

## From the Editor's desk

When I started to reflect on 2023 and what I wanted to include in this space a few themes came to mind: change, community and compassion.

This past year The Watrous Manitou marked its 90th anniversary, something of a rarity in the changing landscape within the media industry. As I typed this, it came a day after CBC indicated it was cutting 10 percent of its workforce - 600 jobs in addition to not filling 200 vacancies over the next year. Others within print, radio and television also made moves in 2023 which equated to fewer and fewer jobs and the closure of publications. A sad indication to the changing times.

We have also felt that pressure and many others have as well as the economy tries to bounce back since the start of the pandemic. It is an unfortunate reality and change to the way the world has now become. Despite the ever-changing landscape, we remain committed to providing our readers and advertisers with a publication they can be proud of. We have sincerely appreciated the support and encouragement given by those who have believed in us over the years and continue to push ahead to give you local stories, local content and that local flavour that we feel is integral to a community paper.

With our talented team, in addition to our weekly publication, we have also tried to provide our area with additional services to help serve you better. Things like creating menus, business cards, logos, envelopes, calendars and programs are all part of our lineup and we greatly value those who have trusted in us to provide you with quality products. Our team which includes Laurie Regier and Alexandra Dengler have been tremendous and integral in getting you what you need. Having them and their talents has allowed for us to make that change in growing that aspect of our business and we are grateful for them. My wife Kim has also added Kim Made Co. to our newspaper which offers personalization and customization on virtually anything like cups, keychains, shirts, ornaments and more.

While there has been changes in 2023, there are also some constants. We remain committed to serving our communities. One story at a time. One ad at a time. One reader at a time. And one paper at a time.

It is that community in which we value immensely. Without you, there is no paper. While we have not been immune to the pandemic, the support we do receive has allowed us to remain viable and has allowed us to produce a paper.

While the world has turned more and more sour with so much entitlement and dislike, my heart has also been warmed by people who take the time to spread kindness and cheer. People who go out of their way to open a door for someone, offer to shovel their walk or cut their grass, pay for a meal, volunteer their time to help others in a meaningful way or even provide a kind gesture without anyone ever knowing. Amidst the ever-growing darkness in the world, there is light.

In my own journey, especially over these past few years, kindness has been evident. I am tremendously grateful for those who have walked alongside me with words of encouragement, have been there for me through the ups and downs and who support and continue to support me. Life can be tough sometimes and days are not always easy but having such a wonderful wife, caring family, terrific staff and friends who are there for me can make those days easier and those hard moments in life brighter.

I understand I am not alone in that. This year has been tough for many people on many levels. There can be days, weeks or even months where it may seem bleak. I understand that. Despite the obstacles, whether big or small, please know that through it all there is a hope that we can put our faith in. I know that it can be or look different for everyone, but in my own journey, I find that hope and love in Jesus.

As we approach Christmas and have the opportunity to spend time celebrating His birth, it can also be a time of reflection, counting our blessings and serving others. The road is not always easy and there can be times where a person may feel that everything is caving in around them. But there is hope. Putting one foot in front of the other, making that choice to get out of bed each morning and pushing ahead. It may take time to get there and you might feel as though you may never get there but if you can keep pushing ahead, even if it means one little step at a time, it will come. For me that has meant walking alongside my anxiety. Learning how to understand it and work with it and learning that I am not alone in that journey. I share this because when I began to understand that I was not

alone and that others also have their mountains to climb, I could do it too. Whether we admit it or not, the reality is we have all been through a lot, an awful lot. Whether you feel 100 percent, 50 percent or even 10 percent great, know that there are others right there with you.

I care about people and I sincerely try and care in the stories I write. You may not agree with everything I publish or even decide not to write but I take the utmost care in what I do. If I have failed in that, I am sorry. I have strived to use our paper to tell the facts and allow our readers to formulate their own opinions about a story and I hope that has been conveyed.

Reaching our annual Christmas Edition, each year a lot of time and effort goes into it with hopes that it will bring a smile to your face. A very special shout out to our staff who once again continue to go above and beyond to help make our editions possible! We are so very grateful for you and thank you for your willingness to be a part of our team!

We also want to thank our advertisers and our customers for their support. We are so grateful. We also thank our readers for your support through renewing, subscribing and reading our paper. This year, like the previous few, has certainly seen more than its fair share of uncertainty but the faith our advertisers and subscribers have put in us has been a blessing to us and we thank you for that.

We also extend our sincerest gratitude to our local correspondents who provide us with news throughout the year. You do a great job and we thank you for that! Thank you to Laura Novecosky for her delicious recipes and willingness to provide them each week. They are amazing! We thank Pastor Greg Dermody for his column, it is a blessing. Thanks to Doug Thomas and the students at WHS for the student of the week and to Watrous Elementary School for the student of the month feature. To those who have taken the time to send in items, whether stories, photos, or reports, or who have helped us in any way this year, your continued willingness to share happenings within your communities is sincerely appreciated. Thank you!

Thank you as well to our friends at our local post offices who sort and deliver our papers each week. While I know it is your job to do so, you go above and beyond for us and we sincerely appreciate it! Thank you to those who have delivered our newspapers, like my parents and my cousin, who graciously lent a hand.

I also want to give a shout out to the teachers and students at Watrous Elementary School who contributed to this year's edition. I always get excited to see what will come in. I also appreciate Manitou Lodge and Interlake for their willingness to help us out with a special feature this year. And to the many others who contributed. Thank you!

And to all those who advertised in this year's Christmas Edition, none of this would be made possible without that generous support. Having that support is vital for us to continue to operate and it is because of that we can keep publishing a paper. Should that support disappear, so to would the paper.

As we near Christmas and soon another year, Kim and I are thankful for the birth of Christ, for our kids, our families, our staff, advertisers, subscribers, our friends, and anyone who has played a role in our lives. I want to wish you a very Merry Christmas, happy holidays and richest blessings in 2024!

-Daniel Bushman



- photo credit: Derek Bushman



# WES Holiday Fun

## Christmas Morning

Have you woken up in the morning and been so excited that it is Christmas? You look out the window and you can barely see there is snow as bright as can be.

I wake up my dad and sister and we take a minute to get up. Then we open the brightly coloured presents and hear the ripping sounds. We talk and play. Later we go to my mom's and have Christmas there. We open the presents under the bright green sparkly tree. On the tree, there are some twinkling lights as dazzling as can be.

Last year my mum made a minty sweet chocolate dessert. It felt like a blooming flower that got swept off its feet. We mostly go to my Nannie's and have a huge feast every year. As I get into my worm-fuzzy pj's it gets even warmer and fuzzier. When I get into my blanket, the only thing I feel is love and peacefulness and me being tired.

**Emilia Janzen**  
Gr. 4/5T, WES

## Christmas Eve

Imagine a snowy day with a dazzling house filled with family and holiday spirit. I think Christmas Eve is one of the greatest holidays.

The rink has been flooded and the excited kids are grabbing the wooden sticks and running on the ice. The parents are laughing and are joyful for Christmas to come. When the hungry kids come in their noses get carried away and the kids hear the TV, music and laughter. Everyone gathers around to eat, drink and talk. The multi-coloured presents are stacked under the bright Christmas tree. When the excited kids are done eating they go to the Christmas tree and sit down waiting for the parents. The parents are done eating and the kids get more and more nervous. The presents roar with a crackling yell of pain. But the nervous kids don't really care as they grunt and scratch the presents like a mad cat. They yell and cheer with joy when they see the books, toy cars, hockey cards, and more. Everybody is happy with what they got. The excited kids ask one more time to go skate. The parents pack up to go. They laugh and talk some more. "It is time to go", said the parents

"Last goal wins!" the kids shout. The game is over and the kids yell and shout with joy but they also feel sad that

Christmas is over tomorrow. Well, at least I will get more magnificent presents. I think. So that is it thump, thump, thump "Ho ho ho" Is that Santa? I sneak downstairs the time is only 11:35. The touch of the cozy fluffy rug is nice. "It is," I whisper. BOO! I yell. Santa looks startled. "Ho ho ho Carter," said Santa. I stand still. Then I blink and run. I go under my bed and stay quiet. It is warm under the bed so I go to sleep.

Do you want to come to my house? Well if you do you will have the best day ever!

**Carter Bushman**  
Gr. 4/5T, WES

## Christmas Morning

Have you ever awakened and seen dazzling presents under the tall green tree? Well, Christmas Morning is the time of the year to get miraculous presents! When it's time I go to the living room and start ripping up the sparkling presents. Then we go to the kitchen and there's always something good on the table like hot gravy, jello, ham, potatoes and even stuffing. I touch the metal utensils. They're cold! I dig in I pour the thick gravy on my potatoes. I started eating the ham - it is so tasty. I hear the Christmas music and fire crackling. We watch Christmas movies. And I cuddle with a nice big cozy blanket I'm in my warm PJs and make gingerbread houses. I eat my candy canes. I am so happy and grateful for what I got. I get big hugs! The tree is dazzling. We watch Christmas movies and have so much fun. I also go play outside. I look out the window and see a fluffy white coat on the ground.

**Alexis Freyling**  
Gr. 4/5T, WES

## Christmas Morning

Imagine a twinkling bright morning when you wake up with presents stashed under your tree wrapped with pretty lights. When I wake up I hear Christmas music singing away.

As my family wakes up we have the most delicious breakfast of all time. We have juicy bacon, smooshy eggs, and crispy toast. When we open the presents, my family smiles with joy. As soon as I open my first crinkling present I just can't wait to open all of my other smooth presents!

My favourite part is what is in my stocking. When I opened the big presents I imagine that the presents were begging me to open them. When I open my dreams of my life I jump with happiness. This is my favourite part of the year!

**Axel McArthur**  
Gr. 4/5T, WES

## Christmas Day

I wake up and go downstairs to eat cheesy soup for breakfast and drink sweet hot chocolate. Do you like hot chocolate and cookies? Do you see presents under the tree? I wake up to open presents on Christmas morning. I go to my Nana and Papa's place or sometimes Manitou Beach

and I make snowmen in the backyard or make Christmas slime. If I can go to Saskatoon I buy presents for my family. Christmas Day is my favourite day of the year because I spend time with my family. Merry Christmas and good night.

**Domonique Truscott**  
Gr. 4/5T, WES

## Christmas Morning

Imagine seeing a twinkling tree with lights all aglow and gleaming wrapped presents below. On a snowy morning, I sip on steaming hot chocolate with marshmallows swimming in my cup. Christmas is the best holiday ever! I'm so joyful to open presents stacked high above the tree on Christmas morning. I walk up the stairs and there are presents under the tree waiting for me to open the twinkling, crinkling, smooth wrapping paper. At the same time, stockings dangle above the fireplace full of wonderful gifts. The sound of bacon and eggs sizzling while the waffles are waiting patiently to be eaten. When all of us are up Dad says cheerfully "It's time to eat". We rush to the kitchen and take a lot of food after we're dished up we pray and then we eat it all. It's the most tantalizing food ever. When I'm done my taste buds are saying "I want more" but I'm laser-focused on the presents. I'm so EXCITED! When we are all done we read the bible. Then we open presents. We do the brother's presents first. All of us tear through it like a wolf tearing through a deer. Then Mom and Dad gifts. When we're done me and my brothers hit each other with the wrapping paper. I hope you have a great Christmas!

**Adam Jansen**  
Gr. 4/5T, WES

## Christmas Morning

Do you like it when you wake up on Christmas morning and look under the gigantic dark green tree and see apple red and light green presents? Christmas is the most marvellous holiday in the world. When we go to Grandma's house the whole family is sitting on the couch watching TV. For breakfast, we have greasy bacon, scrambled yellow eggs, and light brown hash browns. On Christmas, "Home Alone" is playing on the TV, the family talking and bacon sizzling on the burning stove. I smell coffee brewing in the kitchen and hot chocolate. I feel a cozy blanket wrapping me up on the couch. My grandma always has candy on the counter for me and my cousins. On Christmas, we make gingerbread with colourful gumdrops and white icing. I feel thrilled and joyful. Christmas is the most joyful day of the year. Merry Christmas everyone!

**Boston Collins**  
Gr. 4/5T, WES

## GUESS WHO

Is Wishing You A Happy New Year...

### WE ARE!

We're not shy about telling you how much we appreciate and value your friendship and support.

It's been fun serving you, and we look forward to seeing you again next year!

**Danceland Ball Room**  
Manitou Beach  
1-800-267-5037

# Happy Holidays

## TO ALL OF OUR MEMBERS AND GUESTS!

**From:**  
**Management and Staff at Manitou Beach Golf Club**

**MANITOU BEACH**  
GOLF CLUB

(see page three: WES)

**RN** College of Registered Nurses of Saskatchewan

### Answering the call to care during the holidays and all year round.

We are the College of Registered Nurses of Saskatchewan.

Learn more at crns.ca.



## Merry Christmas!

As another year comes to a close, we'd like to share our best wishes with all of you.

*Thanks for being such great neighbours and friends.*

R.M. of Wreford #280

**ALPHA DEVELOPMENTS LTD.**

We are grateful for your support throughout the year. Wishing you and your family a very

## Merry Christmas

[www.alphadevelopments.ca](http://www.alphadevelopments.ca)

**306-946-2997**

WE WISH YOU  
**HAPPY**  
*Holidays*  
& **MERRY**  
*Christmas*  
FROM THE  
**RESORT VILLAGE OF MANITOU BEACH**

**MAYOR** Poppy Peterson

**ADMINISTRATION**  
Elise Dale  
David McVicar  
Linda Hilts  
Lori Harper

**MAINTENANCE STAFF**  
Wayne Vielhauer  
Dean Kupchenko  
Matt Somers

**COUNCILLORS**  
Bill Mattick  
Robb LaRochelle  
Vince Armstrong  
Lori Gill

*Merry Christmas AND Happy New Year*

**MURRAY DISC GOLF & BASKETDISC**  
**DISCS FOR SALE**  
**\$20 - \$25**

**Murray Gordon**  
**306-946-7788**



(from page two: WES)

Christmas Morning

Do you ever wake up on Christmas morning so excited to open your presents? On Christmas morning, I'm always so thrilled to spend time with my family and have a great time!

On Christmas morning I wake up put on my cozy purple housecoat and quickly run upstairs. Then I wake up my parents and tell them that Santa came here and there's shiny colourful gifts under the Christmas tree. Then I notice that our stockings are overflowing with gifts! When my parents and my brothers finally come down the hallway they seem excited and tired. As we start to open our presents the wrapping paper crinkles like when you step on the leaves in the fall. I get slippers, my mom gets chocolates, my brother get's a blue Fit-bit, my other brother get's a big blue dinosaur and my dad gets tools. After we open all our presents we have brunch with crispy bacon, eggs and toast! As the bacon sizzles on the grill my mouth waters. I set the table and then we dig in. It was so delicious and my belly was stuffed!

I hope you have a marvellous Christmas too!

Kylie McLaren  
Gr. 4/5T, WES

Christmas Morning!

Imagine waking up to a brand new snowfall in December. Christmas morning is marvellous opening gifts and singing Christmas songs! When I go down into the kitchen I smell the whole gingerbread factory. But wait, it gets better there's Christmas music it's a mix of sad and happy but it's really loud. Sitting in a cozy warm brown chair taking a sip of amazing hot

chocolate my taste buds are thanking me. Then I march towards the living room filled with red and green lights and then something catches my eye . . . the presents of course with black and purple wrapping paper. I beg my mom if we can start opening gifts she says "Sure". With happiness and excitement, I run and grab one hearing all the sounds of joy and laughter and crinkling wrapping paper. When I unwrap the gift a soft white blanket meets me. Listening from the living room I hear the dark crispy bacon that mom is cooking in the kitchen. As soon as she is done she brings me the tantalizing-smelling bacon on a nice shiny smooth white plate. I adore Christmas it's the best! I love it so much!

Amihan Salandanan  
Gr. 4/5T, WES

Dear Santa,

Imagine being a single mother living in a tower in the middle of a forest. You may know me as Mother Gothel. Some say I am a naughty person but in my opinion, I should be on the nice list because I was only protecting Rapunzel's hair; I was making sure Rapunzel was safe and I just wanted to be a good mom. As you will see, I am a pleasant person and should be on the nice list.

First of all, I wanted to protect Rapunzel's hair. I kept her in a tall tower so no one could cut it off. Her hair grows and can heal people so someone would want to take it. I brushed and kept her hair clean.

Next, I made sure Rapunzel was safe. I made sure no one could find her in the castle. I brought her healthy foods because she might get sick if she eats too many sugary foods. For example, she loves my pea soup.

Lastly, I just wanted to be a good mom. I gave Rapunzel books to read and art sup-

plies so she wouldn't be bored. I told her that I cared for her.

All in all, please put me on the nice list because I was protecting Rapunzel's hair and making sure Rapunzel was safe, I just wanted to be a good mom. I would love some lotion to make me look young and beautiful.

Yours truly, Mother Gothel  
(Willow Dreger)  
Gr. 4/5T, WES

Dear Santa,

Remember me? I have about 300+ minions and I tried to steal the moon a few years back. Yup, you guessed it - it's Gru. I should be on the nice list because I only tried to steal the moon, I was blackmailed into it by Doctor Maphario, I saved the minions and I've really turned my life around. I'm a lot nicer and I'm a lot better now. So please read my letter and see how I have changed and why I should be on the nice list.

I only tried to Steal the Moon. After all, I was blackmailed into it by Doctor Maphario because I drove his car off a cliff. I apologized to him and I even bought him a new one. I bought him a Porsche. It was so expensive, but it is super nice that he forgave me and everything.

Second, I'm a good guy. I gave the minions a home and gave them all a bed, and

even saved them from that crazy Guy El Macho. He is worse than Maphario. He is crazy and I saved them with that disgusting jelly I made. It was nasty!!!

Lastly, I am a good man now. I'm not mean anymore, I have three kids and a girlfriend and I'm learning how to make good jelly for once. I bought my mom a mansion I even signed a contract where I never steal the moon again.

So Santa I know you will reconsider but if not that is ok. I will just go back to being a sad man with no presents, no gifts, nothing. But if you did reconsider I would like a new jelly recipe and a babysitter. Oh, and please throw in a new jellycopter. El Macho destroyed my last one. Thanks, Santa!

Yours Truly, Gru  
(Kingsley Kitchen)  
Gr. 4/5T, WES

Dear Santa,

Imagine standing around a blazing hot desert filled with gross, sweaty boys. Sounds dreadful, right? Well, that's my life every day. Yes, it is I, the Warden from Camp Green Lake.

In my opinion, I should be on the nice list because I never wanted to scratch Mr. Sir, I

(see page four: WES)

# A Wish For You at Christmas

May the coming season bring  
Peace and joy and all good things;  
And when the holiday is through,  
May its message of hope remain  
with you!  
Merry Christmas  
and many thanks  
for your business  
this year.

## ADMORE CO-OP

Management, Staff  
& Board of Directors  
306-257-3213

# HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS

People may come and go, but memories of the good times shared make the trip worthwhile.  
To all those who've come through here,  
we offer our thanks and warm wishes  
for the most memorable Christmas, ever!

## Manitou Springs

Resort & Mineral Spa

and the Management and Staff at:

### Water's Edge

RESTAURANT

★ *Serenity Massage/Esthetics*

★ Gift Shop

★ Water Crest Cafe

From all of us to all of you, we extend our heartfelt thanks  
and sincere best wishes for a sparkling season!







(from page four: WES)

Dear Santa,  
Why do I have to be on the naughty list? You may know me as Ursula, the beautiful sea witch. I feel I should be on the nice list because I helped Ariel become a human, I think I would be a better ruler, and I'm a much kinder person now. So you should read on because you can see I'm a much better person.

Firstly I helped Ariel become human. I used my powers to give Ariel legs. Then she could go meet the prince.

Secondly I wanted to be queen I would have been a better ruler, I would be nicer to my servants, like Sebastian. Lastly I'm a much kinder person now. I let Ariel have prince Erik. Now they are married and happy. I did that!

Please can I be on the nice list now?

**Much nicer now, Ursula  
(Madison Back)  
Gr. 4/5T, WES**

Dear Santa,  
Have you ever wondered what running a camp with children digging holes is like? Allow me to introduce

myself. It is I, The Warden of Camp Green Lake. I believe I should be on the nice list because I didn't actually scratch Mr. Sir. I didn't mean to force children to dig such deep holes and I just wanted the treasure to give to the homeless. As you read on, you will see the reasons why I should be on the nice list this year.

First of all, I didn't actually scratch Mr. Sir. There was just a bee on his cheek and it's my responsibility to keep everybody safe around here. I didn't know how to react when I saw that bee on his cheek. So I scraped it not knowing that it would infect Mr. Sir's skin. I apologized afterwards. And I didn't know that my nail polish was poisonous or something.

Secondly, I didn't mean to force children to dig such deep holes. The devil just got a hold of me and forced me to say 5 metres when I was only planning on saying 2 metres deep. It was just a hard task to do when the devil was saying "5" over and over and over again. And whatever the devil can do he's up to no good, forcing me to say "5" instead of "2" metres deep.

And when I heard treasure he instantly got right to work and started forcing me to say "5". And I have a speaking problem and they probably heard "5" instead of "2".

Lastly, I only wanted the treasure to give to the homeless. I don't want people to suffer the cold all their lives. I wanted them to have a home and enjoy Christmas. I can't imagine what Christmas is like on the streets and without any presents. I don't want people to feel that kind of pain on Christmas. They deserve a home the way they have been suffering, and if no one else is going to then I will.

As you can see, Santa, please consider putting me on the nice list because I didn't mean to scratch Mr. Sir, I didn't mean to force the children to dig holes, I only wanted the treasure to give to the homeless and help them a bit. So Santa you can see why I should be on the nice list this year. And if I can get anything, I would like a big, metal shovel, and a new bottle of my snake venom nail polish.

**Yours truly, The Warden**

**(Lucas Sewap)  
Gr. 4/5T, WES**

Dear Santa,  
It is I the one and only Gru! And yes I know that it is a little bit weird for me to be writing this letter. But do you know what it is like to be on the naughty list? Well, do you!? Probably not since your Santa for Pete's sake! In my opinion, I should be on the nice list because I did not steal the moon for fame, I made jelly for everyone to enjoy, and I am a very lonely person. Santa, please, please keep reading and maybe I'll

change your mind.  
Firstly, I did not steal the moon for fame, what is that you accuse me of stealing the moon for fun! Oh, and you interrupted me can I finish? I stole it because Mr. Beast told me to steal the moon for \$99999,9999,9.99. Who would reject the offer, not me! That is the true story. Because who would steal the moon for fun? If somebody did they are a very crazy person am I right Santa?  
Next, I am not entirely bad. I made jelly, specifically strawberry jam for everybody to enjoy. And no-

body likes it at all. Which makes me sad. By the way,  
(see page six: WES)



**WITH BRIGHT  
WISHES**

Friends like you are  
"deer" to us.

Merry Christmas!

**IMPERIAL  
CO-OP**

From the  
Management,  
staff and  
board members.



**GREETINGS OF  
THE SEASON**

At this special time of year, we recall all the good people we've had the privilege to serve and wish you all much peace, joy and harmony at Christmas. We value your friendship and are sincerely grateful for your loyal support. I'd like to offer my heartfelt thanks for your friendship and business.

**McIntosh Trucking  
Simpson, SK • 306-567-7506**



**Wishing you and yours a very  
Merry Christmas!**

Thank you for your support over this past year.  
We send our best wishes for a very gifted season!

**Long Lake Trucking**  
Mel and Delores

**Delivering Best Wishes  
At The Holidays**



Straight from the heart to all of you, go our sincere best wishes and heartfelt gratitude. We know we couldn't have wished for a better bunch of friends than you.  
Merry Christmas!

**Richardson Services Ltd.**  
Simpson, SK • 306-946-9991 • 306-946-3333  
Lawrence, Howard & Staff



**LONG LAKE  
INSURANCE**

*Happy Holidays*

**FROM OUR FAMILY  
TO YOURS**

[www.longlakeinsurance.ca](http://www.longlakeinsurance.ca)



All the best to you and yours for a beautiful  
and sparkling holiday season.

It's been a privilege and a pleasure serving you.  
Thanks, everyone!

**R.M. of Wood Creek  
and  
Village of Simpson**

*God's richest blessings to you and  
yours during this Christmas season!*

**LUKE 2:10-11**  
"And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. 11 For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord."

**LAST MOUNTAIN ANGLICAN PARISH**  
NOKOMIS • IMPERIAL

**MERRY CHRISTMAS**

FROM THE TEAM  
AT  
**E.W. INDUSTRIES LTD.**  
HOME OF

**RUBBER  
STONE**

**VUBA  
STONE**

**ENDURAFLAKE  
FLOORS**

**SIERRA  
STONE**



(from page five: WES)

will you try the jelly hmm let me guess you know what my minions think of it don't you? Well just try a little bit please after all it is Christmas.

Lastly, I am very lonely. I just want a friend, I am so lonely. Hey Santa by the way will you be my friend? NO! What are you a madman? Some super loved jolly ol Saint Nick you are. Well, you do have a lot of elf friends to build all those toys but you know what I think they can't build? I think they can't build a living breathing puppy!

And that is why I think I should be on the nice list. Well? Did I change your mind? If so, I would like the Apollo 11 rocket to visit the moon, a new dog to keep me company, and lastly a brand new jelly factory.

**Yours truly, Gru  
(Tristan Willms)  
Gr. 4/5T, WES**

Dear Santa,  
How are you?

My name is Sam and I am 11 years old? I really enjoy reading. My favourite book series is Pets Rule. How are the elves doing? Have you been busy getting ready for Christmas? My favourite holiday is Christmas! One thing I would really like for Christmas is the Disney Twisted Tale book series. I would also love the Grinch Christmas Adventures Video game. I promise to leave you milk and cookies.

**Love, Sam  
Gr. 4/5T, WES**

Dear Santa,  
How are you and Mrs. Claus doing? How are the reindeer doing, are they ready for the big night of flying? Have the Elves started packing the presents into the sleigh?

My name is Ryan, I am in Grade 5. I have been very good this year! I am trying my hardest in school. I have been helping my Mom wrap presents, and I dry the dishes when Mom washes them.

- I hope you bring me
1. Lego Star Wars
  2. Stuffed Dinosaur
  3. Star Wars puzzles

I'll set out cookies and milk for you, there will be carrots for the reindeer. Enjoy your flight delivering presents to all the children.



Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a safe and Happy New Year!

**Dana Skoropad**  
MLA for Arm River

PO Box 1077, Davidson, SK, S0G 1A0  
1-800-539-3979 • armriver.mla@gmail.com  
www.danaskoropad.ca

Merry Christmas Santa!  
**From Ryan Jones  
Gr. 5E, WES**

Dear Santa,  
Did you know I like gifts, you like cookies, can we trade? I feel I want a little fuzzy fluffy duck, a sport net soccer/hockey net and a cat tree for my cat Ody.

For Christmas, I can give you a cookie what kind? I need a duck, please listen.

I think I should get a little fuzzy fluffy duck for Christmas. First, me and my cat would need company. I will buy it some water. Another reason, I love ducks, ducks are so cute. I have the money to buy food and water. Another reason, I love ducks, ducks are so cute. I have the money to help my duck. One last reason is my parents won't let me buy a duck it is or no duck!

I feel I should get an all sport net. What I mean is a net that can be for a soccer net and hockey. To start, I can use the other hockey nets that we use for soccer for hockey! Next, me and Henry/my brother want this. Lastly, my family sometimes plays soccer boys vs girls.

I believe, my cat would like a cat tree. To begin with, all of my family loves cats. Secondly, he will look so cute in the cat tree. Finally, I can put toys on the cat tree.

All in all I think I should get those gifts. I would like all of these please. Now please, these will entertain me for a long time. I'm here when you come.

**Sincerely,  
Thomas Thoner  
Gr. 5E, WES**

Dear Santa,  
Imagine walking up the stairs and seeing lots of lights and presents. I think I should get a gaming chair, new switch joy cons and Inter Miami tickets for Christmas. Please listen, Santa, while I explain why I deserve these gifts.

I think I should get a new gaming chair for Christmas. First, the chair I have right now hurts my back. For instance, my chair goes flat then curved out which hurts my back. Next, a screw fell out. In fact, because the screw fell out and we can't find it, it keeps breaking. Lastly, it is way too big for my tiny room. In other words, since we built my room in two days it is very small.

The second thing I want for Christmas is new switch joy cons. First, mine have stick drift. In fact, since they have stick drift they are hard to use. Next the buttons are hard to press. For instance, since the buttons are hard to press I can't play my games that well. Lastly, the back buttons are completely broken. Specifically, since they are broken I need to move my fingers more which can make me lose.

The last thing I want is Inter Miami tickets. First I would have the chance to meet my favourite player. For instance, if I meet my favourite player it will make me keep on playing. Second, if I watch a professional team play I can get better. In other words,

if I become better I could be a professional player. All in all, I'm pretty sure I have been nice enough to get a couple gifts. Please will you get me a gaming chair, new switch joy cons and Inter Miami tickets? Now get into the workshop and start making!

**From Corey Fredlund  
Gr. 5E, WES**

Dear Santa,  
Did you know I help my grandma? In my opinion I think I should get one, a new home, two, a dog.

I want a new house because we only have two rooms and it's sad.

Next, I have to share that I'm going to cry. It is so sad.

First, a dog. Dogs are so cute and I would play with them all day. Next dogs are so funny and weird.

Next dogs loves us.

**Sincerely,  
Cartel Opheim  
Gr. 5E, WES**

Dear Santa,  
Is it true that you give coal to boys and girls?

I think that I should get a fish and then an orange stripe cat with green eyes for Christmas. Please listen Santa while I explain why I deserve these gifts. I think that I should get a fish for Christmas. First, in my family some people are allergic to cats and dogs. Secondly, I get allowance and I can save up. Thirdly, on the weekend on Sunday I can go buy fish food and pay for it.

The next thing I want is a stuffed cat because I had a cat that was my favourite stuffed cat. He had green eyes and a striped body his name was Wobbles, my favourite stuff cat. I will want another one but this time a girl cat. In conclusion I think I have been good enough to receive some gifts. Please Santa, will you bring me a fish and a cat? Now get in your sleigh and get ready to deliver some gifts!

**Sincerely,  
Emerald Sewap  
Gr. 5E, WES**

Dear Santa,  
Imagine walking down the stairs to see the glow of the Christmas tree and the dazzling twinkling presents on Christmas morning. I feel I should get a Nintendo Switch, a street hockey goalie set, and an expandable net for Christmas. Please listen while I explain why I deserve the gifts.

First, I think I should get a Nintendo Switch and here's why. First of all they are SUPER fun! In fact, almost all my friends have one so we could all play together! Secondly, I would use it almost every day.

Another gift I want is a street hockey goalie set. To start it could help me pursue my dream of becoming a professional goalie in the NHL! Additionally, me and my friends could practice all the time! Next, It would help me be better in net at school, which in turn makes me play net more so I get even better!

The last gift I would like to get is an expandable hockey net, so I can play hockey and soccer with it. To start, I don't have a net to begin with so I have to use random objects as a net. In fact my friends and I always argue about whether or not something was a goal. Additionally, it would help me get better at my favourite sports.

In conclusion, I have been very good this year, and I think I deserve these gifts so PLEASE bring me a Nintendo Switch, goalie set, and an expandable net.

**Sincerely,  
Colton Ritthaler  
Gr. 5E, WES**

Dear Santa,  
How do you get to all the houses all in one night? And how are the elves?

In my opinion, I think your sack gets bigger and bigger the more presents you put in it.

For Christmas can I please have a Mickey Mouse puppet, legend of Zelda Tears of The Kingdom and a puppy for Christmas. Please Santa, can you do this for me? I think I deserve a Mickey Mouse puppet because first, I am very good at his voice. In fact, my old puppets are worn out. Specific-

ally, Mickey Mouse is funny with humour.

An example is that I am going to use him in my YouTube channel gmanc11.

Next, I would like Legend of Zelda Tears of the Kingdom game on the Nintendo Switch.

First, I am a big fan of Nintendo. For instance, I beat the game 2 times already. In fact, without taming the devin beasts. Finally, it looks like a great game when it came out.

The last thing we'll get is a puppy. First I want a puppy so Rooster the dog can play with him inside. For instance, my parents cannot on the floor and I cannot play with him all the time so they can have fun together. Finally, it would make a big change a good change. In conclusion, I think I deserve these gifts. Santa, can you do this for me, Santa. Now get in your sleigh and fly.

**Sincerely,  
Greyson Couture  
Gr. 5E, WES**

Dear Santa,  
Imagine walking down the stairs with the tree glowing and a hair curler, new boots and tickets to Mexico under the tree on Christmas morning. In my opinion, I think I should get those 3 things this Christmas. Now please get Mrs. Claus to make you some hot coco and listen to why I believe I should get those things.

I think I should get some new cowgirl boots for Christmas. First, my old boots are way too small and falling a part. Second, a horse stepped on my foot and I broke my toe. I can prevent that from happening if I had new boots. Finally, if I get new boots I guarantee I'll be 3 times safer from horses, cows and more, if I get new boots.

My second thing I want is a hair curler on Christmas morning. To begin, I know how to curl my hair, so it'll be easy when we're running late. Another reason to add to that is it'll be way easier for me to get ready in the morning too. Getting one would mean I don't need to shower then scrunch my hair up, and hope it curls. One last reason is I prefer my hair wavy, because when I put my hair in a pony it leaves an indent in my hair and when I brush it it goes frizzy.

My final most important wish is Mexico. My first and probably my best reason to go to Mexico is to spend time with my family. If we can spend time together then we can learn to get along together. Second, I've never been to the ocean, if I went to the ocean I would never forget it.

Lastly, I really want to go scuba diving in the clear water with the colourful fish.

Now that you heard why I need a hair curler, new boots and tickets to Mexico, I'm sure you're going to get those things for me. Now you better tell those elves of yours to get to work.

**Sincerely,  
Brynlee Jones  
Gr. 5E, WES**

Dear Santa,  
I worked hard to get a gift. Meaning in my opinion, I would like a nice ATV and 164 scale props for my farm display and I would like the new farming game Farming Simulator 22. For Christmas the first reason I would like 164 scale props for my farm display is because I can win a gold trophy. Secondly, it would be cool to show my friends. Lastly, I would really enjoy using it. I would also like an ATV for driving around our yard in my free time. I think it would be really fun to drive around our yard in the muddy driveway. Last but not least, I would also enjoy getting Farming Simulator 22 for our PlayStation 4 because there's better grain trucks and way better graphics.

**Sincerely,  
James Olah  
Gr. 5E, WES**

Dear Santa,  
Do you like putting presents under my Christmas tree?

In my opinion, I think I should get white crocs, Smart TV and a mini mini fridge for Christmas. I feel I should get white crocs for Christmas. First, almost all my friends

(see page seven: WES)



*(from page six: WES)*

have them.

Secondly, I can wear them everywhere because they are waterproof, additionally they don't break easily. Lastly, I will wear them every day. I feel I should get a Smart TV for Christmas. To start, it will let my family watch what they want and me what I want to watch when I want. Secondly, I already have a plug-in for it and the perfect place to put it so why not fill that spot with a TV? Lastly, I think it would be fun to eat popcorn in my bed while watching my favourite show. In my opinion, I think I should get a mini mini fridge for Christmas. To begin, a mini mini fridge is the perfect size for my room. In conclusion, I think I have been really good. Please Santa!

Now get in your Santa sleigh and bring me some presents!

Sincerely,  
Lochlyn Sinnamon  
Gr. 5E, WES

Dear Santa,

Imagine I wake up and saw the presents under the tree, my favourite present I hope I get is a soccer net, Lego builds and a goalie helmet. For example, why I deserve these gifts is I think I should get a soccer net first. I like soccer to get better at it. Second, I could play soccer with my dad outside, and I could hit the net, but after you do try to not miss the net in soccer. Lastly, I want it because I could play with my friends and do shootouts with them, because I could hide the net somewhere so my dogs wouldn't get it.

The second thing I want is a Lego build. To begin with I really want Lego because I like to play with Lego a lot and I really like

building stuff and another reason I need more Lego for me and if I am bored I can play with all the Lego I got. Finally, I like making new things to build.

I think I should get a goalie helmet. To start with my goalie helmet is good but it does not match my logo. My chin guard is kind of getting bad. Second, it is kind of old. And it has a lot of puck marks. Finally, my new one would not have any puck marks and I need to keep my head safe from shots.

In conclusion, I should get the gifts because I think I was good this year to earn these three things like goalie helmet and Lego builds and soccer net for Christmas. Now get that sled ready, get that sled all the way to my house!

Sincerely,  
Rylen Vanthuyne  
Gr. 5E, WES

Dear Santa,

Imagine a plate with cookie crumbs and gifts under a sparkling tree. In my opinion, I think I should get the last three books of the Vision of Shadows book series, the Hyperlite 2, and the new Spider-Man game for Christmas. Please listen, Santa, while I explain why I deserve these gifts. I think I should get the last three books of the Vision of Shadows book series for Christmas. First, I've read all my books in my room and reading books over and over is really boring. It's boring because you know what's going to happen. I also really want to know what happens. The Vision of Shadows book series is the fifth series in the Warriors books. So far there are eight Warriors series and I've already read the first four and I really need to know what happens. Secondly, it'll be something for me to read when I'm driving or flying somewhere instead

of just playing on electronics. Finally, I'll want to read more at night if I get the last three books of the series. I need these books because I've read every other book I have so I need some new ones to read.

I believe I should also get the Hyperlite 2 for Christmas. To start with, it would be nice to get a new stick. I shoot pucks in my garage, and it's not exactly good for the bottom of my blade, but if I got a new stick I could use my old one for shooting pucks and my new one when I'm on the ice. Next, my stick is a bit short for me. If your hockey stick is too short it means that you should get a new stick soon because it limits your reach. Lastly, if you get a new stick you'll have better dangles and it's good to have dangles because then you can deke through everybody and score.

In my opinion I should also get the new Spider-Man game, Miles Morales. To begin with, it's supposed to be really fun. It has a bunch of new bosses to fight which makes it different from other Spider-Man games. Another reason is that it has new Spider-Man suits. More importantly, it has better graphics than the other Spider-Man games. It also has new abilities in the game. I think the coolest ability is invisibility.

In conclusion, I want the last three books in the vision of Shadows book series, the Hyperlite 2, and

Spider-Man: Miles Morales. Now get those elves working Santa, 'cause you got my gifts to make!

Sawyer Wolff  
Gr. 5E, WES

Dear Santa,

Imagine this Christmas, a tree with a lot of green and white lights. In my opinion, I think I should get a BMX, a 5x5 speed cube, and a Lego Star Wars video game for my PlayStation for Christmas. Please listen, Santa, while I explain why I deserve these gifts.

I think I should get a 5x5 rubik for Christmas. First, I learned how to use a 4x4 really well. In fact I can solve it in under 10 minutes. Next, the four by four is kind of boring. For example, it's really easy. Lastly, I need a challenge.

Another present I want is a BMX bike. First, I have always wanted one. Also, it will work better than my mountain bike on the ramps that I made. I also want pegs so I can do wheelies and donkey kicks better. Finally, I like it.

The last present I want is Lego Star Wars for my PlayStation 4. I have a couple of reasons. First of all, it's really fun, I have played it before at someone's house and I like it. Another reason is I was running out of ideas when my teacher said you need three presents. Most importantly, I have been trying really hard to earn presents.

In conclusion, Santa I

have tried to get these presents so please listen and get me those presents.

Sincerely,  
Riley Klassen  
Gr. 5E, WES

Dear Santa,

Imagine waking up and seeing a Christmas tree with presents. In my opinion I think that I should get \$1 Million, a few Roblox gift cards, and an electric keyboard for Christmas. Please listen Santa, while I explain why I deserve these presents.

First, I deserve \$1 Million because we could use the money. Second, we could have more family time. Third, I could buy whatever I want!

Next, I deserve a few Roblox gift cards because I'm low on Robux. Second, I could buy game passes, clothes and accessories for my character. Third, I could buy games that cost Robux.

Lastly, I deserve an electric keyboard because it was one of the first instruments that I wanted to play. Second, I think it would be fun to play and I think it will sound cool. Third, it is cool because it can sound like other instruments.

Now get in your sleigh and get ready to deliver some presents!

From,  
Ethan Worobec  
Gr. 5E, WES

Dear Santa,

Hey, I've tried hard to earn many gifts this year. I believe I should get a phone and Lego Harry Potter toy cars for Christmas. Santa, may you listen for why I should get it is because I've been nice this year.

I think I should get a phone for Christmas. First, my whole family has a phone except me. Secondly, I can play with friends and cousins. Finally all my friends have a phone.

In my opinion I think I should get a Lego Harry Potter set. First, I love Lego. Secondly, I don't have anymore Lego sets. Finally I love to build with Lego, I really do.

First, I need some more toy cars because I lost some and gave some to people. Secondly, I love to play with toy cars. Lastly I love collecting them and I love Hot Wheels more.

In conclusion, I really want those gifts so can you get me the phone, Lego and toy cars? So get in your sleigh!

Sincerely,  
Jude McNeice  
Gr. 5E, WES

*(see page eight: WES)*

Peace  
on Earth

COLONSAY  
SCHOOL  
STAFF &  
STUDENTS

Delivering Best Wishes  
At The Holidays

North Pole

Town of  
Colonsay  
Mayor, Councillors & Staff

The Brightest Joy  
The Warmest Cheer  
The Greatest Happiness

Thanks to all of our  
ratepayers for making this  
year a special one!

RM of Lost River  
Council & Staff

BRIGHT  
HOLIDAY  
WISHES

With warm regards  
from all of us to all of  
you this holiday season.

RM of Colonsay No. 342  
Reeve, Councillors & Staff

Keep Christ  
in Christmas

St. Alphonse  
Knights of Columbus  
Viscount

Peace  
On Earth

...And many thanks for the  
goodwill you've shown us this year!

Concrete Elements appreciates  
your past patronage. We look  
forward to serving you in 2024:

Spirit of Manitou Studio Trail:  
July 13 & 14, 2024

Your hosts  
Dave & Loa Titman  
www.concreteelements.com

Merry  
Christmas

PRO GRAIN  
EQUIPMENT

306-255-2112 • Colonsay, SK



(from page seven: WES)

Dear Santa,

Did you know that I was good this year? In my opinion, I should get a cowboy hat, and a new hockey helmet and a new dirt bike. Please listen. I would really enjoy these gifts.

I would like a cowboy hat because I live on a farm and I would wear it everyday. Another reason I should get a cowboy hat is I ride my horse a lot and the side around the fall.

For my second gift I would like a new dirt bike. If you decide to get me a dirt bike I'll ride it to my grandma's house and she'll take good care of it. I'll wash it and the day the snow melts and it's not that muddy you'll see me riding around on my dirt bike. If you wanted to get into the specifics not to be picky but I want a Honda CRF 110 if you can get your hands on one.

For my third gift I would like a new hockey helmet. The first reason that I would like a new hockey helmet is that my old hockey helmet hurts the side of my head when I put it on for 45 minutes or more. Another reason I think I should get a new hockey helmet is because I deserve it. I have played really good hockey for the last year.

Now get in that workshop of yours and get me a dirt bike, cowboy hat and a new hockey helmet!

Your friend,  
Emmett Breitzkreuz  
Gr. 5E, WES

Dear Santa,

Imagine walking down the stairs seeing the glowing Christmas tree wrapped with bright Christmas lights and presents underneath. In my opinion I think I should get some LEGO, a PC setup, and a metal shovel for Christmas. Please listen Santa while I explain why I think I deserve these gifts. Firstly, I think I should get some LEGO because it's very fun to play with and it will make me very happy. Secondly, it is a good thing to build with since I can't just go build with plywood and nails. Finally, it is very entertaining and interesting to play with. The first reason, I want a PC setup is because I don't have my own iPad or anything like that. Secondly, it will be very FUN to play on! Finally, I will NEVER get bored of playing on it. One other thing I want is a metal shovel. Firstly, it will be convenient to have. Secondly, it's going to be good to have and I will use it very often. Thirdly it is good to have because every other shovel there is it's too big for me. In conclusion, I hope you get in that sleigh and deliver some presents and I hope you can get me these gifts.

Sincerely,  
Ryden Whitford,  
Gr. 5E, WES

Dear Santa,

I have been a very good kid this year.

Ok, so in my opinion I think I should get a \$100 dollar Sephora gift card, Cookeez bakery and bubble skin care for Christmas. Please listen Santa while I explain why I deserve these gifts.

I think I should get a Sephora gift card for Christmas because my first reason is because I want Drunk Elephant skin care. Second, I want some new makeup. I need a blush brush too. Lastly, to just go shopping.

Next, Cookeez bakery, first it's like a toy. You make dough and put it in an oven and then open it and it's a stuffy with a scent. Next, Dad always says get off your tablet so instead I will get a toy to play with. Most importantly I've never had one before so I want one.

My last gift is bubble skin care. First, apparently it's very good for your skin. Second, I never had it.

Finally, it makes your skin healthy.

In conclusion, I really hope I get this stuff. I've never had any of it before. Please Santa, will you bring me a Sephora gift card, Cookeez bakery and bubble skin care.

Sincerely,  
Presley Ulmer  
Gr. 5E, WES

Dear Santa,

Imagine walking out of your room and seeing the Christmas tree full of decorations and under the tree has a lot of presents. In my opinion I think I should get a Macbook, tumble track, and new hockey gear for Christmas. Please listen Santa I've always wanted all those gifts every year. I think I should get a Macbook for Christmas.

First, it will be useful. In fact, I can do homework on it. Next, I can watch stuff on

it. For example, if I want to draw something and I don't know how so I need to watch a video. One last reason is if there is an emergency. In other words I can call my mom and dad. If there is an emergency I can call them.

The second thing I want for Christmas is a tumble track. To begin with I'm always dancing in my living room and there's not enough room so I'll put it in my basement. Another reason is I can practice my back and front walkovers plus my backbends. One last reason is my brother's friends always come over



but if we put it down in the basement we can just play on top of it.

Finally, the last thing I want is new hockey gear. To start I always get hand-me-downs and they are all ripped up. Another reason is I've never had new hockey gear. Lastly, I think I could reuse everything for 2 years.

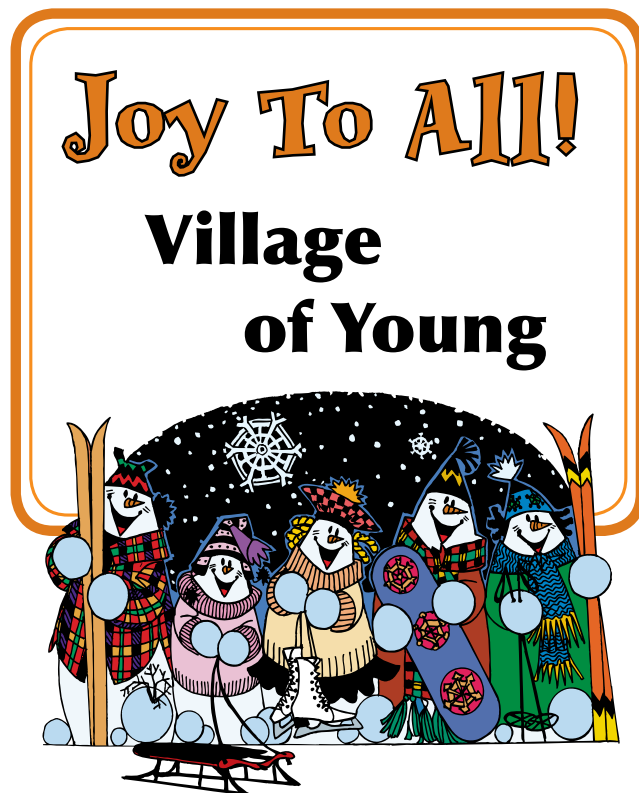
To sum it up, please Santa I think I've been good enough to deserve these gifts. I've always wanted a Macbook, tumble track, and new hockey gear! Now get your elves to get in the toy shed and build some toys.

Sincerely,  
Marlee Solar  
Gr. 5E, WES



Best Wishes for the  
Holiday Season  
**STR Farms**

Shouse, M.L. Teneycke and Russell families  
Young, SK 306-259-2006 | 306-946-7805



**Have A Happy Holiday!**

From the council & staff of  
**The RM of Morris No. 312**

