



The Lexington  
Concord  
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Happy  
Holidays

# Christmas Traditions

The most wonderful time of the year is approaching! What better way to soak up that cool atmosphere than with hot cocoa, caroling, lights, presents, and traditions. Lexington Concord asked two people from 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th, if they had any special holiday or New Year's traditions or resolutions. Get to know your peers better and how they spend their holidays!

Ciara tells Lexington Concord that the best way to spend the holidays is with family. The atmosphere of having family over and around is a tradition, but one specifically is on Christmas Eve, when everyone opens one present of pajamas to sleep in.

Ryan says how his family usually goes to Florida and spends Christmas and New Years with everyone. "We have a cookout, and just hang on the beach which is a lot of fun, but overall I just enjoy being with my family" he states.

Sophia's holiday seems special and fun, just what the season is about. She shared, "Usually on Christmas eve my family goes to Columbus to visit everyone and have a family Christmas dinner. We do white elephant gifts and normal gifts and make cookies. Usually when we go home we sit around the fire, talk, and have hot chocolate. In the morning we eat breakfast and celebrate Christmas!" New Year's



she hangs with friends watching the ball drop and during the day she spends time with her family eating, talking, and relaxing. Aiden spends his holiday with family relaxing and having a good time. He shared his New Year's resolution, "I want to push myself harder than I have before in school and sports." That is a great resolution that many should strive for! Sophia's resolution is to go into the new year without any negativity and to be the best version of herself,

trying to make it the best year yet.

Abbie's holidays are full of family fun. She enjoys her sisters company and appreciates seeing her cousins that come back from being on leave fighting for our country. She spends Christmas day eating at her grandparents' house. "My family is extra, we import lamb from Iceland to eat for Christmas dinner since my grandmother is from there" Abbie tells Lexington Concord. When Abbie was asked of any resolutions she has she says she is excited to enter the New Year, working hard and being a positive person. Although, for Noah, Christmas may have already come early for all the hard work he has done to win the Division II boys state cross country meet. His traditions to approach the holiday are putting up the tree the day after Thanksgiving, and taking it down New Year's Day. "We always decorate the tree with an angel on top" Noah says. As much success that has come to Noah after this year, his resolution still stands on being more confident in himself and to be positive and caring toward family and friends.



Shelby always goes to her grandma's house after their church service on Christmas Eve with a nice dinner. They get to open one gift early and spend time with family before Christmas day! David spends his holidays by kicking it off with a Christmas party on Christmas Eve. Christmas morning, he eats breakfast with the rest of his family and goes to his grandmothers.



# Holiday Music at Lexington

The music program has been busy this first semester preparing for their winter concerts that have finally arrived. The Bands, Orchestra, and Choirs have prepared many songs for us to indulge in, including Christmas tunes and a selection of other wonderful songs.

The Concert and Symphonic Bands had their concert on December 4th, at 7:30, in the High School Auditorium. The Lexington Concert Band, directed by Richard A. Ruth, performed four songs for the crowd including the Lexington High School Alma Mater, Fidelity March, Cut to the Chase, and Jingle Bell Gallop. Teddy, on trumpet, had a solo in Cut to the Chase. The Lexington Symphonic Band, directed by Zakary D. Wilkins, also performed four songs following the Concert Band. The selections they played for the crowd included Silvercrest March, O Magnum Mysterium, Sleigh Ride, and Many Sounds of Christmas. Rick, Miki, and Jadon all had solos in O Magnum Mysterium. There are fourteen seniors in the Symphonic Band: Karalyne, Rachel, Elyssa, Amanda, Seth, Colton, Dillon, Brendan, Rick, Zoe, Justus, Hayden, Damon, and Emily.

The Symphony Orchestra had their concert on December 7th, at 7:30, in the High School Auditorium. The Lexington Symphony Orchestra, directed by Stephen Domka, performed six songs including Declaration Overture, Dvorak's Ninth Symphony - New World, The Christmas Song, Frosty the Snowman, From the Realms of Glory!, and A Charlie Brown Christmas. Elyssa had a solo in Declaration Overture. In Dvorak's Ninth Symphony - New World, Abi had a solo. Rick had a solo in Frosty the Snowman. In A Charlie Brown Christmas, Daniel Domka played the keyboard part. There are fourteen seniors in the Orchestra: Carlee, Owen, Erick, Colton, Cameron, Kyle, Emily, Elyssa, Seth, Rick, Kyle, Hayden, Justice, and Damon.

The High School Choirs performed on December 14th, at 7:30, in the High School Auditorium. The Women's Chorus performed three selections on their own for the crowd including Winter Wonderland, Cradle Hymn, and Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas. The Men's Chorus performed after the Women's and performed three songs as well. Their selections were God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen, I Saw Three Ships, and Grandma Got Run Over By a Reindeer. Fire-N-Ice was the last group to perform on their own with four songs. The songs they performed were Fruitcake, In the Bleak Midwinter, It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year, and There is Faint Music. All three groups sang together to end the concert with White Christmas.

## Christmas Concerts



The division between church and state has always been a controversial subject in newsrooms and courtrooms as well as around the

## War on Christmas? By: Ajit

dinner table. This debate comes up even more especially around the winter holidays primarily because of Christmas and the issues many citizens take with religious displays on public property. However, these claims are baseless simply because of the free speech clause of the First Amendment. These nativity scenes and other displays are allowed on public property because private parties are the ones who are supplying them and requesting to use government property to present them. The government is set up in order to allow demonstrations by various groups and discriminates against no one. Many people also draw issue with the phrase "Happy Holidays" as some believe it to be an attack on Christmas. Others believe it to be just a way of remaining sensitive to those of other faiths while still getting hyped.



# Winter Sports and Holiday Traditions

During the winter, student parking lot accidents are at an all-time high, there are no more warm Friday night football games, and the stress of midterms build more and more each day. The good news is that Friday night basketball games are back!! We have all been waiting anxiously to watch the basketball team get win after win, and the wait is finally over. Jake and the rest of the team have been just as eager as us these past few weeks. The basketball team seems to be even closer than last year, and Jake thinks so too, "The team is extremely close this year, with the team meals and hanging out a lot outside of basketball has really brought us together." Jake says that the goal is to win the conference and the district, but that's not where they want to stop.



Jake, like many of us, have Christmas traditions with family. Jake tells us, "I spend Christmas with my family. I also have family that live in Kansas, so we normally go back there for a few days and visit." He also adds that he does not have traditions for New Years, other than hanging out with friends.



The wrestling team has also started their journey to another winning season. When asked about his goals for this season, Mason says, "My goals for the season are to win thirty matches and become a state qualifier." Mason also adds, "To get ready for matches I jump rope to stay warm and listen to my favorite songs." Mason is open to wrestling in college, but he has not thought about it too much.

The wrestling team also is a close group of guys, Mason tells us that on Christmas the team runs around the school singing Christmas Carols at the top of their lungs. "Coach puts it all over Facebook, it's hilarious," Mason tells us. Mason

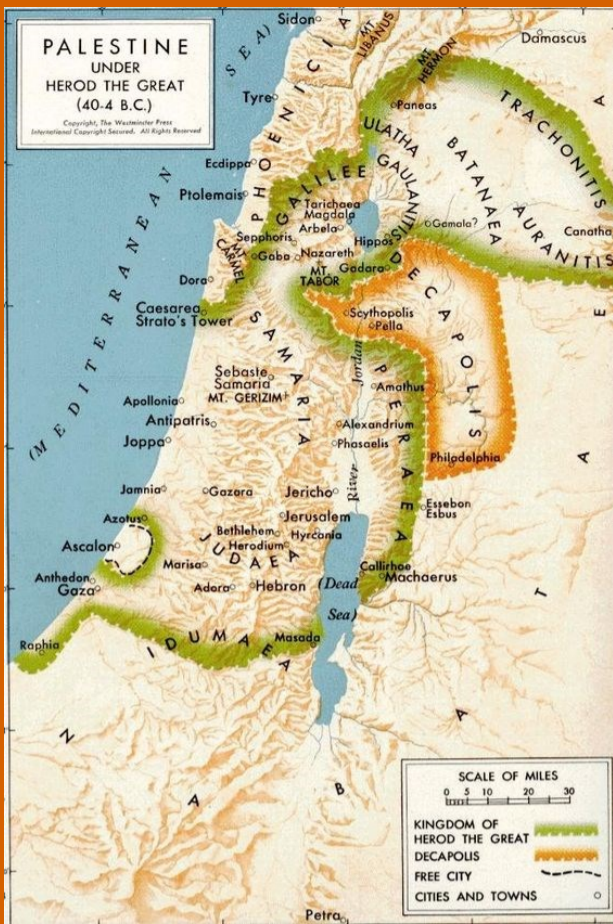
has Christmas traditions with his family also, he and his whole family attend the Christmas Eve service and spend Christmas together.



# Bowling teams

## Lexington vs Mansfield

The Lexington Bowling team was getting ready for the match against Mansfield desperately trying to keep their nerves down. As they entered their names on the machine they had twelve minutes. Joey was doing great during practice; his bowling ball was going off to the to the side but when it got to the end of the lane it curved right to the center pin. As Cam was practicing his ball too, was going the same way as Joey's but release was different, as he threw his ball he was putting his feet together on one dot to the left of the lane then stepping to the lane lifting the ball up then finally launch his ball like he was shaking hands with someone. As the game begun, player Chase was getting strikes here and there, but ultimately making up for it with a lot of spares. Curran, a rookie this year, was improving a lot with his score and helping the team. The girls too had a great practice, as they prepared for the real deal. Mansfield took a lot of gutter balls, which helped Lexington gain some points on the score board. Teamwork was key for Lexington; winning or losing, everyone was always willing to help out a teammate who was struggling. Possibly from the hype of winning, Lexington's players cheered each other on with chants and songs, and giving each other high-fives and fist bumps to rally for the. After the game was over the proud coaches congratulated the team with a job well done.



This year Hanukkah begins on Tuesday December 12th and ends on Wednesday December 20th. Although Hanukkah is not mentioned in the Hebrew Bible it is still one of the most major celebrations in the Jewish culture. The holiday is observed for 8 days and 8 nights starting on the 25th day of Kislev according to the Hebrew calendar. The history of this celebration reverts back to a time and place before people were 'endowed with certain inalienable rights' regarding the free practice of religion. During the year 200 BC, the king of Syria conquered the King of Egypt, Judea became a

## 8 Days of History: A Miracle By: Leah

part of the Syrian Empire. This new found leadership was at first a blessing to the Jewish people because the Syrian King was concerned with satisfying the Jewish population by granting them their right "to live according to their ancestral customs" and allowing them to continue to practice in the Temple of Jerusalem. Unfortunately this divine sanction was soon deprived from the Jewish people by the Syrian king's son, Antiochus IV Epiphanes, who invaded Judea with an army of soldiers. Though this invasion, and ultimate takeover, Epiphanes outlawed Jewish religion and forced everyone to worship Greek gods. In 168 BC Epiphanes army massacred thousands and destroying the city's holy temple and replacing



it with a statue of Zeus. Due to this indescribable violation of sacred values, the Jewish people led a revolt against their diabolical leader. The revolt was directed by a Hebrew priest and his five sons, but Judah ultimately took over after the death of his father. After two years of constant fighting, the Jews drove out the Syrians and in celebration they lit the menorah in the fallen temple to rebuild the alter. The miracle that is

Hanukkah is the fact that when they lit the menorah there was only enough olive oil to keep the candles lit for one day, but instead the candles stayed ignited for eight days and eight nights. This historic event was not documented in the Torah because the events followed after it was already written, however it is mentioned in the New Testament. This annual celebration proves to the world that the Jewish culture is something that cannot be broken or defeated, that they are strong and wise, that they are a miracle. A gimmicky motto is often said by the Jewish people stating that "they tried to kill us, they failed, now we eat".

To learn how to make an authentic Hebrew dish – latkes – for the holidays click this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sNfbf8OWP68>

# Hannon-

## A Piece of Creative Writing

As his family members arrived, Hannon remained still. The snow was high enough to cover his slim figure, and it had fallen fast enough to cover the footsteps leading to the fir tree where he lay. He exhaled sharply each time the screen door slammed shut and he heard Grandma Cheryl's exclamations of welcome. The permanent absence of his grandfather's voice alongside Grandma Cheryl's is what drove Hannon to leave the house, but even here it seemed facing loss was inevitable. The fir tree provided enough coverage to keep the ground beneath Hannon clear, but they broke apart more than enough to let in the memories he wished to escape flood his mind.

His mind drifted back to six years ago. Grandpa Brett burst into the living room in his red coat and overalls, a green sack on his back and the white beard he adorned once a year fell to his knees. Hannon stood back as his Grandpa excitedly gave presents to his younger cousins. Hannon had asked not to partake this year, at eleven he had begun to feel silly getting gifts from "Santa".

He watched and laughed as, oldest to youngest, his cousins frantically ripped apart the wrapping paper until the room was a flurry of gold red and green. When they were done, grandpa Brett slyly put a small red package in Hannon's pocket. He didn't know why, but something didn't feel quite right this year.

Hannon played with the watch on his wrist, the one he had gotten from his grandfather when he was eleven years old. He knew that if Grandpa Brett was still here, he would've asked to be included with the younger kids again. On the verge of adulthood, his grandfather's smile and unwavering energy seemed more important than being "too old" for St. Nick.

With a tear in his eye, Hannon thought back to last year. Even though he was in a wheelchair and only one of his grandchildren still believed, Grandpa Brett put on that old dusty costume. His laugh was weaker and the children couldn't jump to tackle him with hugs anymore, but that dingy red suit never failed to make an appearance.

Hannon wiped his face, and crawled out from under the tree. He hoped he could blame his watering eyes on the cold. As he makes his way towards the house, Hannon realizes that the barn door was left open. When he goes to shut it, he notices a red coat and overalls hanging above the mower. Hannon put the coat on, compelled by some childish notion that it would bring Grandpa Brett back.

He found the beard, tangled and matted, lying on the floor beneath where the coat was. Hannon didn't know where the green bag was, but he hadn't any gifts to fill it with anyway. He stood still for a few minutes before he walked towards the house again. At first he had forgotten he still had the suit on, but when he entered the living room, his three-year old cousin, Grace, jumped from Grandma Cheryl's lap and ran to hug him. Her childish cheer brought him joy, and his other cousins, despite being old enough to know who he really was, acted excited too. Hannon passed them the presents from under the tree, and even though he knew he hadn't brought his grandfather back, this was a tradition that was meant to stay.