

Old hands give youngsters 'Santa letter' tips

Youngsters throughout the area are honing their writing skills for that most important letter of the year, the one addressed, "Dear Santa Claus." Students in Barbara Brandt's first grade class at Dallas Elementary School got some help last week from a fifth grade class.

"We've been doing this for three years. It gives confidence to the fifth grade students and the first graders just love it," said Barb Wesneski, a fifth grade teacher at the school. "The fifth graders all get to be teachers when they come here."

Mrs. Brandt directed first graders not to start their letters with the words "I want." Instead, several fifth graders suggested asking Santa how he is.

Jesse Goode decided not to take any chances. "How are your reindeer?" he wanted to know. "Are they healthy enough to get to my house?"

This was not the first or last collaboration for these two classes this year. Fifth graders read to their first grade pals before the Thanksgiving holiday.

"They picked out the children they knew that time, but today we mixed them up a little differently so they could meet other students," said Mrs. Brandt.



POST PHOTO/M.B. GILLIGAN

First grader, Kara Hockenberry, on left, received help from fifth grade student Briana Zablotney.

The two classes will come together once again for the annual Read Across America celebration. The students will make up games for that day, which celebrates the birthday

of Theodor Geisel, a.k.a. Dr. Seuss. "We're going to gear our games for this first grade class," said Mrs. Wesneski.

Other classes that collaborated on Santa letters this year at

Dallas Elementary School were Regan Palfe's second grade with Miss Cooper's fifth grade and Mrs. Butcher's first grade with Mrs. Gibbon's third grade class.

Letters to Santa

Dallas Elementary

Gate of Heaven School

First Grade

Dear Santa,
I want my two front teeth so I can eat. And a tato carrying case. And a Playstation game. And Videonow.
Christina Valenti

Dear Santa,
Can I have the Doctor's Office Sleeping beauty costume Ashley George of the Jungle, Tinker Bell Mandarin 7/8 Dumbo & Peter pan ride accessories Disneyland park play set and the last one is I want my tooth to come out before I go to florida.
Nathalie

Dear Santa,
Could you please give food and toys to poor kids?
Brandon Reno

Hey Santa,
Do you have headlights on your sleigh? Did you ever play with toys? What kind of cookies do you want?
Ryan Marshall

Dear Santa,
I would like some Thomas the Tank things and a crayon maker. I like surprises. Whatever you give me I will like. I have some good cookies for you and reindeer du-t for all the reindeer. I love you.
Matthew Lyons

Dear Santa Claus,
I want lots and lots of snow.
Meghan McDonnell

Dear Santa,
All I want for Christmas is my two front teeth. But I also want Go Go So Real Walkin Puppy, a snow board, sleeping bag, Baby Annabell Iceemaker.
I love you Santa.
Madisen Gilhooley

Dear Santa,
this year for christmas I want a hamster and Junie B. Jones Smells Something Fishy and a sweatshirt, with a pair of sweatpants and a CD player with the cheetah girls CD.
Molley Hampsey

Dear Santa,
I want a Regenerator for christmas this year. Thank you very much. I have been a very good boy.
Anthony Huntington

Dear Santa,
I've been a very good boy this year so I'm writing to ask you for the following gifts: Lord Ring Helm's Deep Playset, some figures to go with it, Cobra Mountain, PS2 New Lord of the Rings game, PS2 Jak 2, PS2 New spongebob, PS2 Ninja turtles, PS2 MegaMan & anything you may think I'd like. Please leave some barney Presents for my brother Hunter. Have a safe trip.
Tyler Burke



Christina Valenti, Gate of Heaven 1st Grade



Maegan Wrubel, Gate of Heaven 1st Grade



Molly Hampsey, Gate of Heaven 1st Grade

Anzalone, Jackson will study in Europe

The upcoming winter break from college will find more than 150 Lafayette College students taking special three-week, faculty-led courses in locations around the world. Two of them, Alana Anzalone and Matthew Jackson, are from Shavertown.

Anzalone, Class of 2004 A.B. Government and Law, and Jackson, Class of 2004 A.B. Economics and Business, will study "Medieval Architecture in Northern Europe: Belgium, Germany, and the Netherlands" Dec. 28-Jan. 17. Anzalone will learn first-hand about the remarkable accomplishments of medieval builders and Roman architects. She will also study Roman and medieval history, enabling her to place the architecture in a societal context.

Lafayette is recognized as a national leader in study abroad. The College is No. 5 among U.S. News and World Report's top 30 national liberal arts colleges in the number of students who studied abroad in 1999-2002 (the most recent years for which data are available), according to the Institute of International Education, New York, N.Y. Lafayette is No. 1 among the nation's top 30 colleges in study-abroad participation in 2000-01.

King's students will study abroad

Two King's College students from the region will be studying or student teaching far from home this spring. The King's College Study Abroad program gives King's students useful and valuable educational and internship opportunities through travel and study in other countries.

Alison Hutch, a junior from Tunkhannock, will be studying at Regent's College, London, England, through the King's College-Webster University Study Abroad Program.

Jonathan Roskos, a junior from Dallas, will be studying at John Cabot University in Rome, Italy, through the King's College-John Cabot University Study Abroad Program.

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