

Capture the Sparkle...
Capture the Joy!



Happy holidays to all!

The Hair Place
Eagle Lake
Beatrice & Lucio
Mota



Merry Christmas
To old friends and new go our wishes
for a season of love and faith.
A warm, wonderful thanks to all!
THE HERITAGE HOUSE
Residents & Staff Eagle Lake

Jolly good wishes to you and yours for a holiday filled
with cheer and friendship... and to all our friends,
'THANKS FOR YOUR VALUED BUSINESS!'



City of Eagle Lake
City Officials & Employees

Dear Santa Claus,

I want a Talking Teacher I want it because it can help me when my Homework. And I want Talking Cobby Patch because it can talk to me. And I want a Colored T.V.

Your friend
Shonda L. Black

Dear Santa Claus,

I would like a tag train. Because I would like more tags and they do not break too. I would like a color T.V. so I can watch it where ever I go. And I can't forget small farm equipment so I can push around my house.

Your friend
Justin Michael Hruzek

Dear Santa Claus,

I want a talking cabbiechach kid and a Criket and a mother Goose for Christmas. I want it because I never had one before.

Your friend
Materice Miramontes

Dear Santa Claus,

I want Lego Blocks so I can build neat things. I would like a keyboard so my friend and I could play music. And I want a Talking Teacher so I can spell big words that are hard and I won't mess up on my spelling.

Your friend
Natalie M. Cardenas

Dear Santa Claus,

I would like a little colored television, because my Daddy is always watching the news when something good is on. I would also like a baby cocker spaniel. I would like that because I want to teach him tricks. I would like a certain kind of dog be-

cause cocker spaniels are pretty.

Your friend,
Robyn Renee Rucka

Dear Santa Claus,

I would like to have a push scooter I would like to have it for I would not have to walk long ways. And I would like to have a super train for I can make it go up the wall. And I would like to have a toy brave star for I can play with it with my other mean.

Your friend
Derrick Henderson

Dear Santa Claus,

I want the G.I. Joe diecast carrier. And the G.I. Joe Crossfire, and the Cobra bass. Because I want the whole Colektion of G.I. Joe.

Your friend
Clay Russell

Dear Santa Claus,

Santa I want you to bring me a Keyboard. Olo and a electric train. Even else a Boxing mask. Santa like toys and you to.

Your friend,
Warren Smith

Dear Santa Claus,

I want a parakeet and a eagle and a snake so I can play with them please bring some things for my dad like an ax, an a power law mower, an a rop and a car that s all for him. I want a racing car and a bull dog too. I want some boots and a pet bull. That is all.

Love Jason Garcia

Dear Santa Claus,

You are a nice intelligent elf, I want my friends to be well, and every other person who is sick too For Christmas I would like a nintendo game I hope people that are in the hospital get gifts too.

love Bennie

Dear Santa Claus,

I wish I had a white baby kitten. A camera would be nice. My sister wishes for a scooter and a bathing kid. People in Africa don't get food or don't have Christmas like us. I wish everyone had Christmas so it won't be so difficult for other kids and parents. I wish that kids sometimes weren't too mean to other children. Merry Christmas to everybody that doesn't and does get to have Christmas.

Love,
Gina Sides

Dear Santa Claus,

I wish every day in a year was Christmas. I love that day. It just so much fun. You get lots of toys but some people don't get toys they get sicker and sicker. I wish you could help them and give them good food and help them get well. Santa can you help people see every thing they want? People that can't walk make them walk. For Christmas I want a bed cover.

Love, Jackie Leigh Schmitt

December Santa Claus,

I wish for a bike, a gocart, and a male for my female horse. I wish for a dog. I wish for some clothes. I hope you come to the school.

To Santa Claus
Jason Noska

Dear Santa Claus,

I wish I had a 26000 from are. I wish I can visit you at the North Pole. It will be fun and cold. I will bring a sleigh so we can go up and down the hills.

Your friend
Rudy Flores

Dear Santa Claus,

I want you to bring me a bicycle and a raido. I wish I had some new shoes. The best thing I want is a racing car set. I bet my friends want a bicycle for Christmas. One of my friends want a train set. My brother wants a bicycle for Christmas.

Love,
Nathaniel Shropshire

Dear Santa Claus,

I wish I can get a bike and a computer. But I want a doll called Skipper and some clothes to. My mom wants a watch. I like Christmas because it is a

very nice day when you get gifts. My brother wants a gun. My other brother wants a bike.

Merry Christmas
Your friend,
Gracie Hernandez

Dear Santa Claus,

I wish that you can help the poor people all over the world. And Christmas morning when I wake up I wish there would be a bike, a pogoball and some handcupps and the key I'd also like a beebie gun, video game, autory game, some B.K shoes, but they need to be high tops, and a bible for Church.

Your friend,
Royce

Dear Santa Claus,

I wish everybody could get gifts and have a happy Christmas. I hope that my best friend Dana Kelley will get well by Christmas so that I could see her and we all could have a happy Christmas. I wish I could be with all those other people that do not have any money or food. I wish that all those people that are homeless could get a home for Christmas. I wish Julie and a ten-speed. That's all for me and the rest for the ones that need it.

Love,
Maria Lara

Dear Santa Claus,

I wish everybody in the world will have a happy, nice and beautiful Christmas. I wish my cousin Kelly Polish would get 4 speeder bikes from Return of the Jedi. I would like Han Solo, Luke Skywalker, R-2D2, Darth Vader and Princess Leia. I wish I had a Miami Hurricane and Texas Aggie Helmet. I hope nobody will fight and start a war this Christmas and every Christmas to come.

Your little elf,
Trey Kueberka

Dear Santa Claus,

I like for you to come to our school to visit us. We hope you bring your little helpers so we can see them. We haven't seen them. I want a radio. I hope that Dana comes back to school.

Love, Ericka Fields
Merry Christmas

Dear Santa Claus,

I wish for a blackboard and a puppy and a doll who is called baby Heather. My mom wants a moonbopper. Merry Christmas

Love, your little elf
Angelica Martinez

Dear Santa Claus,

I wished that I had a computer and that it was in color. My aunt is saving money and food for the poor in Africa. She wants to give them clothes too. In school we are collecting food for the poor too. Please have a happy Christmas.

Your little elf
Veronica Amador

Dear Santa Claus,

Santa I hope you can get me a hot pink telephone. I hope you can afford a light pink clock and radio combined. I wish that there was a Christmas tree everyone and all families. There would be lots of gifts. I know there

Joshua's last Christmas

(The following story was brought to us by Rev. Msgr. Victor Schmidtzinsky of St. Mary's Church in Napa.)

Each year, around Christmas, I bring out a tiny keepsake from the back of my coat. The red satin ribbon is faded and frayed, but the shiny bell still jingles. It always brings back memories of a very special child I knew when I was a kindergarten teacher in a Cleveland public school.

The school was an imposing brick structure in a neighborhood at the edge of an industrial area that was shabby and decayed. Pungent fumes from a paint factory wafted in on clear days through the tall windows that enclosed our room.

My second year of teaching was especially memorable because my classroom overflowed—40 children in the morning and 40 in the afternoon. How could I possibly manage one more? I thought angrily, when the principal informed me, a few days after school began, that an additional youngster—a handicapped child—had been admitted.

Along with his registration form was a letter from a pediatrician asking us to allow Joshua to participate in as many activities as his condition permitted because, more than anything, he needed to be with children his own age. What could I say?

The next morning, Joshua and his mother arrived. He was gnome-like. His head was enormous, and he had luminous black eyes. His mother gave him a hug and kiss, and the tears were hers. Joshua's unusual face was enveloped in a broad smile. Clearly, he was happy to be with other children. I wished I could match his mood.

Joshua's appearance was just one of his handicaps. He had poor motor control, and he often stumbled over his own and other people's feet. Handling a paint brush was a tremendous task. He usually grasped it in a grubby fist and splattered away with great gusto. His art projects demanded diplomacy of us all.

His Thanksgiving turkey was a disaster. Multicolored tail feathers emerged where the head should have been. Globes of paste oozed out and dripped onto the floor. Though someone always wanted to help him cut with the scissors or to finish his work for him, he was very determined. He wanted to do it himself. Cities like Cleveland, New York, and Chicago are still home to a mélange of ethnic groups. Our classroom that year was a modern example of the old melting pot. The majority of the children were Irish, but we also had Greeks, Italians, Syrians, Lebanese, Germans, Hungarians, and Chinese, as well as migrants from Appalachia.

To my surprise, Joshua was accepted unconditionally. Why, he had been born at Lutheran Hospital like half the class. He was really one of them.

But the Christmas program was drawing near, and I was feeling uneasy. It was a social event of some magnitude. Parents would come off from work and bake their special holiday cookies. There would be new clothes and haircuts. It was important that we put on a good show.

There was one thing Joshua did do well. He could jingle his bell. The bells, threaded on thin, red ribbons, decorated the children's wrists. We planned to shake them in unison, singing:

Jingle, jingle, jingle, Christmas bells.

I've got a secret.

Don't you tell! (Shh! Shh!)

Santa's going to visit you and me.

Shuffle, slide, shuffle, slide. In a carefully rehearsed circle dance, there were many chances to jingle, jingle, jingle. Joshua's eyes sparkled. He loved to jingle his bell. The only problem was that he hated to stop. He would jingle long after everyone else had finished.

A glimmer of hope flickered in my mind—perhaps his mother would sense the difficult situation and keep him home. I hated myself for the cruel thought, but rationalized that it would be for the good of the group. I was very, very wrong.

The day before the program, I called his home and asked if he would be participating. "Oh, yes!" his mother answered in halting English. "He come!" The day was typical for Cleveland. Leaden gray skies heralded cold, dismal weather. It might be months before we saw the sun again. But inside, our kindergarten glowed. One young father came in overalls, straight from his factory job. Bridget's dad came in his firefighter's dress uniform. Mary's family had closed the laundry for the morning. Joshua's mother came with his sister.

As the frigid gusts howled outside, we warmed up with holiday songs. And Joshua did quite well. At least, he did not fall down; there was always a helping hand stretched out at critical moments. His cheeks were flushed and his eyes shone. He was trying hard. I found myself fighting an enormous lump in my throat. Tears blurred my eyes, and glancing at Joshua's mother, I saw tears on her cheeks, too.

When it came time to perform our finale, Joshua was ready. He shook his bell in all the right places. When 40 other little fingers were placed on 40 little lips in a much-rehearsed "Shh! Shh!", so was Joshua's. For the moment, he was freed from the burden of his physical ills. The love and warmth of the children enclosed him like a cocoon, and a beautiful Joshua emerged. It was a Christmas miracle.

The cookies, sumptuous with honey, figs, and sesame seeds, disappeared quickly after the program. The parents had been delighted by the performance. The children were only five years old, yet they had given us the best gift of all—their smiles.

When Christmas break began, I went east to visit my mother for the holidays, and when I returned in January, there was a letter in my mailbox. It was from Joshua's sister, who had written for her mother. Joshua had died peacefully in his sleep a few days after Christmas. Kindergarten, she said, had been the happiest time of his life.

How could I explain Joshua's death to the children? They knew to tell about life. Thinking they would understand a simple explanation best, I told them that Joshua had gone to heaven.

"You mean," Michael piped up, "he went to be one of them Christmas angels?"

"God bless you, Michael. Dozens of little heads nodded in agreement. Oh, yes! Joshua was a Christmas angel now!"

And each Christmas, when I hear the church bells ring out joyously, I look at his little bell and I think of Joshua. I remember how he taught all of us—especially me—what miracles the love of children can accomplish.

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JOYEUX NOEL

All the wonderful sights and sounds the Christmas has to offer—we wish them all to you!

A.J. Struss Auto Eagle Lake

VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS

A wish that your Christmas blooms with happiness, love and caring!

Sheridan Dairy Delite

Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Nance & Keith

When the final bell has rung,
When the last carol's sung,
Though this Christmas will pass,
You've precious memories to last.

Lake Oil Company Eagle Lake

Childbirth Education Classes

Eagle Lake Community Hospital Jane Tecker, R.N. Nelma Strey, R.N.

Blessings & Happy Holidays!

May the holidays bring you every happiness.

Sears Catalog Agent

234-3523 Eagle Lake

Jack, Debbie, Jared & Jan

Happy Holidays

The season is the reason for wishing you the very best!

Schindler LPG, Inc. & Rice Country Drive-In

Jim, Cindy, Nancy & Mandy Knapik—Times & August

Use the 10-Point Checklist For Developing the Right Ad

1/ Make your ads easily recognizable

2/ Use simple layouts

3/ Let the product speak for itself

4/ Use prominent, benefit headlines

5/ Let white space draw the eye

6/ Make your copy complete

7/ Specify branded features

8/ Urge readers to act NOW

9/ Tell readers who you are

10/ Know the laws of advertising

(SOURCE of Checklist: Newspaper Ad Bureau—New York)

Prepared by Texas Newspaper Advertising Bureau (TNAB)

An affiliate of the Texas Press Association

Newspaper Advertising... the key to success

would be singing, dancing, things to eat and a lot more. It would be lots of fun for the people and families.

Love, your little elf
Sunny Gertson

Dear Santa Claus,

Santa, I wish I could get a gem doll for a present. I wish I could get the thing I wanted for my grandma. There is something I always wanted Santa but I never got it. It is a watch with a picture and it can sing. The best thing I like about Christmas is presents. I wish for lots of stuff like a doll that is a little big and can talk, blink her eyes, eat, walk, and hear. I wish for some clothes like a dress. I would want to give my grandma a ring which I have.

Love, Josefina Castillo

Dear Santa Claus,

I hope he give me some toys but I wish Santa would give me a new bike. I wish I had a Christmas tree at my house. I hope you come to the school.

my friend
Brian Shorter

Dear Santa Claus,

I want a tulo-hopper I wish that my family will be rich so I could live in a big-big house and have big-big swimming pool. I wish that you could go to see Dana for I will be happy and she will be happy too.

Love, Michael Brown

Dear Santa Claus,

I would like to have a pogo ball and a big doll and a basketball. But I really want you to see if you can go to Herman Hospital in Houston to see Dana Kelly please go and see her. It would make me and her happy.

Your little elf,
LaShanda Rainey

Dear Santa Claus,

For Christmas I want a go-cart and a turbo hopper. I want a lot of happiness in every family on this planet. I want the cold and homeless to have a nice warm home for their Christmas present. I want the hungry to have food too. I want every person in the hospital to get out and around for a while. I want all sick people to have fun and a good Christmas. I want every person to get what they want. I want all teachers to have a nice vacation if they want one.

Your little elf
Tim Powers

Dear Santa,

Santa all I want for christmas is my family to get well and no more things to happen. And I want my cast off, and that is what I want for christmas.

your friend,
Dana Kelley

FOURTH GRADE

Dear Santa,

How are you? I hope you are ready for Christmas. Please give toys to the kids who have no family and no home. That's what I want for Christmas.

Your friend,
Billie Jean Salazar

Dear Santa,

I have been good this year. For Christmas I want Kid sister, Baby Heather, Heart To Heart bear some clothes and a bike.

Your friend
Elizabeth Martinez

Dear Santa,

Two weeks ago I ordered a remote-controlled car. My grandfather is going to get me another one that looks different. I know one thing that my presents are going to get me. I wonder what you will get me.

Your friend,
Dean

Dear Santa,

This year what I really want for Christmas is for my baby cousin to be well. But I also want roller skates.

Your friend,
Rebecca Burrow

Dear Santa,

I want a stereo sistem and a Nintendo tape called doble dragon and a water bed. The tape Ringade and a honda 4 wheeler.

Your friend,
Wesley Perry

Dear Santa,

Some people say you aren't real. But I feel deep down in my heart that you are. May I have a Barbie doll real ice cream maker and get Rebecca one to. I want a computer. Get Elizabeth one to. I want a scooter. Get alera's one to. I want some clothes. Some people tell me that you got shot. But I just walk off and say I know he can't

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Family activities make holidays special

Doing things together as a family over the holidays creates good times and memories—and strengthens the family unit.

"It's ironic that even though the holidays are supposed to be family times, we're busier than ever," says Diane Welch, a family life specialist. "With family members shopping, baking and going in different directions to parties and other events, it's possible to spend very little time together."

"When children are of different ages and family members have different interests, it can be difficult to find things that everyone will enjoy," concedes Welch.

Love Your Best friend
Paula Barrow

Dear Santa,

I would you get my Mom a fur coat and a golden ring. I want you to get my Dad a pair of black shoes and a coat too. For my brothers and me too a robot that talk and do other things a bear that say the things you say to him.

Your friend,
James Randolph

Dear Santa,

My name is Adrian Carroll. I have been a good boy. For Christmas I would like to have a bike Scooter and Wheel of Fortune game for My Mother please bring her a house coat For my brother please him a coat.

Your friend,
Adrian Carroll

Dear Santa,

I wonder how you deliver all the gifts in the whole world. And I want a nice Called Dizz Dizz Dinosaur. And I surely want a game called The cookies in my bed. When it is the night before Christmas I'm going to fix you a plate with cookies, a sandwich, an apple, an orange. By the way I'll let you drink some punch I made. I hope you like all the food I made. Also I want a Disney land castle. I've been wanting some Reebok tennis shoes. I want a house. Bring me something pretty.

Your friend,
Tysha Tyler

Dear Santa,

How do you get around the world in one night? What do you do when a house does not have a chimney? I think you go through the door with the magic you have. Could you give me a doll that looks exactly like Rodolph the red nose Reindeer. Santa would you give me a bike? I would take care of it. Please give me the bike and I will try to give you some cookies. That's if my mom let's me get some cookies and milk. Please leave me a bag of maccie. Do you know what I wrote about you? You were in the story. Guess what it was called. The Night Before Christmas.

Your friend,
Stevie Hernandez

Dear Santa,

I've been wondering how you deliver all the presents in one night? Have you ever skipped a house? If you did someone would get mad. Santa I want a gorgeous go-car.

Your friend, Ozy