

The Brighton Star

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Harvesters' Helpers

Lydia De Wolf
Reporter

During the month of November, the Brighton Student Council organized a school-wide volunteering trip to Kansas City's only food bank, Harvesters Community Food Network. Harvesters is an organization that collects, sorts, and distributes food in their fight against hunger. If you didn't make it to the school trip, here are a few facts about Harvesters, taken from their website, www.harvesters.org.

"Harvesters is a food bank, which is a centralized food collection and distribution facility that provides food and household products to agencies serving people in need.

"In 2008, Harvesters distributed more than 28 million pounds of food and household products in our 13-county direct service area in and around Kansas City.

Harvesters can feed five people for just \$1. That kind of efficiency can only come from the central distribution model in which dollars are leveraged to acquire, transport, sort, package, store and distribute donated food."

Hats off to Harvesters for their good work, and a big "thank you" to the Brighton students who donated food and their time to this mission work! ▲



Photograph by Beverly Pell

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*Lotus Roots with
Gingko*



La Buche de Noel

Food From Afar

*Katie Wells
Reporter*

Turkey, mashed potatoes, gravy, green beans, pumpkin pie. All of these foods are traditional holiday eats in our home sweet home, USA. But what about other countries? Well, I decided to find out!

People in China eat many different things during the holidays, like lotus roots fried with ginkgo! Pork tongue salad and tingling spicy chicken are also on the menu!

In France they eat a cake called La Buche de Noel. Goose is their roast turkey. And sometimes they eat oysters with crepinettes (a sort of sausage)!

If you lived in Australia, you would probably enjoy roasted duck with salad, but this mainly depends on where you live.

So before you start looking forward to a traditional American Christmas, put yourself in someone from another country's shoes. Or clogs for that matter! ▲



Pork Tongue Salad



Roast Goose



Spicy Chicken



Roast Duck with Salad



*Oysters with
Crepinettes*



Ask Annie....

Anna Goodman
Columnist

Dear Annie,

Christmas is coming, and all my friends are talking about holiday traditions that they have with their families. My family really has never had any traditions, though. I think it would be wonderful if we could start some, but I have absolutely no idea where to even begin. Do you have any ideas for fun family holiday traditions? I would love suggestions.

Sincerely,

Tradition-Less in Kansas City

A: Dear *Tradition-Less*,

Family customs and traditions can be a lovely and unforgettable part of the holiday season. I think it is wonderful that you want to help your family start some of their own! In response to your question, I want to give you five holiday traditions to help you start brainstorming.

- 1) Begin Celebrating Advent—If you are looking to start a family Christmas tradition that last for the whole holiday season, Advent is perfect. It starts four Sundays before Christmas each year. There are a variety of different methods for celebrating it. Some suggestions would be reading an advent book (with daily chapters), keeping an advent calendar, or lighting advent wreath candles.
- 2) Christmas Flicks—During the holiday season, life gets very hectic. This next idea is a way to combine starting a new family tradition with getting a little break from the hustle and bustle of Christmas. Over the years, a variety of delightful Christmas movies have been made. Try planning a family movie night each week in December.
- 3) Create with Cookies—Christmas

BRIGHTLY LIT(erature)

Spotlighting Student Writers & Literary Critics

Showdown Trilogy A Book Review

Timothy Meigs
Columnist

Continuing with our Ted Dekker theme...



Showdown... Deep in the mountains of Colorado rests a subterranean monastery. About ten

years ago David Abraham came to this place with several other teachers to raise up the next generation of world leaders. After being taught by God's divine principles, these young people would enter the world with a pure mindset on life, ready to battle the spiritual forces of darkness that roam the world. But this monastery has not gone unnoticed by these dark powers, nor has its students. Suddenly everything that they have been taught is put in jeopardy by one boy, Billy Rediger, who challenges the very foundation of their beliefs.

Meanwhile, in a nearby town called Paradise, a stranger strolls into town. He wears black cowboy boots, black pants, a black trench coat, a white shirt, and black hat. He's not your normal farmer, the townspeople soon realize, or even your normal city-slicker for that matter. He's just plain creepy. And, soon, strange things begin to happen in this town called Paradise.

What is going on? And what is the connection to the Books of History that David Abraham discovered so many years ago?

In Saint, an assassin named Carl Strople attempts to uncover his elusive past, in the meantime finding support in the love of Kelly, his handler. What is his connection to Project Showdown? And can he find out before the unknown spiritual forces find him?

In Sinner, the American society has evolved into one where the sharing of one's faith is labeled "offensive." Billy and Darcy, from Showdown, discover that they are perhaps two of the most powerful individuals on earth. "Listen to them," the summary on the back of the book claims, "or pay a terrible price. Follow Johnny Drake (Showdown, Sinner) into the desert as he leads 3,000. Follow him and die."

In this trilogy (Showdown, Saint, Sinner; collectively referred to as the Showdown Trilogy), Ted Dekker brings together a tale loaded with metaphors that can be compared to C. S. Lewis's Narnia where the seen world as we know it meets the world of the unseen as angels and demons battle for the souls of men. ▲

Ask Annie continued on page 4...

Brightly Lit continued on page 4...

baking is a common and well-loved tradition. Why not making it one of your own and put a spin on it? For example, there is information online about how to make a cookie manger scene or a series of cookies representing the story of Christ's life.

- 4) Share the Cheer—Plan to have a yearly Christmas party. It's a wonderful way to celebrate and create a tradition that includes more than just your immediate family.
- 5) Reach out to others—Make it a family custom to get involved with a program such as Angel Tree or Operation Christmas Child each year. This type of tradition can help turn the holiday focus from getting to giving.

I hope these suggestions help get you started! Remember, though, part of what makes a family tradition so special is its uniqueness. So, feel free to expand and fine-tune these ideas. In fact, as you spend more time thinking about it, you may realize that your family already does have some "un-official" traditions that you could take and build upon. I hope these suggestions come in handy!

Hope you have a merry and blessed Christmas!

*Sincerely,
Annie*

Note on Last Issue's Column: Congratulations to Caleb DeWolf, the first reader who submitted the correct answer to last month's reader question. Thank you to everyone that responded. Keep your eyes open for new contests coming soon!!

Answer: 10,992 legs on the bus (including the driver)

Prize: \$5 Sonic gift card

Have a comment on this month's column? Would you like to see your question in an upcoming issue of the Brighton Star?? Submit your opinions and questions to Ask Annie @ askannieatbrighton@gmail.com▲

Samantha's World (part 3 of 4)

*Anna Ireland
Junior Columnist*

Samantha has just heard mysterious noises outside her bedroom door...

Just then a figure crept silently into the room. I wanted to scream, but I kept my mouth shut tight. Then I heard a voice, and relaxed. "Samantha, are you awake?"

I said, "Yes, what do you want?"

"Umm," he replied, "I was just wondering if you felt OK."

"Yeah, I'm fine," I sighed. The boy turned and started to leave. "Wait," I whispered, "What's your name?"

He stopped and turned, "Jonathan," he said, "Jonathan Wilder." Then he turned and was gone.

The next morning Jonathan's mother came in with a steaming tray in her hands, followed by a tall quiet man, who looked just like Jonathan. The man had slightly tanned skin, light brown hair, and brown eyes to match. Behind the man were two boys. One I knew was Jonathan, but the other I did not know. The boy looked to be about three years old, and was a second version of his mother, with black hair and big grey eyes. (Not that his mother had big eyes!)

The little boy ran towards me and announced, "My name is Joseph Sam Wiyde', but you 'tan 'tall me Joey."

Just then the little boy's hair reminded me of something, Prince! I had left him in the stable, saddled and bridled! Suddenly, I sat straight up in bed and cried, "I need to go take care of my horse!"

The tall man stepped forward and said gently, "It's all right, Jonathan and I found him all saddled and bridled, grazing in front of the house. We put him in the stable, and left him munching on some hay." I sank back in relief.

Then I froze! What about Dad and Julie?

To Be Continued Next Month....▲

TEACHER FEATURE

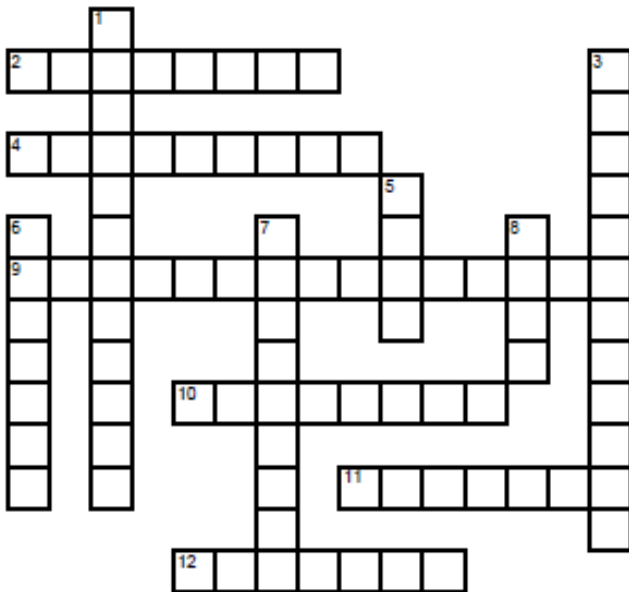
★ Glenda Hester ★

Lydia DeWolf
Reporter

Mrs. Hester has taught Elementary Science classes at Brighton for four years. She says she enjoys her job because she loves science, loves making it hands-on for her students, and believes that all kids can like science if they are taught the right way from the beginning. She says if students can learn to love science, they will continue to pursue it and enjoy it even when it gets a little tougher!

Having lived in Kansas City all her life, Mrs. Hester attended the University of Kansas (KU) and majored in Occupational Therapy. She has five daughters, all of whom play volleyball, and she's spent a lot of time at tournaments. She has traveled abroad to Eastern Europe, especially Czechoslovakia (what is now the Czech Republic and Slovakia) and Yugoslavia (which is now multiple separate countries). Her favorite food is anything Italian, and her favorite music genre is Contemporary Christian. She loves To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee. It may surprise you to learn that her first car was an orange Mustang!

Mrs. Hester's advice to students, including those who are considering entering her field, is "study hard, take your schoolwork seriously, and enjoy learning." Thanks, Mrs. Hester! ▲



The First Thanksgiving

Answers in Next Month's Issue

Across

2. Pilgrims came to America in search of freedom of _____.
4. This tribe helped the Pilgrims
9. Original inhabitants of North America
10. Group of people who left England for America in search of religious freedom
11. Type of squash first grown by Native Americans
12. Thanksgiving is a celebration of gratitude for the _____.

Down

1. The Pilgrims landed here
3. Holiday first celebrated by the Pilgrims.
5. Grain native to North America
6. The Pilgrims left this country in search of religious freedom.
7. The Pilgrims came to America on this ship
8. Season in which Thanksgiving is celebrated.

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