



Mustang Express

Rock Creek Junior/Senior High School

December 2009

Principal 9-12:

Dennis Post

Assistant Principal 7-8:

Scott Harshbarger

USD 323

Superintendent:

Dr. Darrel Stufflebeam

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How Other Countries Celebrate the Holidays

There are many Christmas traditions around the world; you would be surprised by the differences between the United States and other countries.

For example, in the Czech Republic St. Nicholas aka Svaty Mikalas is believed to climb down to Earth from heaven on a golden rope along with his companions: an angel and a whip-carrying devil. Some young girls put a cherry twig in water on December 4, and if it blossoms, she will get married sometime during the year. At midnight most families go to Holy Mass or Pasterka.

Christmas preparations begin on December 6 in Germany; which is Nikolaustag or St. Nicholas Day. The Christmas tree originated in Germany and is a central focus of German celebrations.

In China the Christian children decorate Trees of Light or Christmas Trees with colorful ornaments made from paper. Santa Claus is called Dun Che Lao Ren, which means Christmas Old Man. The non-Christians call this season the Spring Festival. The children are the main focus, they receive new clothes and toys, eat, and watch firecracker displays.

Let's not forget Mexico, many Mexican families celebrate Las Posadas, which starts on December 16 and continues to December 25. This celebration is followed by gifts for the children and a celebration of foods.

The United States has many traditions as well. The use of Christmas trees, lights, ornaments, wreaths, candles and poinsettias to decorate is very popular. Many families buy gifts to exchange. Some families plan family meals to celebrate. Travel is likely as each family tries to keep in touch with others at this special time of year.

As you can see Christmas is not the same all around the world, but I think that is what makes each country's own celebration unique.



Christmas in Heidelberg, Germany



Los Posados in Mexico

Caroling at the Westmoreland Care Home

On Thursday, December 17, 24 members of Business Professionals of America and National Honor Society traveled to the Westmoreland Care Home to sing Christmas carols to the residents of the facility. After singing, the students greeted residents around the room and wished them a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Barbara Frank was the pianist for the group. Donna Hawkins and Pat Booth accompanied the group as sponsors.

In addition to caroling, the group donated three large bags of stuffed animals to be used as prizes for games or given to residents or visitors for comfort items.

Calendar of Events

| Date | Event | Time |
|-----------|--|--|
| 12/21 | JH/HS Concert | 7:30 p.m. |
| 12/22 | Dismiss regular time | All Day |
| 12/23-1/3 | NO SCHOOL (PK-12) | |
| 1/4 | Students return to school | |
| 1/5 | HSBB Riley County | 4:45 p.m. |
| 1/8 | HSBB @ Silver Lake | 4:45 p.m. |
| 1/9 | State Music Live Audition at Salina HSWR @ Burlington Tournament HSWR @ Marysville JV Tournament HSBB @ Royal Valley, Freshman Girls HSBB @ Dickinson County Classic | TBD 9:15 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 3:30 p.m. |
| 1/11 | HSBB @ Royal Valley, Freshman Girls | TBD |
| 1/12 | HSBB @ Rossville | 4:00 p.m. |
| 1/13 | Board of Education Meeting | 7:00 p.m. |
| 1/15 | Early Exit Presentations HSWR @ Wabaunsee Tournament HSWR @ Abilene, JV HSBB Wabaunsee | 8:00 a.m. - noon 3:00 p.m. 4:00 p.m. 4:45 p.m. |
| 1/16 | JH District Band/Choir JHBB @ Royal Valley, 8 th Grade JHBB @ Jeff West, 7 th Grade HSWR @ Wabaunsee Tournament HSBB Rock Creek Tournament, Freshman Girls/Boys | 8:00 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. |
| 1/18 | NO SCHOOL (PK-12) FFA Winter CDE Day | 8:30 a.m. |
| 1/19 | HSBB @ Canton/Galva Tournament, Boys JHBB Rossville HSWR @ Wamego w/Holton | TBD 5:30 p.m. 6:00 p.m. |
| 1/21 | HSBB @ Canton/Galva Tournament, Boys Sports Pictures JHBB Mill Creek Valley | TBD 2:45 p.m. 5:30 p.m. |
| 1/22 | HSBB @ Canton/Galva Tournament, Boys State Debate KSU Honors Band HSWR @ Holton JV Tournament HSBB St. Marys, Girls | TBD TBD 8:30 a.m. 3:30 p.m. 4:45 p.m. |
| 1/23 | FFA KSU Ag Ed Speech CDE KSU Honors Band State Debate HSWR @ Holton Tournament | TBD TBD TBD 9:30 a.m. |
| 1/24 | KSU Honors Band | TBD |
| 1/25 | JHBB @ St. Marys | 4:30 p.m. |
| 1/26 | HSBB @ Hiawatha Tournament, Girls | TBD |
| 1/28 | HSBB @ Hiawatha Tournament, Girls JHBB @ Riley County HSWR @ Horton | TBD 5:30 p.m. 6:00 p.m. |
| 1/29 | Hutch Jazz Festival HSWR @ Manhattan JV Tournament HSBB St. Marys, Boys | All Day 4:00 p.m. 4:45 p.m. |
| 1/30 | HSBB @ Hiawatha Tournament, Girls RC Forensics Tournament | TBD 8:00 a.m. |

Winter Weather Driving

There are many ways to handle dangerous weather. The main thing is to pay attention to the weatherman and the warnings. If they tell you the weather is very bad, try to stay inside as long as you can. Here are some winter driving tips you may take if you have to leave.

- Find out about driving conditions before you go.
- Remove snow and ice from vehicle to make sure you can be seen, especially around the turn signals, brake lights and windows.
- Buckle up before you set the vehicle in motion.
- Leave early so you have extra time wherever you are traveling.
- Slow down for wet, snowy and icy conditions.
- Do not slam on your brakes when you are driving.
- Avoid quick acceleration.
- Never use cruise control in winter weather conditions.

Survival Kit

It is unusual that we would have two snow days already this winter. Did you have your vehicle ready for winter weather? If not, here are some items you may want to keep in your vehicle in case of a winter storm.

- Cellular phone
- Red flag
- Flares
- Matches/lighter
- Candles
- Flashlight
- Ice scraper
- Shovel
- Sand or cat litter
- Traction mats
- Tow rope or chain
- Jumper cables
- Extra winter clothing
- Blankets
- Non-perishable foods
- Can opener
- First aid kit
- Metal coffee cans



RC Activities on Snow Days?

Snow days are always a pleasant surprise. How do Rock Creek students fill their day when they can't go to school. Here are a few responses:

Torrey Peterson: "I rode in a sled behind our Rhino. Also drank lots of hot cocoa and ate candy canes!"

Chelsea Renner: "I did homework and a puzzle!"

Seth Lightfoot: "Shoveled driveways, and played in the fluffy snow."

Ben Berard: "Nothing."

Counselor's Notes

| Deadline: | Description: |
|-----------|--|
| | Students planning to complete the ACT exam next semester may register for ACT Exam Prep classes at Manhattan High School. The coordinator is Carolyn Devane at 586-2110 or e-mail CAROLYND@manhattan.k12.ks.us . |
| | Students in grades 9-12 who are considering broadcasting careers may be interested in the Manhattan Broadcasting Mentoring Program . See Mr. Sullivan for details. |
| | Seniors may apply for various 2010 State American Legion Scholarships . Numerous award categories and stipulations. Scholarship values are from \$250 - \$1,500. |
| | Seniors pursuing art, dance, music, or theatre studies at Kansas State University may apply for the 2010 Fine Arts Scholarships . See Mr. Sullivan for details and an application. |
| | Grade 9-12 students planning to pursue careers as physicians may attend the National Youth Leadership Forum on Medicine . The 10-day summer sessions, which will be conducted in cities across the U.S., are dedicated to the early recognition and preparation of the nation's most promising future physicians. See Mr. Sullivan for more information and registration details. |
| | Girls in grades 9-12 who are considering engineering careers may want to participate in the annual SWE Weekend of Engineering Program at the University of Kansas (March 6-7). See Mr. Sullivan for details and registration forms. |
| | Grade 7-12 students are eligible to participate in the annual Images of Aging photo contest sponsored by the University of Kansas Medical Center. Awards range in value from \$100 - \$300. See Mr. Sullivan for contest rules/more information or visit www2.kumc.edu/coa . |
| | Seniors may qualify for free college tuition scholarships and monthly \$1,000 awards by registering at nextSTEPmag.com . |
| | Students in grades 9-12 may be interested in full year or summer International Student Exchange Program for 2010-11 school term. See me for more info/application details. |
| 1/8/10 | Seniors with a minimum 3.0 GPA and 24 ACT score, who are planning to attend Washburn University, may apply for the 2010-11 Leadership Scholarships . See Mr. Sullivan for applications. |
| 1/15/10 | Seniors interested in applying for the Washington Crossing Foundation Scholarships (\$1,000 - \$7,500 awards). See Mr. Sullivan for more information or visit gwcf.org . |
| 1/15/10 | Seniors with a minimum 3.0 GPA interested in applying for the 2009 Outstanding Senior High Youth Awards with stipends range from \$250 - \$1,000 should see Mr. Sullivan for information. |
| 2/01/10 | Seniors interested in applying for the 2010 ESA Foundation Scholarships should see Mr. Sullivan or visit www.esaintl.com/esaf . Qualifications vary, awards range in value from \$500 - \$1000. |
| 2/10/10 | Seniors with a minimum 2.75 grade point average, who plan to pursue a bachelor's degree (\$20,000), may be interested in applying for the 2010 KFC Colonel's Scholarships. Preference given to those applicants demonstrating financial need. Visit www.kfcscholars.org for more info./applications (\$5000 renewable scholarships) |
| 2/15/10 | USA Funds Access to Education Scholarships - based on economic need, attending any post secondary education institution (\$1,500), apply online at www.usafunds.org/scholarship . |
| 2/17/10 | Seniors whose parents are active duty or retired service members (Army, Navy, Coast Guard, Marine Corps, or Air Force) are encouraged to apply for the for the 2010 Military Children Scholarship . See Mr. Sullivan for applications or visit www.militaryscholar.org . Award amounts vary. |
| 3/12/10 | KACRAO scholarships - minimum 3.25 cumulative, 22 ACT score, and record of leadership (four/\$500 awards), see me for more apps or visit www.kacrao.org . |

Winter Weather Warnings

Whenever inclement weather threatens, you should stay posted to school announcements on the front page of our website or to any of the television or radio stations listed below.

| | | | |
|--------------|--------------|-------------|----------|
| WIBW | KMAN 1350 AM | KSNT | Angel 95 |
| KTKA | Sunny 102.5 | WIBW 580 AM | Z96.3 |
| 94.5 Country | KROCK 101.5 | KTPK 106.9 | B 104.7 |

The Rock Spotlight



WINTER ROYALTY

QUEEN: *Torrey Peterson*

KING: *Jared Hawkins*

ATTENDANTS:

*Danielle Area, Megan Feldkamp
Pake Ebert, Nolan Fike*

3A All-State Volleyball
Becky Lightfoot

KMEA

State Honor Choir
Justin Fronce, Tenor

**Kansas Scholastic
Press Association**
Rock Creek Yearbook

**Top Honor
All-Kansas**

Excellence in concept, coverage, design,
photography and reporting

Salina Central Debate Tournament
Rock Creek, 3rd Place

Team Members:

*Sam Cott, Torrey Peterson, Ben Peterson, Mandi Blenn,
Ashtin Lee, Paige Nickell, Trey Basa and Kyle Nelson*

Salina South JV Debate Tournament
Rock Creek, 1st Place

Team Members:

*Josh Roberts, Dylan Meyer, Lauren Leupold, Crystal
Chitwood, Jacob Miller and Shane Adams*

Sacred Heart Debate Tournament

Anna Jilka and Kyle Nelson, 6th Place

Varsity Scholars' Bowl

Back-to-Back 1st Place Wins
Sabetha & Onaga

Team Members:

*Mandi Blenn, Samuel Cott, George Dille, Nolan
Fike, and Seth Ruder*

Junior High Girls' Basketball

7th Grade Girls

Tournament Champs

8th Grade Girls
3rd Place