

Carr Lane VPA News & Views



January 2018

No. 2

The 2017 Winter Show opens with the Carr Lane VPA Middle Choir directed by Ms. Alfermann.



Excitement in the wings as dancers prepare to take the stage.



Dancers, directed by Ms. Parker, perform Thursday night.

Thursday night, December 14, 2017 saw a huge turnout of parents, friends and students as Carr Lane VPA opened its doors for the 2017 Winter Show. Performing groups representing The Carr Lane VPA Orchestra, Band, Choir and Dance Departments, performed before the large and appreciative audience.

WRITING CORNER

Do you like to write? Maybe you do, maybe you would rather do something else, but writing is an important skill. Here are some pieces written by 6th grade students since our last issue! What was their writing prompt? Write about your Thanksgiving-break traditions. Tell the reader what the holiday means to you, what you do, and what you eat!

MY THANKSGIVING TRADITIONS

by Anthony, Grade 6, Period 3

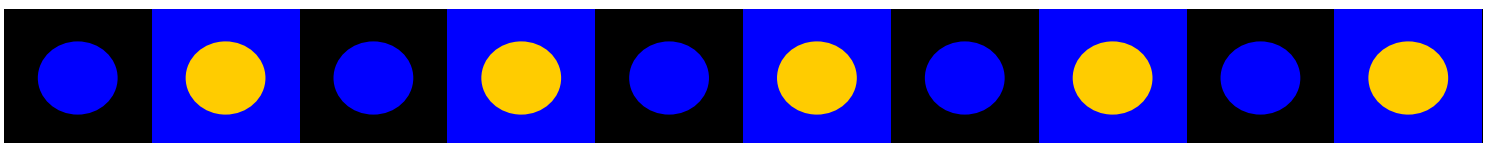
I'm going to tell you what I'm going to do on Thanksgiving. I'm going to tell you what my family and I do. We do everything you can name. It's going to be the best Thanksgiving ever. What Thanksgiving means to me is that I get to spend the day with my family and all the people that are coming. We'll love to see them at the Thanksgiving party. What we do for thanksgiving is we eat and play games, so it's going to be fun. I'm going to be playing Call of Duty, Black Ops and Boxing. What do we eat? I'm going to tell you that we eat turkey, ham, chicken, greens, and beans and more things than you can name, so, it's going to be

the best day ever. Now you know what I'm doing that whole day of Thanksgiving. My thanksgiving's day is going to be great, and maybe you can come to the party!

THANKSGIVING

by Arin, Grade 6, Period 2

I am going to tell you about my Thanksgiving traditions. Things like what I do, where I go and what I eat. Keep reading for more. Thanksgiving is a very special holiday because I love eating the food and thanking my family for all of the things they do for me and everybody they care for. On Thanksgiving we usually go to my grandma's house, but she moved to Arizona so she can see how it is there and if it's bad she will move back. Now my mother cooks the food and decorates. For Thanksgiving who doesn't have a feast? On Thanksgiving we eat potato salad, turkey, ham, dressing, cranberry sauce, beans, green beans, baked beans, spaghetti, baked chicken, hot dogs, and more. All of that food makes me hungry. The food is very good. This is what we do, where we go, and what we eat on Thanksgiving!



MY THANKSGIVING

by Christian, Grade 6, Period 3

I am going to tell you about my Thanksgiving tradition. I am going to tell you what Thanksgiving means to me. I am going to tell you what we eat. If you read this you would know I'm going to do on Thanksgiving. Thanksgiving means to me about praying. I am Thankful that Thanksgiving came, because we could be thankful for all the things we have. On Thanksgiving we pray. On Thanksgiving we go to my mom's friend's house and celebrate thanksgiving all there. We eat, I play basketball, and we have fun. On Thanksgiving we eat turkey. With that we eat beans. We eat some good food. Also, we eat all of the other Thanksgiving foods. That is what I always do for Thanksgiving year after year, all of the time.

THANKSGIVING

by Jahziah, Grade 6, Period 3

Thanksgiving means when people and family come over to eat together. I will tell you what it means to me, what we do, and what we eat. Thanksgiving means a lot to me. It means when people are thankful for what they have. On Thanksgiving I go down to my auntie's house and bring a side dish like macaroni and cheese. My mother makes the best macaroni

and cheese, and turkey, too. I love my mother's stuffing. After we eat I'm going to a park to play basketball with my cousin. Now, you know what I'm doing for Thanksgiving.

THANKSGIVING

by Joseph, Grade 6, Period 3

This will tell about my Thanksgiving tradition. I will tell about what I do, what I eat, and what it means to me. To me, Thanksgiving means to thank the people that helped you in your life. For me, that's my grandma, dad, mom, sisters, brother, and a whole lot of other people I don't need to mention. In Thanksgiving, my brother and I would go and play outside. We play star wars with our light sabers he would try to use the force. When dinner was ready, my brother and I would rush into the house and would sit at the table. My brother would start eating first. It would look like he was getting ready for hibernation. "I love Thanksgiving!"

THANKSGIVING

by Ken, Grade 6, Period 3

I am going to tell you all about my family's Thanksgiving traditions. I'm going to tell you what Thanksgiving means to me. It means to be thankful for what you have. What do we do? We play on the game system. My favorite

foods that we eat includes corn, turkey, and smoked ham, potatoes, green beans, chicken and deviled eggs. The pilgrims founded Thanksgiving. Why is this holiday special to me? It is special because I get to spend time with my family and eat a lot of food with them!

MY THANKSGIVING TRADITIONS

by K'ron, Grade 6, Period 3

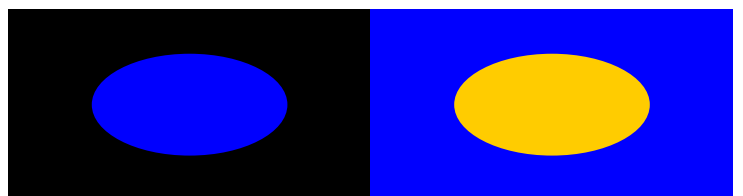
I will tell you about my family traditions. I am going to tell you what it means to me. I am going to tell you what I eat. I am going to tell you what I do on Thanksgiving. Thanksgiving means a lot to me. It's a time for me to wind down and thank my family and friends for everything. Now, I will tell you a list of things I am thankful for. First, I am thankful for my neighborhood friends. I am thankful for my siblings. I am thankful for my PS4. I am thankful for the blessings that God has given to me and my family. On Thanksgiving day my family and I are going to play 2k18. My family is going to eat good food. On Thanksgiving day my family and I are going to watch sports. On Thanksgiving day we are going to play. On Thanksgiving day I will eat green beans. I will eat tomatoes, lamb, ham, and fish. I will

eat chicken, turkey and peaches, corn, and red velvet cake. My family eats cornbread, and my family eats lots of fish, too. These are the things we do on Thanksgiving day. We have fun. We play all day. We are thankful and pray. We laugh all day long!

MY THANKSGIVING

by Isaiah, Grade 6, Period 2

I'm talking about Thanksgiving. I'm going to tell you what it means to me. I'm going to tell you what we eat. I'm going to tell you what we do. Thanksgiving is a day for family. It's a day for thanks. It's a day for fun. My family members play together. We come together as a family. We talk to each other and we love each other. We all eat together. We all play. We all cook. We pray together. We all say something were thankful for. We enjoy the food. We cook and we talk. We will eat dressing. We will eat yams. We will make turkey, ham, stuffing, and macaroni and cheese. We will also eat cranberries. We will eat pies for desert. It will be a special time, when we hang out and play games and celebrate our family. This is what I do on Thanksgiving.



MY THANKSGIVING TRADITIONS

by Shane, Grade 6, Period 3

I'll tell you what my Thanksgiving traditions are. I will tell you what it means to me. I will tell what we do, and I will tell you what we eat. That's what this essay is about. This is what Thanksgiving means to me. To me it means the giving of thanks. It also means spending time with my family. That's what Thanksgiving means to me. This is what we do on Thanksgiving. Sometimes we go to my grandma's house to eat. And other times we go to my grandpa's house. We also have parties. That's what we do on thanks giving. This is what we eat on Thanksgiving. Of course we eat a big turkey. We also eat deviled eggs. The last thing we eat is mashed potatoes. That's what we eat. That's all of my Thanksgiving traditions. You know what Thanksgiving means to me, what we do, and what we eat. That's the end.

MY THANKSGIVING

by Terrion, Grade 6, Period 2

We are going to talk about Thanksgiving. I will tell you what it means to me. I will tell you what we do on that special day. Finally, I will tell you all the good things we have to eat.

Thanksgiving means to eat and have a lot of fun. It also means being thankful for the things we have. We are going to prepare for this event. There are going to be a lot of people there. We are going to eat and enjoy a lot of fun. Talking with my family and doing family things together is important, like sharing memories and doing more. Getting good cooked food from my mom means a lot to me. We will have a very good time. I hope you have a good Thanksgiving too!

* * *

Hey, the 6th Grade students did a great job, but they were just getting warmed-up to write about their traditions surrounding the end of the year holidays and their winter break! But, speaking of breaks, let's take a "visual break" with work by 8th grade visual artist, Nick D!



Look familiar? It's Nick's take on *Link*, of the *Zelda* Franchise!

The "V" in Visual and Performing Arts

Nick is an 8th grade student at Carr Lane Visual and Performing Arts Middle School and has taken art classes up on the second floor at Carr Lane VPA for the past three years. We've known Nick since he first took computer literacy courses and showed his skills as a visual artist in our units on computer graphics. Over the next several pages, feast your eyes on some of the awesome artwork that Nick has created over the past year, the good old fashioned way, with paper and pencil! Recently, when we saw Nick in the hallways, we asked him about his artwork. He shared some of his originals. We scanned the pieces at 400 DPI and present them here. Nick signs and dates his work, and you'll note a lot of his portfolio has been completed under the guidance of VPA's own Ms. Choate! Ms. Choate runs our school's art department... the "V" in "VPA!" With students like Nick, the sky's the limit!!!



Looks like Sonic!



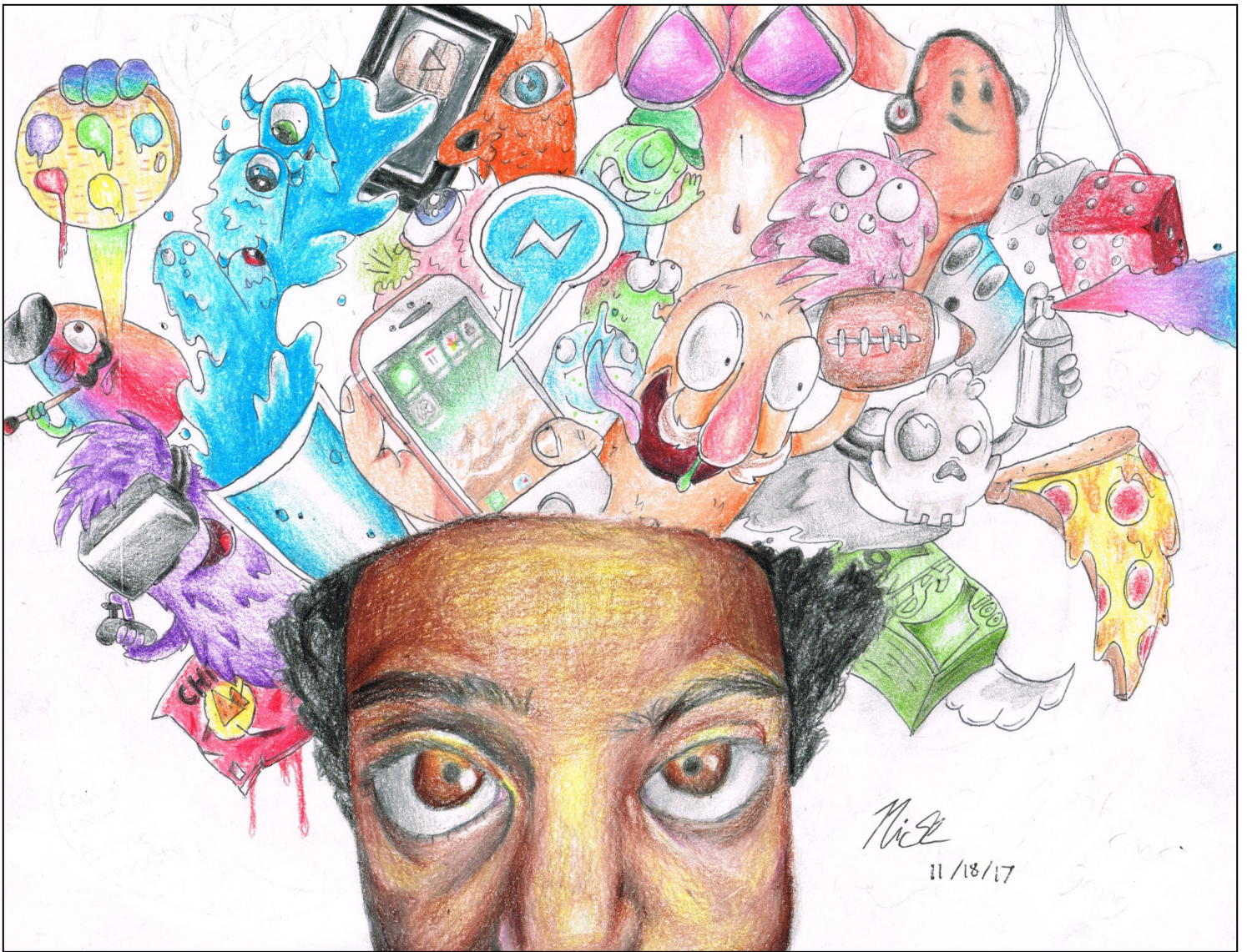
So, that's why they're so popular!



Pokemon?



Deadpool, first appeared in Marvel's "New Mutants" #98, 1991.



There's a lot going on in the mind of an 8th-grade, middle-school student. Nick "tells" us all about it, without a single "word!"



Using only standard copy-paper and colored pencils, Nick lays-down some classic images from contemporary popular culture!



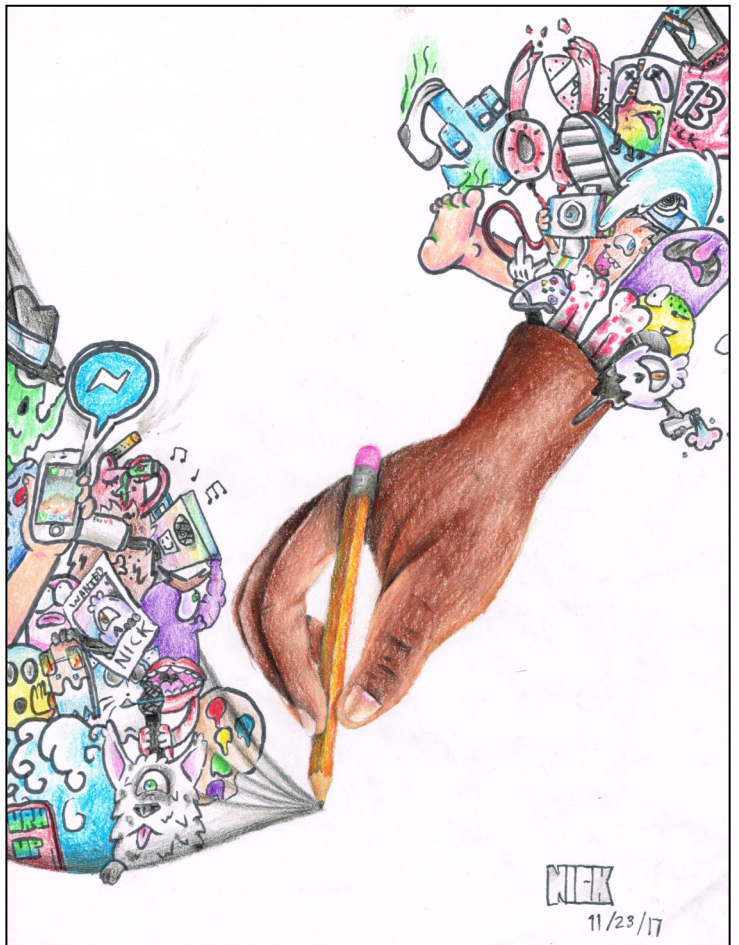
The villain from Stephen King's "It."



Could we hire Nick to do one of these with a Jaguar? Maybe we could have a contest for best Carr Lane VPA Jaguar Logo?



Alvin and his pals.



Hand of the artist.



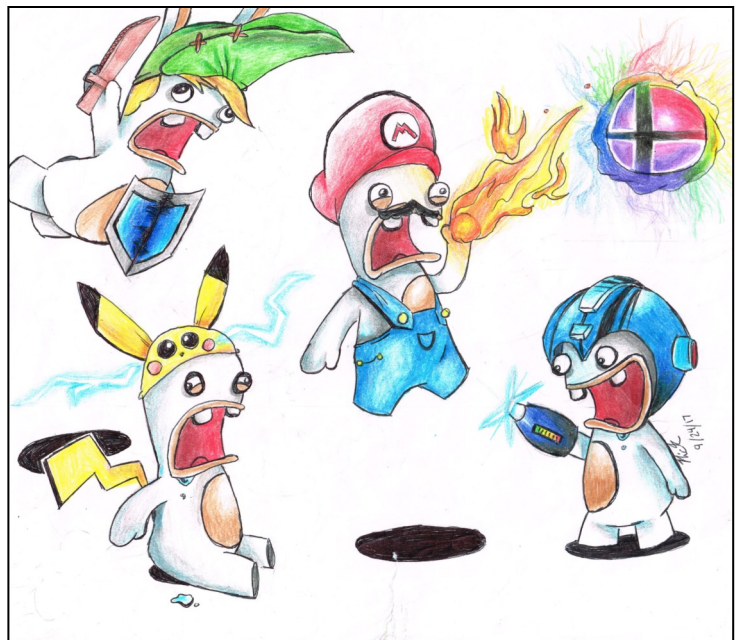
Nick has captured the “anime” style.



Look out!



Another famous anime character.



Who are these guys, Nick?

MY CHRISTMAS STORY

by Anthony, 6th Grade, Period 3

I am going to tell you what I'm going to do for Christmas. The holiday means it is the day to give and receive. Christmas is Jesus' birthday. We sit down and open up gifts most of the time. I am going to tell you what we eat. We most of the stuff that we eat on Thanksgiving, but it's made differently. Sometimes we even make-up things. To me, Christmas is the best time to eat and open presents. Everything we do at Christmas is fun. My cousins come over or we come over there. We all get surprised because most of us see gifts that we have never seen. My family and I sit down, play, eat, and have fun. That was the end of my Christmas day, but next time it will be even better in all ways. Christmas is the best holiday ever! I hope you have fun, too!

HOW CHRISTMAS GOES FOR US

by Arin, Grade 6, Period 2

I am going to tell you about the new holiday (Christmas). I am going to tell you what we eat, what the holiday means to me, what we do during the holiday, and my conclusion. Read for on for more. This holiday is great to me

because it is fun, plus you get presents. I also like when I get to see my family members. We have a lot of fun when we celebrate. For Christmas we go to my grandma's place and eat a feast. We open her presents at her house, and then we stay for a while and go home and open all of our presents from my parents and Santa. We eat a feast of delicious food for Christmas. The foods we eat include ham, baked macaroni, greens, bread, sweet potatoes, and things like that. We always have a great time on our Christmas!

MY CHRISTMAS TRADITION

by Aariah, Grade 6, Period 2

My name is Aariah. I'm going to tell you what Christmas means to me, what we do, and what we eat. If you read this, which you will, you might write something like this. To me, Christmas means family. It's like Thanksgiving, but ten times different. We give Jesus a grateful happy birthday! It also means going back over what we did in 2016, so we can be better in the future. Now, I will tell you what we do in this special time. It's a family tradition. We put presents underneath the Christmas tree. We give out the gifts to our family

members that we love. We also listen to music, dance, and pray. Now, I can tell you what we eat! We eat stuff like baked macaroni and cheese, BBQ, and stuff like that. It is always to good, very, very good. That is what my family's Christmas Tradition looks like. And we are a fun family. Merry Christmas to all of you!

MY HOLIDAY TRADITIONS

by Leah, Grade 6, Period 1

In this essay I will be telling you about my holiday and Christmas traditions. I will be talking about what Christmas means to me, what we do, and what we eat. So, what does Christmas mean to me? Christmas means a time of giving, and shopping. It's also when Jesus was born and that's what we are celebrating: Jesus' birth. If I have money left-over, I buy stuff for myself. That's mainly it. What do we do? On Christmas Eve we open our pajama's and put them on for the night. That night I also make cookies or something for Santa. When we wake up we open presents. In my family, we are early birds, so we wake up very early. What do we eat on Christmas? We eat everything! It's like a big Thanksgiving dinner for three people, with three deserts and leftovers for days. I'm going to be fat when I'm done. I

know my holiday will be great. I also go over to other family's houses. I hope everybody has a great holiday. I can't wait until next year!

CHRISTMAS

by Isaiah, Grade 6, Period 2

My favorite holiday is Christmas. I'm going to talk about what it means to me, what we do during the holiday. We will also talk about what we eat. This is what Christmas means to me. Christmas is a day to celebrate Christ. Christmas is a day for presents. Christmas is a day for joining together and having fun. It is a day for being thankful. This is what Christmas means to me. This is what we do on Christmas. We open presents early in the morning. We enjoy our presents. I get a lot of candy. This is what we do on Christmas. This is what we eat on Christmas. We go to breakfast at International House of Pancakes. We might also eat at Denny's. My mama cooks lots. She cooks meatloaf, macaroni, sweet potatoes, greens and lots of other great things. This is what we eat on Christmas. This passage was about my Christmas Traditions. I told you learned about what Christmas means to me, what we do, and what we eat. I hope you enjoyed this passage and that you have a wonderful holiday.

MY CHRISTMAS

by Jahziah, grade 6, period 3

What I am doing for Christmas? I am opening up presents and going to my grandma's house. Christmas means when family come together and puts out presents. We have a dance completion. Usually, we go ice skating, but this year I don't know what we are doing. We eat lots of great things that my mom makes. Now, you all know what I am going to do for my Christmas holidays!

WINTER TRADITIONS

by Jessica, Grade 6, Period 1

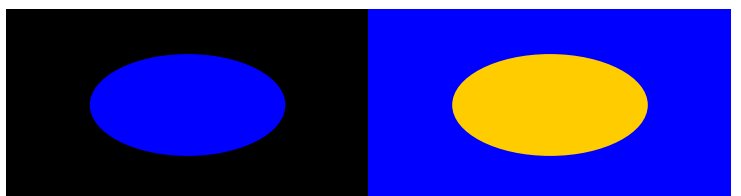
Today I will be sharing what I do on Christmas. I will be sharing what Christmas means to me, what we do, and what we eat. Here are my holiday traditions. Christmas, to me, means giving people presents, eating food, and shopping. Christmas also means celebrating the birth of Jesus. Christmas, to me, also means gathering with family and decorating. The week before Christmas we go shopping for gifts for people in my family. On Christmas I wake up, take my presents to my room, look at them, then I go back to sleep. Then, I wait a few hours to eat. On Christmas I eat ham,

mashed potatoes, and pie. Also for breakfast I eat bacon, eggs, and juice. This is what I eat. These are all my holiday traditions, consisting of what Christmas means to me, what we do, and what we eat. These are my holiday traditions.

MY HOLIDAY TRADITIONS

by Arianna, Grade 6, Period 1

The winter Holidays is the best time of my life in every year. Do you want to know what I do, like what the winter holidays mean to me, what we do, and what we eat? Well, here we go. The holidays mean to me a lot because it's when Jesus was born. Also, it's fun and it's spiritual. I love the holidays. We go over to my auntie's house for Christmas or my granny's house. We open our presents, get cleaned up, and go eat. It is so much fun. We play games, but the kids gets to choose the games. The game I choose is Family Feud. When we go over to my auntie's house we eat bake macaroni and cheese, ham, greens, mashed potatoes, and other food. I love when we eat dinner in the middle of the day. That is why I like the holidays!



MY CHRISTMAS

by Princess, Grade 6, Period 2

The holidays are fun. In this paragraph I am going to tell you what it means to me, what we eat and what we do. The holidays mean to me fun for the whole family. This includes meeting relatives that I don't know, getting presents and giving presents. I look forward to going into a New Year with family and friends. For the holidays all the ladies are in the kitchen. While the men watch football, and the teens are on their phones, and the kids play in the basement, look after and entertain the babies, the grown women cook! We eat ham, cabbage, greens, chicken, sweet potato pie, pecan pie, 7-Up, chocolate cake, Sushi, rice and rotale. Next, for the holidays we open our presents on Christmas Day. We go to church and come home with some family & friends and they go to my house. We go to my sister's best friend's house because her birthday is on Christmas. We all spend the night. The next morning, the people that came and stayed at my sister's best friend's house all go back to my house. This time my sister's best friend and her sister come over to our house until New Years. It is all so much fun at Christmas time!

MY CHRISTMAS

TRADITIONS

by Ronnie, Grade 6, Period 2

My winter holiday is what I am going to be talking about. This is what we do. This is what we eat. This is what it means to me. Christmas is my favorite holiday of the year. What Christmas means to me is to get good grades, to be the best I can at home and at school. This is what we do. We do a lot of things together. We eat delicious food, play with snow, and eat hot coco. It is important to be with family, and it is a lot of fun to get together and to open presents. This is what happens at Christmas where I am.

MY WINTER HOLIDAYS

by Shane, Grade 6, Period 3

I will be talking about my winter holidays. We will talk about what it means to me, what we do, and what we eat. That's what we will talk about. The first thing we will talk about is what Christmas means to me. What Christmas means to me is spending time with family, trading gifts, and spreading joy. That's what it means. What we do on Christmas is we prepare meals. We have family over. We open presents. That's what we do. What do we eat? We

eat ham, mashed potatoes, and pie. That's what we eat. That's what happens on Christmas, including what we eat, what we do, and what it means to me. That's all that happens.

HOLIDAY TRADITIONS

By Terrion Givans, Grade 6, Period 3

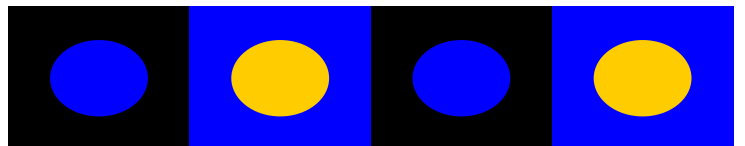
I am going to talk about Christmas. I am going to tell you what it means to. Like what we do and what we eat like. What we eat and way more. Winter holiday mean have having fun with family. Opening presents and getting surprised with objects .Watching family emotions when they get surprised. Eating a lot of different type of food is fun. We open a lot of different presents and enjoy family things. For instance when my family open presents we sometimes be surprised. We sometimes get nerves sometimes. We sometimes get presents that the other person wants. We eat chicken that my momma cooks. We eat candy canes off the Christmas tree. My grandma even makes cookies and milk. I enjoy it so much. The smell is just wonderful. My family is coming from Arkansas. They are going to be joining us at Christmas this school year. We are going to be so happy. This Christmas I am very ready. They are going to be bringing

Christmas. I hope you all have a big celebration, and a very happy Holiday Break, too!

MY HOLIDAYS

by Christian, Grade 6, Period 3

This is my Christmas introduction. I'm going to tell you what Christmas means to me, what we do for Christmas, and what we eat for Christmas. What Christmas means to me is to open some presents and to celebrate Jesus Christ's birthday. In December 25 that is why they made Christmas because it is Jesus' birthday. I love opening presents on Christmas day. On Christmas we invite other people over to open presents with us. My mom buys some presents for one of my cousins if they are with us. If they are not with me she goes to them to drip off the presents. Then we stay at their house for a bit. After that we go to my Grandma's house. On Christmas we go eat at my grandma's house, and she makes us lots of great food. This year I think we are going to eat some pozole. That is a kind of Mexican food that we eat. It tastes so good that I would eat it every day! Now you know what we do for Christmas Day every year.



MY CHRISTMAS

by Daryll, Grade 6, Period 3

This is a story about Christmas. Christmas means a lot to me. On Christmas we pass out presents and have a lot of fun. It means a lot to me and my family. It is the day we celebrate Jesus' birthday. Christmas is my favorite holiday. On Christmas we wake up. We go open our presents. Then we go back to sleep for a couple hours. On Christmas we make gingerbread men and houses. We have a lot of fun with family and friends. We play board games and just have a lot of fun. My cousins and I go outside and make snowballs and throw them at each other. On Christmas we eat regular food for 8 hours. Then we eat the good stuff. We eat ham, greens, mostaccioli, BBQ, and all types of good stuff. Everyone comes to our house. We eat well. Now, you know what we do for Christmas. I hope that you all have a good Christmas, too.

CHRISTMAS

by K'ron, Grade 6, Period 3

I will tell you what I do when it's Christmas day. I will tell you what it means to me, what I do and what I eat. So, now I will tell you all those things, and I hope you enjoy. Christmas means a lot to me. Christmas mean happiness

and joy. Christmas means singing Christmas songs, unwrapping presents, and being with family that survive this year. On Christmas day my family and I wake up in the morning and open presents. We eat breakfast. On Christmas day I pray and am thankful. I smile on Christmas day. I watch sports and eat. On Christmas day I like to play in the snow. On Christmas day my family eats green beans, turkey, ham, and potatoes. We also eat chocolate strawberries. It is all so good, and now, you know all about my Christmas.

* * *

Thanks to our 6th grade writers for sharing some of their holiday traditions! Meanwhile, in the afternoon in the 109 computer room, the 8th Grade computer literacy students were finishing a five-week unit on Desktop Publishing. When they learned what the 6th Grade students had been writing before the Winter Break, many of them stepped-up to the challenge. See some of their thoughts on the following pages...

MY HOLIDAY

by Lashawn, Grade 8, A-Day

What I do for Christmas is talk to my family and friends and get on my phone and talk to girls and spend time at my grandpa's place and eat cake. I want a new phone for Christmas and a car, and I'm going to get soSme new shoes and a bike, and I'm going to be happy that I don't have to go to school. I'm going to buy a girl a phone for her birthday. She is go-

ing to be happy and she is going to cry. She is going to be so happy for her birthday. I'm going to come back to my house and eat some great food, and I'll be outside talking to my friends and my family. My holiday is going to be great fun!

MY HOLIDAY

by James, Grade 8, A-Day

This year I'm celebrating Christmas in a big way. The last few years I'd stay in trouble, so I only got a couple things, but from now on I get things because my grades are good and my behavior is OK. We eat Polar Express every year. I don't know if it counts as a Christmas food, but it's absolutely good. Love that food! On Christmas Eve night I go and watch Christmas movies every year. I always watch a movie on Christmas Eve, as there are plenty of Christmas movies for everyone. Watching a Christmas movie gets you really excited, and I find it helps me sleep. Most Christmas movies can be watched by the whole family. And that is exactly what I do! I open one present on Christmas Eve. Opening only one gift is good because Christmas isn't about getting, you know.

MY HOLIDAYS

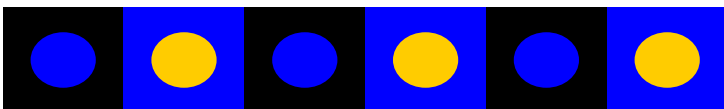
by Makayla, Grade 8, A-Day

On my holiday I wake up, and I go eat some breakfast. Then my siblings and I go wake up my dad. We go down stairs, and my dad takes pictures of us in front of the Christmas tree. After that, we take more pictures. My mom records us opening up gifts. Next, we open-up all of our gifts. My dad makes us throw out all the Christmas wrappings in the trash, and we take our gifts to our rooms. Then, we play with toys for half of the day. Around four o'clock we get dressed. We go to my aunt's house, because she throws a party every year. We stay at my aunt's house until around ten, playing with our family. We also eat and open up more gifts to play with. When we go home, we watch Christmas movies and eat snacks for the rest of the night. That's what I do on my holidays.

NAILAH'S HOLIDAY

by Nailah, Grade 8, A-Day

For Christmas, my sisters, brothers and I come together and spend time with each other. We open presents and play with them for a little bit and then talk about how much we like our presents. After that, my dad and mom go out and spend time with each other. Next, my little sis-



ter, my momma, and I go to my auntie's house and get more presents. (My other sister and brothers and dad are step-relatives, but we have all been together since I was 2 so....yeah!) When we are done hanging-out with my aunt and our cousins, we go see our great-grandma and grandpa. After that, I go to stores and get more presents from ALL my gift cards. Finally, I think about everybody I didn't see and wish them a Merry Christmas!

MY HOLIDAY TRADITION

by Trinity, Grade 8, A-Day

If you read this you will learn of the great holiday traditions in my family. Every year we open up one gift, maybe two at 12:00 on Christmas Eve. We don't have a Christmas tree, my sister drew a Christmas tree with designs, because it was better for us, so we just put the presents under the drawing tree and pretend it's a regular tree. I usually go to sleep after opening presents on Christmas Eve. I have two grown brother, so they won't get as much stuff as me. The next day, on Christmas, I open most of my presents. (Most of the time I already know what I'm going to get.) I spend time with my family, joking, laughing — the usual things. Last year we went to my grandmother's house and ate and opened up some

presents. It was cool. This year is going to be even better. I will probably get more stuff than last year, and get to spend time with the family.

MY HOLIDAY TRIDITION

by Takayla, Grade 8, A-Day

On Christmas we drink hot cocoa and open our presents. Sometimes, we go to parties with family members and spend time with them. My uncle likes to play his Christmas jams and sings along to his favorite songs. My cousins, my siblings, and I open our presents at 6:30. The best part about the whole day is when all my age-grouped cousins and I get together and enjoy our gifts. My older cousin likes to make fun of us when we text each other as we sit right next to each other. Last Christmas, my big brother and I got remote control cars and we raced each other. It was wonderful, and I look forward to even more fun this year.

MY HOLIDAY TRADITION

by Henyiana, Grade 8, A-Day

My holiday traditions have had to change. We used to go over to my granny's house, open presents, eat and have fun. But since my daddy's mother died, things are different now. On Christmas day we are going to the grave-site to put Christmas flowers on family mem-

ber's headstones. Things are going to be very different since my favorite grandmother died. I imagine we will still eat and exchange gifts. We will play games to keep the spirits good. I will get to see my family from different states, like Arizona and Texas. Despite all that has happened, I know I'm going to have a great Christmas. I hope my loved ones are happy and learn new things.

MY HOLIDAYS

by Antoine, Grade 8, B-Day

So, on New Year's Eve we count down, and then we celebrate. On Valentine's Day we sit in our living room and give each other gifts and talk about passed loved ones, and we have a balloon release for my dead grandmother. But Christmas is extra special. For Christmas we wake up early in the morning and open presents from each other. We all go outside and fight with snow balls, and we make snow men and snow forts. After that, we eat and then give family members gifts and we celebrate. We go home and watch a movie about Santa Claus, and then, everyone in the house is all over the house playing with new toys and all the new stuff. It is a greatest holiday of my holidays.

MY HOLIDAY TRADITIONS

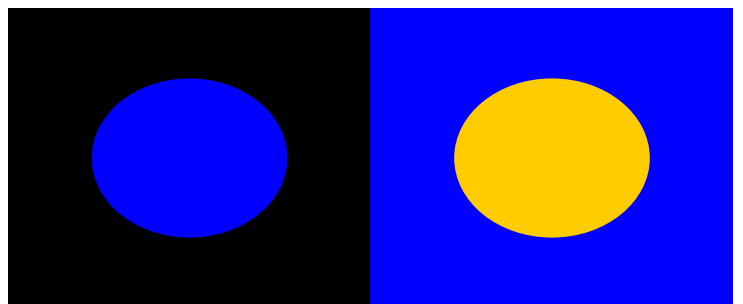
by Anthonio, Grade 8, B-Day

I am Anthonio, and I am going to tell you about my holiday traditions. A tradition that takes place on Christmas is that we open gifts and use them. Traditions that take place on Halloween are that we go and eat lots and lots of candy. Most of the time, we knock on people's doors to get the candy. Traditions that my family and I have for 4th of July is that we pop fireworks and eat good food. Another holiday that we celebrate is Thanksgiving. On Thanksgiving we eat lots of food, play games, and just have fun. These are some of my traditions on the holidays that I celebrate.

SOME FAVORITE HOLIDAYS

by Amon, Grade 8, B-Day

These are my holiday Traditions. The first is Christmas. I go and visit family members. I also enjoy giving and receiving presents. The next is Thanksgiving. I enjoy eating. I love



going over to my grandma's house, and seeing my cousin Juju. On the Fourth of July, I love popping fireworks. I enjoy seeing most of the family. On New Years, I really, really enjoy the countdown. Easter is next. I love going on scavenger hunts, and I love finding the candy in the eggs. I also love giving and receiving the Easter gift baskets. And now you know some of my favorite holidays.

MY CHRISTMAS

by Jayden, Grade 8, B-Day

My Christmas holiday traditions are that my family put up Christmas lights. After we put up the lights, I put up the Christmas tree and put lights on the tree. Then we go Christmas shopping for my sister and me. After that we wrap the gifts up. Not long after that it's Christmas morning and we all gather to open the gifts under the tree and celebrate.

MY HOLIDAY TRADITION

by John'Nesha, Grade 8, B-Day

Christmas day is one of the best holidays in my family. I love this day because it brings my whole family together. Every year my grandma, and my mother cook for Christmas. On Christmas Eve everybody spends a night at

the house, and we exchange gifts. My cousins and aunties and uncles are around, and it is just so much fun. Christmas is also a special day to my mom, because she got married on Christmas. Christmas is just like my birthday. It just brings so much joy and peace to the family. I love Christmas!

MY CHRISTMAS TRADITION

by Kinard, Grade 8, B-Day

I don't really have much of a Christmas tradition, but I always go to my grandmother's house. Then, I sometimes just go over to a family member's house. We always have presents for each other, and we always think back on times we have had before. It's really fun, because the family that we have across the world come, and we all spend time with each other.

TWO OF MY HOLIDAY TRADITIONS

by Sammy, Grade 8, B-Day

Christmas:

For Christmas, my brother, sister and I open our presents. Then, we'll always go to my great granny's house, or go to my auntie's

house to have a Christmas party. We'll be there to see the rest of our family and to have a good time.

New Years Eve:

For New Years Eve we go to my Auntie's house, and all of my family would bring food and apple cider. We usually listen to music and have fun. When it's about 7 minutes before midnight we count down. We would go outside, and we would pop fireworks on the train track right by her house. Then, we count down: 5, 4, 3, 2, 1... and we would pop the biggest, loudest firework and scream "HAPPY NEW YEAR!"

* * *



Carr Lane VPA Middle School students who are part of the Metro 8 Honors Orchestra. They're playing at the top of their game!

METRO 8 HONORS ORCHESTRA



Thanks to the Director of the Carr Lane VPA Orchestra, Ms. Hopp for sending-in these photos of the Metro 8 Honor Orchestra. This group represents an elite orchestra in the region, and Carr Lane VPA is proud of our students who are members!



Members of the Carr Lane VPA orchestra under the direction of Ms. Hopp on the night of the Carr Lane 2017-2018 Winter Show.



Ms. Hill of TRIO set-up with an informational table and a warm smile to greet parents and community members to the show.



Members of the Carr Lane VPA Band under the direction of Mr. Stith on the night of the Carr Lane 2017-2018 Winter Show.



Safety Officer, Mr. Turner, and Teachers, Ms. Ward and Mr. Phoenix in the lobby on the night of the Carr Lane VPA Winter Show. It was a full house and a wonderful, holiday show! Coach Banks and Ms. Grove were among some of the other teachers who came to help the Fine Arts Team on the big night!



Ms. Parker's Carr Lane VPA dancers perform a powerful modern number before a large and appreciative audience, Thursday night.



The awe-inspiring finale with all the VPA performers!

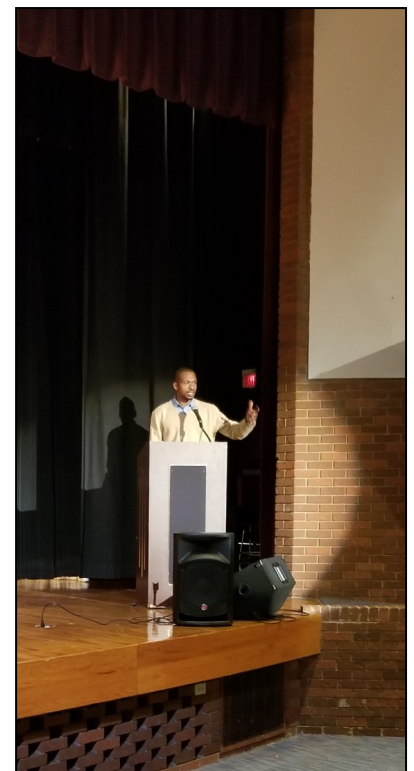
School-wide Assembly Honors Dr. King



On Friday, January 12, 2018 the entire student population of Carr Lane VPA Middle School gathered in the Auditorium at 9:00 AM for a school-wide assembly to observe and honor the memory of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. In addition to students, Principal Young requested that every adult staff member in the building also attend. Hosted by Carr Lane VPA Counselor, Ms. Williams, the assembly proved to be a powerful and moving tribute to the memory of Dr. King and his legacy as a champion of human rights. Members of the VPA Fine Arts team had students perform a number of selections before a quiet and attentive audience. After a stirring audio-visual presentation on the legacy of Dr. King, the assembly ended with the challenging and inspiring address to the school by Principal Young.



A stirring finale to the assembly from the Carr Lane VPA studio-time singers.



Principal Young speaks.



Carr Lane VPA Band Director, Mr. Stith, leads a musical procession of his band students across the VPA stage on Thursday, December 14, 2017 at the Winter Show.



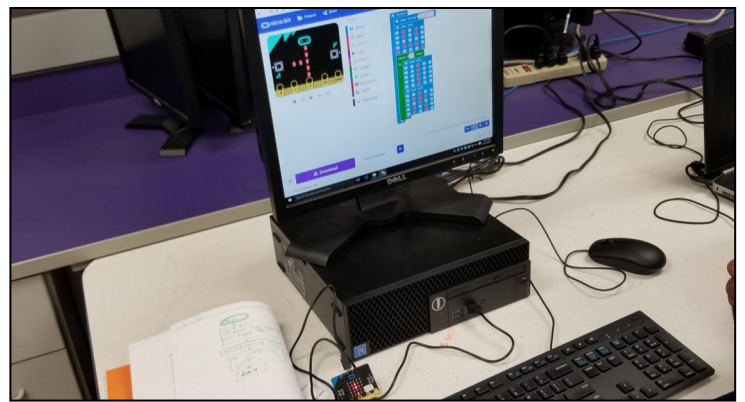
Current and former VPA staff stand-in for a photo on the final day before the 2017-2018 Winter Break. Happy Holidays!!!



On the last day of the year, faculty and staff share a meal together. Each staff member chipped in ten dollars toward the year-ending Record Keeping Day meal in the Carr Lane VPA cafeteria. It was a wonderful event. And thanks to all the members of the Secret Santa Group, organized by Carr Lane's Ms. Tuggle!



Ms. Gallion's and Mr. Phoenix's homerooms win a pizza-party for showing the best improvement in passing between classes!



Students in the 7th Grade Project Lead the Way Computer Science Innovators and Makers Class, write original computer code.



Chess Masters. On the last moments of 2017 in the Carr Lane VPA conference room, VPA Counselor Mr. London and VPA's Mr. Bass square-off for a contest of chess-playing intellect. It was a brutal, hard-fought contest. It was pushing 3:00 PM when this Carr Lane News and Views reporter, who had stayed way past 2:17pm to watch the event, finally bid them, "good luck!"



Carr Lane VPA Middle School Principal, Mr. Darwin Young in a photo with Carr Lane VPA's Family Community Specialist, Mr. Reginald Phillips. Mr. Phillips facilitates parental and community involvement, assists the school's efforts to improve student attendance and increase student achievement. He also assists the school in ensuring compliance with all district, state, federal and school polices. Mr. Phillips is the volunteer coordinator for Carr Lane and the Director of the Carr Lane Spirit Squad. Mr. Phillips is also the school's unofficial historian. Need to know something about Carr Lane VPA? Ask Mr. Phillips!



Members of Mr. Phoenix's 6th Grade who work on your Carr Lane VPA News and Views. Look for upcoming issues in 2018!

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES:

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| February 2, 2018 | Interim Progress Reports
<i>(Also... Groundhog Day!)</i> |
| February 16, 2018 | Professional Development Day
<i>(No school for students.)</i> |
| February 19, 2018 | Presidents Day
<i>(Holiday. District closed.)</i> |

Carr Lane VPA News & Views January 2018 — Issue No. 2

News and Views is published by the 6th Grade Writing Classes from Room 307 with the help and support of the Carr Lane Fine Arts Team and students, teachers, and staff throughout the building. Look for our Spring Break Issue!