4	5	7	1	3
7	8	4	3	6	1	2	5	9
3	5	1	7	2	9	8	4	6

Did You Know?

Fun Facts

by Mariam

1. \$700 will be spent on Christmas by the average American. That is about \$465 billion spent across the U.S.A.!
2. The first artificial tree was made out of goose feathers because of a lack of Christmas trees.
3. Walt Disney World has a total of 1,500 Christmas trees and 700,000 LED lights to decorate with. (That's 96 miles of Christmas lights!)
4. The word "y'all" was first used in 1631.
5. Disney World is the second largest buyer of explosives in the U.S.A. because of all the fireworks they use.

Sources:

- <https://abcnews.go.com/WN/mailform?id=14998335>
 - <https://www.pastbook.com/txt/12-fun-christmas-facts/>
 - Williams, Dinah, and Eliz Ong. *Secrets of Walt Disney World: Weird and Wonderful Facts about the Most Magical Place on Earth*. Sterling Children's Books, 2013.
 - <https://www.thefactsite.com/top-100-random-funny-facts/2/>
-

National Days

by Brianna

December 1

National Pie Day
National Eat a Red Apple Day
Bifocals at the Monitor Liberation Day
Day With(out) Art Day
Rosa Parks Day

December 2

National Fritters Day
National Mutt Day
Special Education Day
Cyber Monday – Monday After Thanksgiving

December 3

National Roof Over Your Head Day

World Trick Shot Day - First Tuesday in December

National Day of Giving - #GivingTuesday (usually follows cyber Monday)

December 4

National Cookie Day

National Dice Day

National Sock Day

National Package Protection Day - Wednesday after Thanksgiving

December 5

National Sacher Torte Day

Bathtub Party Day

International Ninja Day

National Repeal Day

December 6

National Pawnbrokers Day

National Microwave Oven Day

National Gazpacho Day

St. Nicholas Day

Miners' Day

Faux Fur Friday - First Friday in December

December 7

National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day

National Illinois Day

National Cotton Candy Day

Skywarn Recognition Day - First Saturday in December

December 8

National Brownie Day

Pretend To Be a Time Traveler Day

December 9

National Pastry Day

Weary Willie Day

December 10

Dewey Decimal System Day

Human Rights Day

Nobel Prize Day

December 11

National App Day

National Noodle Ring Day

December 12

National Ambrosia Day

National Ding-a-Ling Day
Gingerbread House Day
Poinsettia Day

December 13

National Cocoa Day
National Violin Day
National Day Of The Horse (Senate Res. 452)
Pick a Pathologist Pal Day
National Guard Birthday
National Salesperson Day - Second Friday in December

December 14

National Bouillabaisse Day
National Alabama Day
Monkey Day
National Wreaths Across America Day (changes annually)

December 15

National Cupcake/Lemon Cupcake Day
Bill of Rights Day
Cat Herders Day
National Wear Your Pearls Day

December 16

National Chocolate-Covered Anything Day

December 17

National Maple Syrup Day
Wright Brothers Day

December 18

Answer the Telephone Like Buddy the Elf Day

December 19

National Hard Candy Day
National Oatmeal Muffin Day
National Regifting Day - Thursday Before Christmas

December 20

Mudd Day
National Ugly Christmas Sweater Day - Third Friday in December
Underdog Day - Third Friday in December

December 21

National French Fried Shrimp Day
Crossword Puzzle Day

National Maine Day
Phileas Fogg Win a Wager Day
Winter Solstice - Day Between December 20 and 23
National Flashlight Day - Day of Winter Solstice
National Homeless Persons' Remembrance Day - First Day of Winter
Yule - Day of Winter Solstice

December 22

Anne & Samantha Day (also June 21)

December 23

National Pfeffernusse Day
National Roots Day
Festivus
Forefathers Day - December 22
Hanukkah Begins (changes annually)

December 24

National Eggnog Day
Christmas Eve

December 25

National Pumpkin Pie Day
A'Phabet Day or No "L" Day
Christmas

December 26

National Candy Cane Day
National Thank-You Note Day
National Whiner's Day
Boxing Day (Canada)

December 27

National Fruitcake Day

December 28

National Short Film Day
National Chocolate Candy Day
National Card Playing Day
Holy Innocents Day
Pledge of Allegiance Day

December 29

National Pepper Pot Day
Tick Tock Day

December 30

National Bicarbonate of Soda Day
Falling Needles Family Fest Day
Bacon Day

December 31

No Interruptions Day
Last Work Day of the Year
Leap Second Time Adjustment Day (Note: This is listed as an observance title only. Some years, scientists do not make adjustments. But, if they do, then it's done on either June 30 or December 31.)
Make Up Your Mind Day
New Years Eve
Universal Hour of Peace

News

by Ethan

GENERAL

- ★ Kincaid and Maria, two major wildfires that have previously raged through California, have been contained.
- ★ A lobster boat saved a deer that floated five miles away from shore.
- ★ Disney+ struggled with a glitch in the first few hours of use.
- ★ On November 12th, a bright meteor streaked across the Midwest sky.
- ★ For the first time in three decades, the silver-backed chevrotain has been spotted in Vietnam.

SPORTS

- ★ On November 5th, a black cat ran across the football field during a Giants vs. Cowboys game.
- ★ The Washington Nationals won the World Series.
- ★ There isn't a single undefeated team in the NFL.
- ★ The Spurs honored Tony Parker by retiring his number nine jersey on November 11th, when they played the Grizzlies.

Extra Curricular Update

by Corinna

Central's bands are all conducted by Mrs. Houle, a very awesome teacher. The Fifth Grade Band meets on Fridays; the Sixth Grade Band meets on Mondays and Wednesdays; and the Seventh & Eighth Grade Band meets on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays. In band, there are many different things students can try. Sixth through eighth graders can join Jazz Band or Solo & Ensemble in the spring, and seventh and eighth graders were able to audition for ILMEA in the fall. The fifth grade band concert is on December 10th, and the Winter Band and Choir Concert is the next day at seven pm.

I interviewed, Erica, an eighth grader.

What instrument do you play?

... the clarinet.

Why did you choose the clarinet?

... it was the easiest instrument I tried.

What is your all time favorite band song?

... Harry Potter!

What is your favorite part of band?

... I like playing songs that don't have repetitive notes.

If you could play another instrument, what would you play?

... the trumpet.

If you could change something about band, what would it be?

... being able to choose what music we play.

How To...

Recipes

by Erica & Addyson

Apple Tart

Ingredients

- 1 stick of unsalted butter (cut into small cubes) plus 1 tablespoon (melted)
- 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ cups of all-purpose flour (plus extra for rolling)
- $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon kosher salt
- 2 tablespoons sugar
- 3 Granny Smith apples
- 1 tablespoon fresh lemon juice
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon



Directions

- Set the cubed butter on a plate and place it in the freezer for fifteen minutes. Fill a cup with ice and water and set aside.
- Place 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ cups of flour, $\frac{1}{8}$ teaspoon of salt, and 1 tablespoon of the sugar in the bowl of a food processor and pulse to combine.
- Take the butter out of the freezer and add it to the flour. Pulse the mixture until it looks like wet sand (about ten seconds).
- Add two to three tablespoons of the ice water and pulse until the dough comes together into a ball.
- Lightly flour your work surface and place the dough on top. Then lightly flour the top of the dough and roll to about a ten- to eleven-inch circle. Sprinkle more flour under and on top of the dough as necessary.
- Gently drape the dough over the rolling pin and transfer it to a nine- or nine-and-a-half-inch fluted tart pan (ideally one with a removable bottom). Fit the dough into

the bottom and up the sides of the pan as evenly as possible and press off the excess dough from the fluted rim.

- Set the tart pan on a baking sheet and place it in the refrigerator for fifteen minutes.
- Preheat the oven to three hundred fifty degrees Fahrenheit.
- Peel, core, and quarter the apples, and then thinly slice them lengthwise. Place the apples in a large bowl and toss them with the lemon juice, the cinnamon, and the remaining 1 tablespoon of sugar and $\frac{1}{8}$ teaspoon of salt.
- Remove the baking sheet with the tart shell from the refrigerator.
- Arrange the apples in concentric circles so they overlap slightly. Brush the edges of the crust with melted butter and then bake until the edges are golden and the apples have cooked (about one hour).
- Cool for fifteen minutes before slicing and serving.

Almond-Date-Peppermint Truffles

Ingredients

- 1 cup pitted Medjool dates
- 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ cups raw almonds
- 2 tablespoons coconut oil
- $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon salt
- $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon peppermint extract
- 1 tablespoon water
- $\frac{1}{4}$ cup unsweetened cacao powder (plus additional for rolling)
- $\frac{1}{4}$ cup crushed candy canes (for sprinkling)

Instructions

- Soak the dates in a bowl of warm water until they soften up a bit (about ten minutes). Then, drain the dates.

- Place them in a food processor with the almonds, coconut oil, salt, peppermint extract, water, and cacao powder. Process it all for one minute or until the mixture forms a ball.
 - Remove the "dough" from the food processor and form fifteen to eighteen small round truffles with your hands.
 - Sprinkle additional cocoa powder on a flat surface and roll each truffle in the chocolate until each one is well-coated.
 - Place them in the refrigerator for about fifteen minutes to allow them to set.
 - Remove them from the fridge and top each truffle with a sprinkle of crushed candy canes.
 - TIP: These can be stored in an airtight container in the fridge/freezer for several weeks. However, don't store them with the candy cane garnish---save that touch for right before serving! :)
-

Crafty Corner

by Lillian

Making Christmas cards...

What You Need:

- Card stock (or thick paper)
- Water colors and/or paint
- Multi colored beads/ buttons
- Black pen
- Pompoms
- Googly eyes
- Craft glue

How To: Rudolph card

1. Paint some antlers using brown paint and a fine paintbrush.
2. Glue some googly eyes about a half-inch under the antlers.
3. Glue on a red pompom for the nose.



How To: Christmas ornaments card

1. Draw about half a dozen evenly-spaced lines of different lengths along the horizon line (a ruler is recommended but not necessary).
2. Glue a button or bead at the end of each line.
3. Add a finishing touch by drawing small bows above the buttons/beads.



How To: dog card

1. Print out any silhouette or outline of a dog from the internet.
2. Cut it out.
3. Glue it on the paper.
4. Do the same thing with Santa hats (or other accessories) and put them on the card.
5. Write "Merry Christmas!" (or another festive line) across the bottom if you like.



Student Suggestions:



Book Review

by Annabelle

Title: *Jingle*

Author: Gordon Korman

Reading Level: 5.5

Audience: middle grade

AR Points: 6

Summary:

Griffin Bing and his friends are excited to start their relaxing, no-work winter break, but after being forced to take part in a Christmas party at the most famous mansion in town, all these things are washed away. Griffin and his friends find themselves stuffed in tight elf suits at a busy Christmas workshop---and right in the middle of a crime scene. When a priceless heirloom owned by the family who hosts the Christmas workshop is stolen, the friends become the prime suspects. Can Griffin, “The Man With a Plan”, and his buddies find the real culprits... Or will they end up on the naughty list this year?

Review:

This is an amazing book! It's one of the last in Gordon Korman's *Swindle* series, but you don't really need to read the others to understand it. This is a fun, exciting book that will keep you entertained all the way through the last page! Again, this book is part of a series, so if you enjoyed *Jingle*, this is a fantastic series to check out! The first book is called *Swindle*.

Student Surveys

Poll

by Kaitlyn

Go ahead and take our December Poll!

Click on the following link to fill out the Christmas-themed questionnaire:

<https://forms.gle/ZTWy2kPn5PlHE9z98>

Thank you for reading! We hope you enjoyed. :)

The next edition will be published on January 1st, 2020, on the [Central Scoop Website](#) under the “The Paper” section.