



# What's Up With Kids!

December/January 2003-2004

## *Who Really Discovered North America?*

by Meaghan M., age 11



Christopher Columbus was the first to discover North America, or was he? He thought he landed in Asia, but it was really the Caribbean Islands, which is not connected to the mainland North America. So who really discovered North America? A Viking named Leif Eriksson discovered it. He landed in Labrador or what he called Markland. He also landed in a few other places about 500 years earlier than Columbus. So why do we think that Columbus discovered America and not Leif Eriksson? Well, Columbus kept a journal and Eriksson didn't, so scientists didn't find proof that the sagas (stories) were true. Scientists had proof of Columbus's journey. Recently scientists found proof of Eriksson's discovery. Of course none of this was Columbus's fault. He thought for his whole life that he had discovered some part of Asia.

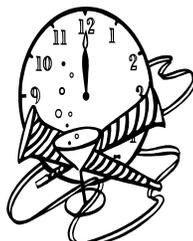


## *A Christmas Story*

by Natalie S., age 7

When I was asleep I heard something in the chimney. I thought it was Santa! So I went to sleep again. In the morning I heard the sound again! So I got out of bed and I went to the fireplace and looked up. I saw two black boots, a red and white coat, a hat and a long white beard. I said "Santa is that you?" "Yes, but shhh!" said Santa. "I do not want to wake your sister." "Ok, are you stuck?" I asked. "Yes!" Santa said, "Can you help me?" "Sure" I said. So I helped Santa get out of the chimney. I did it! Then Santa gave me my toys. "Thank you Santa!" I shouted. "You are welcome," he said. And off he went to the North Pole.

*Happy Holidays from all  
of us on the newsletter!*



*A Happy  
New  
Year!*



Picture of Santa  
by Natalie S., age 7

## Wisconsin Dells

by Jill G. age 9

Wisconsin Dells is a great family get away. I stayed at the Wilderness Resort. The lazy river has an underwater current that pushes you around the perimeter of the water park. You can go in on single or double rafts. The new wave pool has **huge** waves, from three to five feet! My raft tipped over. The big family slide is a real blast! It's dark and you don't know where you are going. The hot tub is an indoor/outdoor hot tub. It's fun to actually go outside in the cold with your bathing suit on.

The dry area has toy guns that shoot nerf balls at targets. It's good to see how good your aim is. There are tubes to crawl in, a long black slide to go down and much more! That's what I love about the Wisconsin Dells.



## Picture of Christmas Tree

by Emily G., age 7



## Answers to Holiday Quiz

by Zachary M.

- |                       |                     |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| 1. c - a guitar       | 5. a - St. Nicholas |
| 2. b - on December 25 | 6. d - Jacob Marley |
| 3. b - 1895           | 7. c - Shoes        |
| 4. c - Bohemia        |                     |

## Holiday Jokes

1. What Christmas Carol is a favorite of parents?  
**Silent Night.**

Ha Ha

2. What do snowmen eat for breakfast?  
**Frosted Flakes.**



3. How do sheep say Merry Christmas in Mexico?  
**Fleece Navidad.**



**Jokes are found at:**

<http://www.kidsdomain.com/holiday/xmas/games/riddles>

Don't forget to join the  
Winter Reading Program-  
"Take Flight-READ!"

**January 12- February 22**

Babies through 6th grade.

More information about the reading  
program available at the Youth Services  
"Ask Me Desk."



**What's Up With Kids**, is a Youth Services Publication. This newsletter is for kids, and is written by kids. It is our hope that this publication will provide children in the community a way to express their creativity and encourage reading, writing and drawing. Please visit the **Roselle Public Library** at our web site, [www.roselle.lib.il.us](http://www.roselle.lib.il.us) or in person at 40 South Park, Roselle, Illinois 60172.

Phone (630) 529-1641 Fax (630) 529-7579

This newsletter is produced by the children of Roselle, published by the Roselle Public Library Youth Services Department, and edited by Gerri Svenson, Youth Services Assistant .  
ARTICLES AND PICTURES SUBMITTED BY THE FOLLOWING STUDENTS:

Isannah C.	Home Schooled
Emily G.	Nerge School
Jill G.	Spring Hills Elementary School
Kelly M.	Spring Hills Elementary School
Meaghan M.	Spring Hills Elementary School
Madison M.	St. Walter Catholic School
Zach M.	Medinah Middle School
Natalie S.	St. Walter Catholic School
Andrea W.	Spring Hills Elementary School

## Character



## Counts

### Book Review

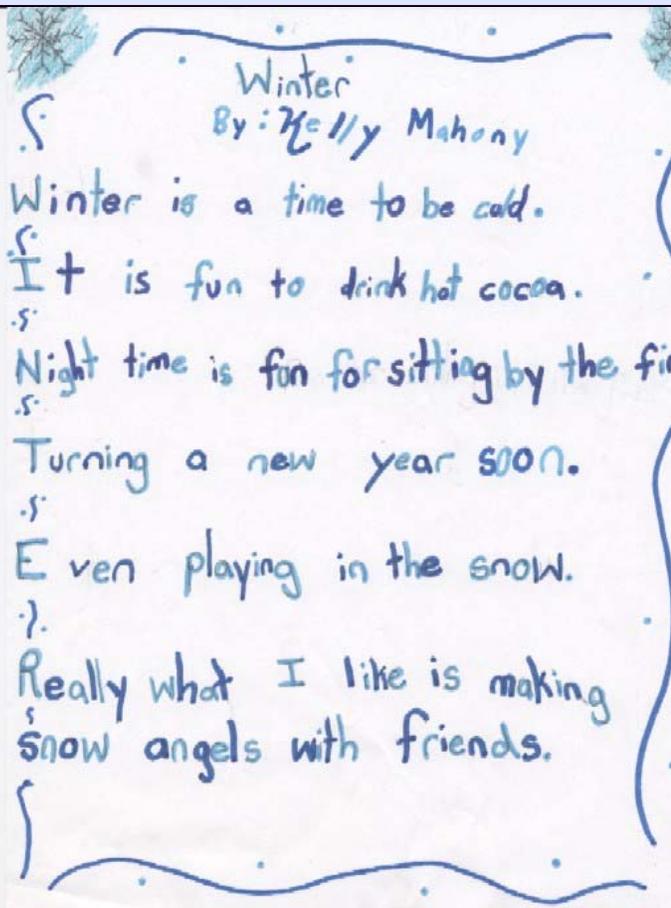
by Andrea W., age 8

If you are a third grader, you should read, *Rent A Third Grader* by B.B. Hiller. Even if you aren't a third grader you should still read this book.

It is about a third grade class that wants to save money to help the police's retired horse, Partner. A man from HappiPet Company wants to buy him to make pet food out of him. They call a horse farm for Partner to live on. One problem they have is to earn the money to pay for Partner to live in the pasture on the farm. They set up a program called "Rent a Third Grader," to do jobs to earn the money. They do other programs like a car wash, but it rains so they only earn ten dollars. Everything they do to earn money turns out wrong. They go on a field trip to the horse farm, "Aker's Acre." They get to see all the other horses there. The class thinks that this is a great place for the horse.

Read this book to find out if Partner goes to the horse farm or if he gets eaten by dogs. This book was a great lesson on teamwork. I loved the book. and think you would too!

(Title currently on order at the Roselle Public Library)



**The next *What's Up With Kids!* meeting is on Thursday, January 8 at 7:00 p.m.**

## Holiday Quiz

by Zach M., age 12

### Quiz Question #1

The first instrument on which the carol "Silent Night" was played was:

- [A\) A harp](#)
- [B\) A pipe organ](#)
- [C\) A guitar](#)
- [D\) A kazoo](#)

### Quiz Question #2

In Guatemala, Christmas Day is celebrated:

- [A\) On January 6](#)
- [B\) On December 25](#)
- [C\) On October 31](#)
- [D\) Never](#)

### Quiz Question #3

Electric Christmas tree lights were first used in:

- [A\) 1492](#)
- [B\) 1895](#)
- [C\) 1944](#)
- [D\) 1976](#)

### Quiz Question #4

Good King Wenceslas was king of which country?

- [A\) Abyssinia](#)
- [B\) England](#)
- [C\) Bohemia](#)
- [D\) Gondor](#)

### Quiz Question #5

Medieval English Christmas pantomimes did NOT include which character?

- [A\) St. Nicholas](#)
- [B\) The Bold Slasher](#)
- [C\) Father Christmas](#)
- [D\) The Turkish Knight](#)

### Quiz Question #6

The name of Scrooge's deceased business partner in Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* was:

- [A\) Bob Cratchit](#)
- [B\) Jerry Cornelius](#)
- [C\) Bill Sykes](#)
- [D\) Jacob Marley](#)

### Quiz Question #7

In North America, children put stockings out at Christmas time. Their Dutch counterparts use:

- [A\) Old hats](#)
- [B\) Beer mugs](#)
- [C\) Shoes](#)
- [D\) Stockings just like everybody else!](#)

I regret to report that this is Zach's last article for the *What's Up With Kids!* newsletter. Zach has been with the newsletter since its beginning in June 1999. Best of luck to you Zach!



## Home Schooled

by Isannah C., age 12

I am almost thirteen and I have never been to school. Let me explain: I am home schooled. Yes, that means I am taught at home, by my mom. I learn the same subjects: history, math, science, etc., but the cool thing is I can learn at my own pace.

It's really fun being home schooled, because, 1, I don't have homework, 2, my school day is about four to five hours long, and 3, I can have certain days off when other kids who go to public school don't and vice versa. I can wear my pajamas while I work, and listen to music as long as it doesn't distract me. I start school at 8:00 a.m.

It has its disadvantages too. If I don't have school on a certain day, I have to spend my weekend having classes. I don't have snow days, and I always have some school days in the summer, including Fourth of July. Parent/teacher conferences are every day when my parents talk to each other, or when my mom talks to herself.

It is incorrect to think that one of the disadvantages is that I don't make friends. I have friends who go to public school, private school and tons of home schooled friends. I belong to a home school group. It's called Enrichment. My best friend's mom is the president of Enrichment this year. My mom was president for three years in a row. I have to deal with boys who think girls are weak, (and we always prove them wrong), crushes, gym and clicks.

So, even though I'm home schooled, I still get a good education, have tons of friends and a social life. I have chores, I fight with my older brother, watch television a lot, read a lot and have tons of things going on. I like music, IM-ing, talking forever on the phone, dance, and even boys. I hate it when some people think I'm treated like some science experiment. I'm just a normal girl dealing with the same boring things in school....and at home.

## Cars

by Madison M., age 8  
Cars go there, cars go here.

Cars go everywhere.

If a friend asked you "where do cars go"?

Cars go everywhere.