

# Ambassadors Preparatory Academy

(409) 762-1115 [www.apagalv.org](http://www.apagalv.org)



## The Home-School Connection

December 21, 2017



**Thursday, Dec. 21<sup>st</sup> - EARLY RELEASE**

**Dismissal at 12:30 P.M.**

**Friday, Dec. 22<sup>nd</sup> - Friday, Jan. 5<sup>th</sup>**

**WINTER BREAK**

**Monday, January 8<sup>th</sup> - Classes resume**

**“The Nutcracker” was a success!!**

**THANKS TO YOU!!!**



Faculty and Staff of Ambassadors Preparatory Academy

Fine Arts Instructor and Performance Coordinator:

Ms. Anita Donatto

Soloists: Ms. Bobino, Mr. Rivera, and Ms. Donatto

Host: Darnell Harris, Student Council President

Parents, relatives, and friends of APA:

Valencia Arceneaux

Mitch Mitchell

Lauren Webb

JoAnn Ware

Anna Lindsey

Kayla Edwards

Stephanie Settlemire

June Joseph

Moody Methodist Church: Sam Caminade and Barry Hailey



# “Scenes from the Nutcracker”



Pre-K 4 students performing “Chinese Dance”



Kindergarten ready and all set for the Winter Program!



First Grade doing the “Dance of the Snowflakes”



Kindergarten doing the “Mirliton Dance”



Second Grade doing the “Russian Dance”



Pre-K 3 doing the “Waltz of the Flowers”



5<sup>th</sup> Grade Girls - Spanish Dancers - 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Boys



Sixth Grade doing the “Waltz of the Party Guests”



Fourth Grade doing the “Arabian Dance”



Meah Bordon “Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy”



3<sup>rd</sup> Grade boys “Toy Soldiers”

## ***Hanukkah***

Hanukkah is an eight-day commemoration in Judaism marking the rededication of the Temple by the Maccabees after their victory over the Syrians. The Jews only had a small amount of oil, which was only enough for one day. But it lasted for eight days. The Jewish Festival of Lights is celebrated by lighting one candle each night on a special candelabra called a menorah.

Kids often play games during Hanukkah. The most popular game involves a dreidel, a four-sided spinning top with Jewish letters on each side.

## ***Ramadan***

Ramadan is a month of daily fasting during daylight hours for Muslims that culminates in the holiday of Eid al-Fitr. Ramadan is the fourth of the five pillars of Islam. It is the ninth month of the Islamic calendar; the dates are determined by the Islamic lunar calendar, so it can fall at different times of year.

Most Muslims try to give up bad habits during Ramadan, and some will pray more or read the Quran, the Muslim holy book. Many will try to read the whole Quran at least once during Ramadan and many will attend services in mosques where the Quran is read.

Eid al-Fitr is the Festival of the Breaking of the Fast and is a time of celebration, forgiveness, giving gifts, giving to charity and spending time with family and friends.

## ***Christmas***

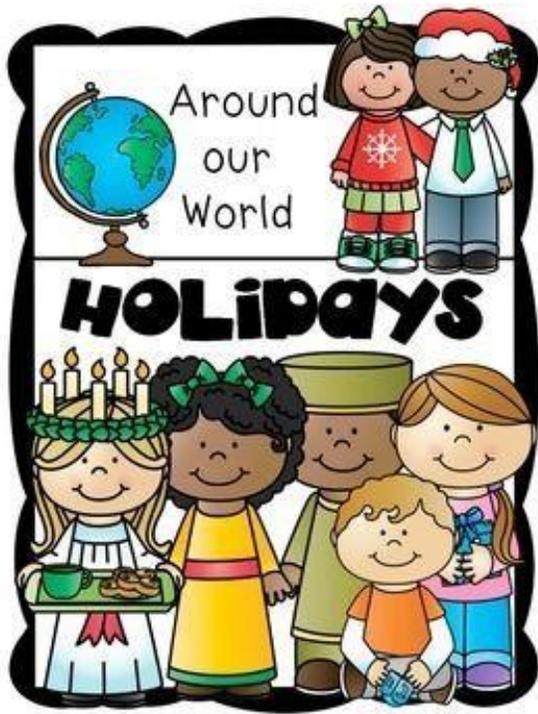
Christmas marks the birth of Jesus Christ for Christians. It's preceded by the season of Advent, which is the period of getting ready for Jesus's birth. Although the exact date Jesus was born is unknown, Christmas is celebrated in most of the world on Dec. 25.

It has evolved past just a religious holiday and has become a secular celebration too. Traditions include lighting an Advent wreath or opening an Advent calendar, gift giving, caroling, hanging stockings, attending church services and decorations such as Christmas trees, lights, mistletoe and holly.

## ***Kwanzaa***

Kwanzaa is a seven-day celebration of African heritage and culture. It was created in 1966 by Dr. Maulana Karenga, a professor of Africana Studies and California State University, Long Beach. After Watts riots in Los Angeles, Karenga was searching for a way to unite the African-American community.

The name Kwanzaa comes from the phrase "matunda ya kwanza" which means "first fruits" in Swahili. Kwanzaa begins Dec. 26 and ends Jan. 1. On each of the seven nights, the family gathers and a child lights one of the candles on the Kinara (candleholder), and discusses one of the seven principles, which are ideals created by Karenga. There are also seven symbols, which represents the values of African culture. People also celebrate Kwanzaa with feasts, music, poetry and dancing.



## Chinese New Year

The Chinese New Year, or the Spring Festival, marks the end of winter and the start of spring. It's based on the lunar calendar, so the dates change every year. The first day of Chinese New Year starts with the New Moon and ends on the Full Moon 15 days later. The festival always falls between mid-January and mid- to late-February. Traditionally, the celebration was a time to honor ancestors and deities.

People celebrate by cleaning their homes, then decorating with red paper cutouts, lanterns and phrases about good fortune. Fireworks are set off and there can be parades, featuring dragon and lion dances. Friends and family come together to celebrate. Children often receive "luck" money, given in red envelopes.

Other popular winter holidays include:

- **Santa Lucia Day**, an ancient Swedish festival during which blond-haired girls wear crowns of green leaves studded with lighted candles.
- **Winter Solstice**, the first day of winter and the longest night of the year, is also celebrated with festivals, decorations and ancient ceremonies that honor nature.
- **Three Kings Day**, also known as Epiphany, marks the day the three kings arrived to visit the newborn Christ child. This day is most commonly marked with festivities in Hispanic countries and cultures.

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## Texas A & M Field Study - Marine Biology

