



Our Christmas is never going to change. It's not just the presents that make Christmas a happy beautiful time, it's the tradition.

Every Christmas we hang my great grandmother's homemade bulbs on the tree. Every Christmas I'm always the first one up and probably will be until I leave for my own house someday.

First I wake up my little brother and we go wake up my older sister. We always get in a big fight over who's going to wake up my mom and dad. They always get up when we ask them to.

One thing about my mom and dad, they always make Christmas a very exciting day. They're always in the Christmas mood. My mom and dad always make us wait on the stairs while they go see if everything's all right. It drives us crazy!

Christmas is the best holiday and don't let anyone tell you different!

DENISE LAVERDURE

On the first night of Chanukah everybody is quite excited. We don't usually have guests, but maybe we will this year.

Mom sets on a table a candleholder, with nine holders. It's called a menorah. On the first night there will be two candles. A candle called a helper candle doesn't count as a night. It's the only candle lit by a match. The rest of the candles must be lit by the helper candle.

My brothers and sister and I usually fight over the candle lighting all except the helper candle, because my parents handle matches most of the time.

We say a prayer and open our presents, (if we get any). We don't necessarily get a present every night.

Lachas is a kind of potato pancake cooked in oil. We cook it in oil because in the story of Chanukah there was only a little bit of oil and it lasted eight days.

LINDA TURNAUER

THE HOLIDAYS



AT OUR HOUSE

Essays by fifth and sixth graders at Livonia's Hoover Elementary.

Every Christmas, since I was a little girl, and even before then, we celebrated Christmas the same every year. It's fun and I look forward to it.

On Christmas Eve we go to my grandmother's. When we arrive, most of our cousins are there. The rest of our family comes to our house on Christmas Day.

Most of our cousins are babies. Our aunts and uncles are pretty young also. Then we all sit down and while the Christmas songs are playing and my grandpa passes out presents some of us have to take time out to help the younger children but they catch on quickly.

After we're done it's around 11:30. We go eat dinner, but half the people (including me) just

play with the toys. Afterwards the adults sit around and drink coffee or wine and talk while some of us play and the very small children sleep. Around 1:30 a.m. we go.

The next morning we wake up to many presents and fun. Our cousins come later. We wake up and open one present before our cousins arrive, and we're very choosy about which one. When my cousins do come, the Christmas records are on and everyone is busy opening presents. My Dad passes them out. A little while later we eat breakfast and after we talk and play.

Christmas is a fun holiday and I wish the whole world could share it because it brings joy and love throughout the world.

KAREN ROURK

On Christmas eve my family and I celebrate Jesus' birthday by having a small birthday party for him. We sing "Happy Birthday" and eat cake and drink egg nog. After the party, we open one present from under our tree and go to bed.

We go to bed early because morning comes faster that way. No one really goes to sleep at first because they want to hear Santa's reindeer on our roof, but we get so tired that we can't keep our eyes open any longer and we fall asleep.

We usually wake up around six o'clock to see what Santa brought us. Sometimes my brothers' and sisters' eyes pop when they see what they've received.

After church we spend the day with our cousins, aunts, uncles and grandparents. The day is filled with lots of good food, talking, toys and fun. After they are gone, I wish I didn't have to wait another year for Christmas to come again.

JODY DROUILLARD

Dievali is a festival of lights and most of the houses are lit up with oil lamps.

This is an age old custom practiced by most Hindus to celebrate God incarnate Rama's victory over the demon Ravana. By lighting the lamps, people overcome darkness with light just as good overcomes the evil.

This festival generally falls towards the end of October every year, but marks the end of the Hindu calendar year. Also during this festival, children have excitement by lighting the fire crackers until late in the night.

When the sun rises the next day, it's New Year's. People begin to exchange greetings with their friends and relatives and cement their relationships by eating sweets and snacks at each others homes.

NIDHI AMIN

