



# HISTORY AND MOVIE PAGE

## History of Christmas Music

by Victor Perez, Rosario Luna and Arnold Martinez, 7th

There are many popular Christmas Carols and each song has a history. Some songs go back to the Middle Ages, while the history of Christmas Carols such as "Good King Wenceslas" are more recent and were composed in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Songs like Noel help to bring people together in harmony on the occasion of Christmas. Famous Western classical compositions for church choirs, such as Handel's Messiah are also traditionally performed around Christmas. However as times change popular songs such as 'Jingle Bells' or 'White Christmas' are also considered as Christmas Carols and are sung with great gusto around Christmas time.

## History of the Candy Cane

by Lee Walby and Miguel Cornier, 7th

The candy cane was made in 1670, it was a sugar stick bent in the shape of a shepherd's crook in honor of an occasion at a ceremony. The red part of the candy cane represents the blood of Jesus Christ. The white represents cleanness. Whenever we sin, we leave ourselves dirty, and the white represents the cleanness of Jesus. The regular candy cane has three stripes to remind us of the soldiers' stripes by which we are healed and the larger stripe which stands for the Blood shed by Jesus on Calvary's tree. Other people think that the three stripes of the candy cane honor the holy Trinity and remind us of the one true God. Around Christmas, children enjoy the taste of them. Children also like decorating their Christmas Tree with them. If you turn the candy cane upside down it turns into a J for Jesus. If you turn the candy cane up right it stands for a shepherd's cane because they were the first to see him. The candy cane is flavored peppermint.

## It's a Wonderful Life

by Ashley Stowell, Jocey Garcia, Joe Bolen, Ivan Cerrillo & Emilio Luera, 6th

It's a Wonderful Life came out in the year of 1946. This touching film all started when a man named Frank Capra had what you might call a American dream. Frank Capra believed much in what he did. Mr. Capra had a breakdown after a commercial success. Frank Capra regarded this film as his own personal favorite it was also James Stewart's favorite of all his feature film.

It was actually a box office flop at the time of its release and only became the Christmas movie classic in the 1970's due to repeated television showing at Christmas when its copyright protection slipped and fell into public domain in 1974. Everybody wanted to buy the movie.

## Elf

by Alyssa Lunn and Daniel Kozlowski, 6th

Does everyone know who the cast members of the movie "Elf" are? The Director is Jon Favreau. He was the writer and he was one of the actors. The actor Buddy is Will Ferrell and the guy who plays Santa is Ed Asner and there is a lot more but I can't name all of them. The movie Elf is about this Elf named Buddy and Santa found him in his bag but the weird thing is that he was not really an Elf. He is a normal person and he is tall but thought he was a elf. The main thing about the movie the "Elf" is that this fake elf wanted to be a real one but he's not and that's what the movie is all about.

## A Christmas Story

by Ricardo Delgadillo & Elena Cerino, 6th

A Christmas Story is a 1983 film based on the short stories of author Jean Shepherd. The film relates the tale of Ralphie Parker, who wants a Red Ryder BB Gun for Christmas. Over the course of the film, Ralphie hides a Red Ryder advertisement in his mother's magazine, fibs about the spotting of a animal in the neighborhood, blurts his desire outright, writes a theme on the subject, and asks an impatient Santa just as the department store closes. Peter Billingsley played as Ralphie Parker - Producer received Emmy Award Nomination. Melinda Dillon played as Mrs. Parker -was nominated for Broadway's 1963 Tony Award as best supporting actress Divorced. Darren McGaven played as The old Man, Mr. Parker - Actor/ Member of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences Passed away Feb. 25 2006. Ian Petrella played as Randy Parker - Starred in Beverly Hills 90210 Different Strokes, A Christmas Story. Scottie Schwartz played as Flick, Tongue got Stuck- Manager for adult films where a big hit.

## History of Rudolph the Red

Nosed Reindeer by Deana Canaveral and Leah Banda, 7th

The original "Rudolph" was first written by Robert L. May. Of course, this was supposed to be a children's story for Christmas time. However, over the years, this story became popular for all ages. This story was connected with a song that describes all of the other reindeer of Santa's. In the song, no one liked Rudolph because he was different from all of the others. His nose was red and bright. Then on one Christmas Eve night it was foggy and Santa couldn't make it to all of the houses with this fog. So he asked Rudolph to guide him, his sleigh, and the rest of the reindeer with his shiny and bright red nose.

This song has become very famous over the years. In fact, it has become one of the most famous Christmas songs. This has also been made into books and movies. They are even making sequels to this wonderful children's song.

## 1966 How the Grinch Stole Christmas Cast Members

by Aimee Bueno and James Healy, 5th

Boris Karloff and June Foray. First Boris Karloff was born on November 23, 1887 in Camberwell, London, England. Boris Karloff narrated and did the voice of the Grinch. At first Boris wanted to be a farmer when he was in Canada. He didn't like it so he decided to do acting. He did a little bit of silent films. Then one day his director went to talk to him if he wanted to be the monster in the movie Frankenstein. Boris said yes. After the movie Boris became famous. He was in more movies like The Dumb Girl of Portici in 1916, Omar the Tentmaker in 1922, Perils of the Wild in 1925, and Tarzan and the Golden Lion in 1927. The last movie he starred in was Targets in 1968. Boris then died on February 21, 1969 at 82 years old of Pneumonia and Emphysema. He was buried at Guildford, Crematorium, England in the Garden of Remembrance.

The next cast member was June Foray. She was born on September 18, 1917 in Springfield, Massachusetts. She did the voice of Cindy Lou in the movie with Boris Karloff. June Foray's voice was first in public in a local radio drama when she was 12 years old. At 17 years old she moved to Los Angeles and became a popular voice actress on radio. In 1940 she did film work but she did mostly voices for cartoons. She played Lucifer the cat in Cinderella, she did a lot of voices in Woody Woodpecker, she played every girl and Rocky on the show Rocky and Bullwinkle, and as grandmother Fa in Mulan. June Foray is still doing voices of characters in movies and cartoons.

## Frosty the Snowman

by Liandro Romo & Hugo Gutierrez, 7th

"Frosty the Snowman" was originated as a child's song for Christmas. It was written by Steve "Jack" Rollins. Over the years, it has been made into books, movies, and T.V shows. This song became very well known at Christmas time.

Then, in 1969, the Rankin-Bass company made a thirty minute show about Frosty the Snowman for the little children. Children all over the world love the show because it has a very nice Christmas meaning.

## History of St. Nick

by David Hobbs and Karla Avila, 5th

### Saint Nick known as Santa

Claus is very old. He was born a thousand years ago in Turkey. Before he became Santa Claus he was a young priest. When he was a priest he gave a gift of gold coins to three very poor girls. The father saw St. Nick do this and St. Nick was embarrassed. He told the father not to tell anyone. But after a while the father told everyone. The spirit of giving at Christmas has a very long history. People view St. Nick in many different ways. In England they call him Father Christmas, while the French call him Pere Noel. In Switzerland they call him Samichlaus and the Dutch call him Sinterklaas. Hungarian children call him Mikulas and others call him Saint Nicholas.



## Christmas Cookie Recipe\*

by Nick Filomeno and Mireya Romo, 5th

### WHAT YOU NEED:

Three inch long tear drop cardboard pattern  
pretzels  
cookie frosting  
M&M's  
red hots

### WHAT YOU DO:

1 Cream the butter and sugar until they are fluffy. Add the lemon zest and eggs. Mix the flour, baking powder, cinnamon, nutmeg and cardamom and stir into the butter mixture with the almonds. Add enough milk to make the dough malleable; turn out onto a counter and knead until smooth. Chill well. Roll out on a floured counter top. Cut into bars with a knife or a cookie cutter. Place on greased baking sheets and bake at 350 degrees for about 25 minutes, until golden brown. Makes 40 .

### INGREDIENTS:

1/2 lb. butter, softened  
2 cups brown sugar  
Grated rind of 1 lemon  
2 eggs  
4 cups flour  
1 tsp. baking powder  
1 tbsp. Cinnamon  
1 tsp. nutmeg  
1/4 tsp. Cardamom  
1/4 cup blanched, slivered almonds  
2 to 4 tbsp. milk

2. Break apart the pretzels to make the antlers and then put them together on the top of the head. Next add little dots of frosting. Use M&M for eyes and red hots for Rudolph's nose.

## Eating Healthy This Christmas

By Ashley Parenti and Manuel Ayala, 5th

### TRY:

#### Christmas Fruit Bars

1 1/2 cups flour  
1 teaspoon baking powder  
1/4 teaspoon salt  
1 1/2 cup rolled oats  
1 cup brown sugar  
3/4 cup margin  
3/4 cup fruit preservers

Stir dry ingredients together. Stir in oats and sugar, cut in butter until crumbly. Pat 1/2 crumbs in 11 x 7 pan. Spread with preserves top with crumbs. Bake 375 Fahrenheit for 35 minutes, makes 21/2 dozen.

### TRY:

#### Pecan Pie

3 large eggs  
2/3 cup sugar  
1/2 teaspoon salt  
1/2 cup melted butter  
1 cup light corn syrup  
1 cup pecans  
1 unbaked 9in pie shell

Preheat oven to 375 Fahrenheit, beat eggs, sugar and salt. Add butter, syrup, and mix in pecans. Bake 40-45 minutes in pie shell.

Instead of eating high fatty foods this Christmas you should eat low fat and healthy foods.

### TRY:

#### Fruit Cake <http://www.santas.net>

1 pkg of Betty crocker date bar mix  
2/3 cup of hot water  
3 eggs  
1/4 cups of flour  
3/4 baking powder  
2 tablespoons light molasses  
1 tsp cinnamon  
1/4 tsp nutmeg  
1/4 tsp allspice  
1 cup chopped nuts  
1 cup raisins  
1 cup red/green candied cherries

Heat oven to 325 Fahrenheit. Grease and flour 9 x 5 x 3 loaf pan. Combine date bar mix and water until crumbly. Add eggs, flour, baking powder, molasses and spices. Fold nut and cherries ;pour into pan bake 80 minutes or until toothpick comes out clean.

## Winter Fashion What is "HOT" This Season

by Rosario Luna and Adriana Villagomez, 7th

Military-Style Jackets: better with a tailored fit, big buttons and lapels  
Belted Wrap Sweaters : better to wear them with jeans, a skirt or by themselves  
Lace and Ruffles: it looks better with a sheer blouse, a line of ruffles down the center, but keep the rest of your outfit simple  
Shoes: flat boots remember to pick a pair that extends past your calf  
Velvet: fabric that is great for the winter holidays.

Colors: a black outfit with other bright colors is always great for the holidays. Blues, burnt oranges, dark amethyst and plum ,purples, olive and emerald greens and rich browns are great colors for this season.  
Accessories : for the neck big long necklaces can be a great accessory for your ears longer, thinner earrings and bold hoops are the best.

## K.B Toys vs. Toy's R' US

by Cuitla Alaniz and Sasha Contreras, 5th

It was 5 days before Christmas. Toys R' US was across the street from K.B Toys. It was a tough competition. The best one was the one with the most customers and the most satisfaction. Toys R' US sold the new Playstation 3. K.B Toys sold the new Nintendo Wii. K.B toys Sold up to 89% of the toys. Toys R' US also sold 89% of the toys. Who would win? It would be hard to tell Early in the morning people rushed to their favorite stores to buy Christmas presents for their children. Half of the customers went to Toys R' US and the other half went to K.B Toys. Managers at both stores compared their sales but there was no winner. It was a tie.

## 2006 Movie Reviews

by Blanca Saldivar and Zachary VonRyan, 5th

Happy Feet- In Antarctica nobody knows how to sing, which is bad news for Mumble who is the worst singer in the world. But he sure can tap dance. Mumble's mom, Norma Jean, thinks his dancing is cute, but his dad, Memphis, says it "just a penguin." Any way they both know that, without a "heartsong," Mumble may never find true love. His one friend, Gloria, happens to be the best singer around, and the two were friends since the moment they hatched from their eggs.

Superman Returns- When Superman returns to earth he finds that his love Lois Lane, has moved on with her life. Meanwhile, the Man of Steel's, Lex Luthor, is ready to plan something that Superman powers can take.

The Pursuit Of Happiness- Based on the life of Chris Gardner, a millionaire, the actor Will Smith is a man who finds himself jobless and homeless at age 30, living in a San Francisco train station with his son. Then he finds work as a trainee at a brokerage and becomes a partner and owner of his own Chicago-based firm.

### TRY:

#### Claus Cranberry Punch

2 cups of cranberries  
2 cups water  
1 cup sugar

Cook to pulp and strain. When cooled add the following:  
juice of 3 lemons  
juice of 1 lime  
1 quart gingerale  
red and green cherries  
this serves 6-8

## A Beardless Santa

by Alexis Murillo & Jesus Garcia, 5th

**S**anta Claus without a beard would look like a whole different Santa. He wouldn't deliver presents he would not have a disguise. He would not be considered as Santa Claus. People and Santa's reindeer wouldn't notice him at all unless he had his beard. Mrs. Claus wouldn't like him anymore without his beard because he's always been known as the big man with the beard. Elves would not work for Santa anymore. It would be a total disaster. It would be a different world. Christmas wouldn't be as fun anymore and our lives would be different.

## White or Green Trees?

by Alyssa Hudik, 7th

Every year we all get ready to put up all the decorations for Christmas; wreaths, lights, Santa, etc. But one of the most important decorations for this holiday season is the Christmas tree. People all over the world put up this special ornamentation which can be either real or artificial and comes in an abundance of colors. Most popular would probably be green or white. But how many people really like white christmas trees better than the original green one? I took a survey of 15 people and here are the results:  
White: 6 people Green: 9 people

## Mr. Rau Adds Humor to Christmas Play

by Bobby Tokarz, Jake Healy, and Mike Lockbaum, 8th

The Christmas play this year will focus on laughter more than a moral. A lot of the script was written to make the audience laugh. The silly wording and acting will be sure to make people laugh. The 8th grade has been practicing every week to make this play seem and look as funny as it is. Everyone is really putting a good effort into this play to make the audience happy. There are parts for

## Pick Playstation3 Over Nintendo Wii

by Carlos Hernandez and Josh Kleisner, 7th

Playstation3 and Nintendo Wii are the best systems you can get for Christmas. The PS3 is around 600.00 dollars and the Wii is around 250.00 dollars. The PS3 has a wireless control and the whole system is black. The most expensive one they have holds 60 GB. The cheapest one holds up to 20 GB. It has Blue Technology that is the best most clearest DVD that you can find. You can also use the internet. And it has something pretty cool for whoever has a PSP you can plug it in as a controller. Also if you make any movement with the control for example in a airplane game you move the control down and the airplane will go down. When you have to turn the game on you just have to touch

## PSP vs. DS

by Jesse Poulsen and Marcela Ramirez, 5th

The D.S. has very good graphics but small games and very little of them are manufactured. But the P.S.P. has the best graphics and the best games for it has about a thousand games and movies. Thousands of kids want this new technology and since Christmas is coming it is on half the kids in America's wish list. Most kids want the PSP but the parents go with the DS because it much cheaper. Many of the kids agree that the PSP kicks butt. About 99%of the kids want the PSP.

## Expensive Things That Don't Work

by Moira Bonadonna, Michelle Perez, Dionna Mantucca and Cesar Bejar, 6th

Expensive things that don't work. Would you like to buy something that doesn't work? We didn't think so. Take PS3 for example, everyone wants it, it costs over \$1,000.00 (on ebay), so why would everyone want it? What if you bought it and it turned out that it really didn't work? Even if your kids are badgering you about it you shouldn't give in. Be strong.

Some PS3's are defective. We've heard and looked up for ourselves that the new consul is defective. The Blu-Ray drive is not built in right and the memory is not what it's cracked up to be. Also there is two different kinds of Ps3's; there's a core drive and the special one that has the big memory, blu-ray drive, and dvd. The difference is the price and the special qualities, the price for the core is about \$350.00 but

everyone and even the little kids are in it too. This play should definitely not bore the audience one bit. The play won't be all that long, but it won't be too short either. The readers are doing an excellent job reading and the actors are good at remembering the lines. Be sure to watch this play because it will be a night to remember.

it and it will turn on. All video games are blue ray and look very clear. This game system is about as good as an HD TV. Now these game systems are very hard to get so you better hurry up. You can't go wrong on buying someone a Playstation3. The games that are sold for these systems are very expensive but at the end people say they are worth it. These game systems also support the HD TV so if you have both of these combined you can't really ask for anything else on your Christmas list. People have been seen going crazy for this and not so much for the Nintendo Wii.

## Wii

by Anthony Forte, Alexis Hinojosa and Humberto Gamboa, 6th

The Nintendo Wii is the newest Nintendo system of seven systems. The Wii is currently competing with X-box 360 and Playstation 3. Wii is white and has a white controller. Black and blue are coming soon. Wii can have up to only four players at one time. It is about eight and a half inches tall and six inches wide. It also has a wireless communication with the Internet and with the Nintendo DS.

The Wii has many accessories including a wireless controller known as the Wii mote, a nunchuck, a charger, and a memory card.

the special one is \$600.00.

The Nintendo Wii is another wish on the wishlist. This is another thing that we feel does not work. Again we looked it up for ourselves and it seems that the Wii has some defects. When the Wii gets upgrades it tends to mess up the consul. What we mean by upgrades is the internet and game downloads. A lot of people wanted to get the internet because the makers said that the Wii would include the internet and it does but you must download the websites.

Have you heard of the Zune? Well the Zune is new and it's popular. As you might of heard, the Zune does not work on Vista. Also the Zune will only run on Windows XP. Many companies have heard of miscalculated functions of the

## Top Technology

by Monica Saavedra and Sean Faron, 5th

The **TOP SELLING** IPOD right now is Nano \$90- \$200. The **TOP SELLING** game system right now is Playstation3 \$599.99. The **TOP SELLING** laptop is Compaq N800 only for \$499.99. The **TOP SELLING** TV right now is LCD and Plasma at \$2999.99. The **TOP SELLING** cell phone is PalmTreo 700p at \$399.99. The **TOP SELLING** home computer is Quad Core at \$4895.00.

## Penguins Caught Break Dancing

by Dithson Rosa, Dalia Mendoza, Jessica Keidel, Andrea Mireles, Dominic Bruno, and Esmeralda Vazquez, 6th

Researchers in the Antarctic studied penguins and have discovered a penguin wonderland. They have found malls, grocery stores, fast food places and even dance clubs! When the researchers went inside the dance club they found break dancing penguins. Shocked researchers ended up in the Penguin Hospital. Researchers repeatedly passed out due to nurse and doctor penguins attending to them. They decided to make a deal with the penguins. The break dancing penguins would have to compete on Dancing With The Stars. In return the humans would be able to leave penguin wonderland. Little did they know that the penguins were going to let the humans go in peace anyway.



Zune which have the makers of the Zune worried. So if someone has asked you for the Zune it's better not to risk your money. The highest Zune listed on ebay is currently \$515.00.

Other than misfunctions on the Zune it works perfectly fine for a half or more satisfied customers!

We are sure you are all aware of the newest Plasma TV. Many people have bought this kind of T.V but there have been many unsatisfied customers. Many have said that the Plasma T.V has had some misfunctions and others have said that it has not been lasting long enough. Plasma T.V's are power hungry because of the high voltages

## TIPS ON CHRISTMAS LIGHTING

by, Jake Brown, Raquel Almazan and Brandon Marcial, 6th

Originally, Christmas lights were used in Germany in the homes of only the very wealthy as long ago as the 17th century. They were candles, but now they are much much more complicated.

Here are some tips on lighting up your Christmas.

- \*Never hang your lights on sharp objects.
- \*Unplug the Christmas light bulbs when leaving the house, when retiring for the night, or if the Christmas tree lights are left unattended.
- \*Do not puncture the insulation of the holiday light sets with staples or nails.
- \*To reduce the risk of fire or electrical shock do not mount or support the Christmas tree lights in a manner that can cut or damage the light sets.
- \*Do not close your doors or windows on the Christmas holiday lights or extension cords as this may damage the wire insulation.
- \*To reduce the risk of overheating, replace any burned out light bulbs promptly. Use the proper Christmas holiday light bulbs with like volt and wattage replacement light bulbs.
- \*Always unplug your Christmas holiday lights before installing or replacing the Christmas light bulbs.
- \*Remove the fuses carefully. To avoid the risk of fire replace the blown out fuses with like amp and volt fuses that were provided with the Christmas lights.

Start at the top of the Christmas tree and work your way down. If you are lighting an artificial Christmas tree that is in sections you can stop lighting at the end of each section so you will not have to take the lights off the tree. Just unplug each section after Christmas and store your tree.



One gift that everyone would like in my opinion is the ipod nano. The ipod nano is light and small and easy to use. They come in many colors and you could buy a 2GB, 4GB, or 8GB. The ipod nano could hold 2000 songs. You could also download pictures and more.

The next gift is the Playstation3 the most wanted gift for Christmas. The PS3 has two systems; the 20GB for \$499.99 and the 60GB for \$599.99. The PS3 has blue ray technology which is clearer and better than high definition TV. It also has an internet connection. PS3 is the most coolest computer system that is

## Kissing Under the Mistletoe

by Martha Trevino and Becky Arriola, 7th

The legend of the mistletoe is that when two people come under it at the same time they must share a kiss. The legend is based in eighteenth-century England around Christmas time. When a young lady would stand under a mistletoe she could not refuse a kiss. When kissed it could mean a deep romance, a lasting friendship, or goodwill. But if a girl remains unknissed she could not expect to be married in the following year. On the twelfth day the mistletoe must be burned or the girls that got knissed would never marry. It is also said if you place a mistletoe over a baby's cradle the child will never be kidnapped. The mistletoe's name originally meant "dung-on-a-twig". In the Celtic language, Mistletoe means "All Heal".

Today most mistletoe is commercially harvested in Texas, Oklahoma, and New Mexico. Kissing under the mistletoe is attributed to the English who, after every kiss, plucked a berry from the bunch and discarded it. When the berries were gone, tradition called for the kissing to stop. So even if the original meaning of the mistletoe has been long forgotten, the custom of exchanging a kiss under the mistletoe can still be found in many European countries as well as in Canada.

## Traditional Christmas Food For Different Cultures

by Gabriela A. Zaragoza and Alyssa Hudik, 7th

There are a lot of different cultures that celebrate Christmas and that have their own traditional Christmas dinner. Most of the **Mexican** culture make tamales as one dish for Christmas. It takes a lot of work to make tamales especially when you make them from scratch trust me I know. There are different kinds of tamales. Christmas cookies are one thing that almost every culture eat. They usually make them in different shapes. Sometime they are shaped like gingerbread people. Kolachkes are a type a cookie that have a jelly like substance. The **Czech** culture usually enjoys this dessert. A traditional **Irish** Christmas dinner is Corned Beef and Cabbage. They also have Christmas pudding or better known as Plum Pudding. The **French** have a traditional Christmas cake called Buche De Noel. Buche De Noel is like a chocolate mousse.

## Fake Trees vs. Real Trees

by Amanda Vazquez and Hannah Molina, 5th

We're not big fans of real trees because we love nature and we don't like using real things. Fake trees look the same as the real trees but they are different from each other. Real trees are made by nature and fake trees are made of plastic. They both look nice but you will know the difference. When you have a fake tree all of the little needles will not fall. But when you have a real tree the needles will fall. The fake trees can be any color but the real trees can only naturally be green.

## How Students Prepare For Jesus

by Bianca Pasturczak and Jazmine Napoles, 7th

### Mrs. Zahrobsky-PreKindergarten 3

The preschool has hung up a manger outside their room on the 1st floor. They have read stories about baby Jesus, and will make mangers to take home.

### Mrs. O'Malley/Mrs. Ocampo-Grade 2

In second grade they put up a manger scene and an Advent wreath. They have discussed the meaning of Advent and are making an Advent booklet.

### Sr. Bernadette-Third Grade

Grade 3 is preparing for the birth of Jesus by working in their Advent booklet. In this booklet they have an Advent Calendar, a Jesse Tree to make, a letter to Jesus, puzzles, and other activities to remind them of the real reason for Christmas. Every week they read the gospel for the coming Sunday and complete an activity worksheet that helps them understand the meaning of the good news of the gospel.

## All I Really Want.....by Arnold Martinez, 7th

out there to enjoy. The PS3 has a combination of cell processors that increase the playability and rechargeable wireless controllers.

Last is the Nintendo wii. The wii is a game system that your body movement controls your character in the game. The wii is for all ages and is retailing for \$249.99.

## ChiCago Bears ready for Playoffs

by Vince Cerda and Rafael Sierra, 7th

The Chicago Bears are heading straight towards the Super Bowl playoffs! They have a great record with 11 wins and 2 losses. Brian Urlacher is helping lead the defense to stop anything in their path. They have just recently clinched their division. So they are already guaranteed to play in the playoffs. There has been a lot of talk about Rex Grossman, but as long as the Bears keep up the good work he

should be fine throughout the season. So far one of the biggest obstacles is the Indianapolis Colts and the San Diego Chargers. But all of us believe that the Bears will pull through and defeat them no matter what. The Minnesota Vikings tried to make a come back in our division but fortunately the Bears stopped them in their tracks and now they're heading straight to the Super Bowl.

## Tony Romo V.S Drew Bledsoe

by Narcisse Robles and Jacob Banda, 5th

Antonio Ramiro "Tony Romo" is the current starting quarterback for the National Football League's Dallas Cowboys. He replaced Drew Bledsoe in week 8 in the 2006 season. Romo was signed by the Cowboys under the advice of Sean Payton. Romo hung around as a quarterback after Quincy Carter was released. The Cowboys signed veteran quarterback Drew Bledsoe, the 8th starting quarterback of the Cowboys since 2000.

In 2006 pre-season, had one of the best games in his career against the Seattle Seahawks. Romo's performance had many experts wondering Romo's time to replace Bledsoe as the quarterback.



Bledsoe



Romo



## Pros and Cons of Eggnog

by Jamieson J. Carreon and Daniel E. Uphues, 7th

### Pros:

Well I don't know much about eggnog, but I really don't like it so I will Google it. Many believe that eggnog is a tradition that was brought to America from Europe. Eggnog is one of those holiday traditions that is either hated or cherished. Some love the foamy, milky substance. It brings back fond memories of Christmas by the firelight and real Christmas trees.

### Cons:

Since eggnog is made with raw eggs you can get Salmonella. It has a lot of calories. There is 1 in 10,000 chance it has harmful bacteria in it. You can get food poisoning. It has milk so if you're lactose intolerant you shouldn't drink it.

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## Rap Vs. Rock: When Worlds Collide

by Frank Jourige and Steve Claudio, 6th

### The History of Rap

For years people have been fighting over what's better Rock or Rap. Rap originated in the late 70s and early 80s it first started out with DJ's. They created the scratch which gave hip hop its beat. At first hip hop was not rap it was simply Disco except more hyped up. Mainly, rappers got into the business to start a "better life". Rap does not involve the use of musical instruments. Rapping is basically talking about problems and life matters that are not easy to solve.

### The History of Rock

Rock, originally. Rock 'n' Roll, was started in 1955 by Chuck Berry. Rock is most famous in Europe, mainly British rock. As the years went on, rock began to change, and became more louder, tougher, with better instruments, such as the key board, and the snare drum, etc. Rock is a guitar, the drums, a lead singer, a bass, and sometimes a keyboard. It is still favored by many Americans today.

## Christmas Cultures

by Rosemary Benjamin, 7th

### Belgium



On December 6th Saint Nicholas is celebrated, which is an entirely different holiday from Christmas. In Belgium, Santa Claus is called de Kerstman or le Père Noël and he does come around on Christmas day to bring children presents. Small family presents are given at Christmas too, under the tree, or in stockings near the fire-place, to be found in the morning. Christmas breakfast in Belgium is a special sweet bread called 'cougnon' or 'cougnolle' - the shape is supposed to be like baby Jesus.

### Brazil



Father Christmas is called Papai Noel. Many customs of Christmas are like some customs of the USA or UK. For the people who have enough money, a special Christmas dinner would be chicken, turkey, ham, rice, salad, pork, fresh and dried fruits, often with beer. Poorer people will just have chicken and rice.

### Finland



Finnish people believe that Santa Claus lives in the north part of Finland called Korvatunturi. People from all over the world send Santa Claus letters in Finland. Everyone cleans their houses to get ready for the three holy days- Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, and Boxing Day. Christmas Eve is very special, when people eat rice porridge and plum fruit juice in the morning. They will then decorate a spruce tree in the home. At mid-day, the 'peace of Christmas' is broadcast on radio and TV from the Finnish city of Turku by its Mayor. In the evening, a traditional Christmas dinner is eaten.

### Latvia



Latvians believe that Santa Claus brings presents on each of the 12 days of Christmas. Usually the presents are put under the family Christmas tree. It was in Latvia that the first Christmas tree was decorated.



### When Worlds Collide

Rock and Rap have had many polls on the Internet, and it seemed that rock had many more votes than rap. But that does not mean Rap has lost.

# MERRY CHRISTMAS!!!!