

# The Brighton Star

Volume 1, Issue 4

December 2009

## MERRY CHRISTMAS, BRIGHTONEERS!

*Katie Wells*  
Reporter

As you all know we had a Christmas party on Wednesday. (I take this opportunity to thank Mrs. Prinzing and Kasha.) This holiday bash had tasty food, awesome games, and great friends. We had everything from chips to rice crispy treats, played a fun game that involved meeting new people, and participated in a gift exchange. We have the privilege of attending a Christian school, so we know the real meaning of Christmas is celebrating Christ's birth. And you can take *that* to the bank. ▲



Mariah DeGisi and Sarah Kanaga have fun at the party  
*Photograph by Sarah Wacker*

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Now is the perfect time to join up as a columnist or reporter! Send us your submission by the 15<sup>th</sup> of January to appear in the first issue of the next semester!

### IN THIS ISSUE...

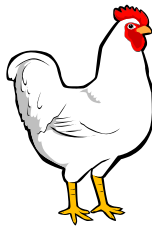
- 2** THE TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS Lydia DeWolf
- 3** ASK ANNIE *Anna Goodman*
- 3** BRIGHTLY LIT(erature) *featuring Timothy Meigs and Anna Ireland*
- 5** TEACHER FEATURE: MEET MRS. VRABLIC!

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The Partridge, a bird who sacrifices itself for its young, represents Christ, while the Pear Tree represents the Cross.

The Two Turtle Doves were offered by Mary and Joseph in the Temple for Jesus as the Law required.



Three French Hens represent the three expensive gifts of the Magi: gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Four Calling Birds stand for the Four Gospels.



The Five Golden Rings represent the first five books of the Old Testament, the Torah.



Six Geese A-Laying stand for the six days of Creation.



# The Twelve Days of Christmas

## The Secret Meanings Behind the Carol

*Lydia DeWolf*  
Reporter

Most people can sing all the verses to the popular Christmas carol, “The Twelve Days of Christmas,” but many have never heard of the meanings behind the symbols. The song got its start in England during the 16<sup>th</sup> century, when England established a state church. Christians who did not agree with the state church were not allowed to teach their children their beliefs, but that didn’t stop them! They used a song like a secret code, singing about objects and numbers that helped them to remember the basis of their creed. Each verse, whether swimming swans or leaping lords, represents an aspect of the Christian faith. Share these simple reminders with your family this year as you sing this well-loved carol, and have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! ▲

Seven Swans A-Swimming stand for the gifts of the Holy Spirit: prophecy, teaching, serving, encouraging, giving, leadership, and showing mercy.



8 Maids A-Milking stand for the 8 teachings in the Beatitudes.

9 Ladies Dancing represent the 9 Fruits of the Spirit.



10 Lords A-Leaping represent the 10 Commandments



11 Pipers Piping stand for the 11 faithful Apostles



12 Drummers Drumming represent the 12 points of the Apostle’s Creed.



## Ask Annie....

Anna Goodman  
Columnist

Dear Annie,

Winter is here in full force, and I'm quite delighted. I love the brisk cold weather, and snow-days are amazing. Every year, all the cold weather makes me hanker to start baking something sweet. I love to cook, and my mom is always more than happy to buy any supplies I need. I have a problem, though. There are so many mouth-watering recipes out there that I can never decide which ones to try. Do you have any tips on how to spot a good recipe?

Sincerely,  
*Indecisive Baker*

A: Dear *Indecisive*,

Creating in the kitchen can be a fun and productive way to pass the time. As you said, there are tons of fabulous recipes out there, and you can't make them all. You need to narrow your options a bit. First, decide how many recipes you want to realistically bake during a normal week. Make it a goal to have the next week's recipes picked out on the Sunday before it starts. That way, you can spend your free time during the week BAKING and not worrying about what you should make.

When it comes to actually deciding on a recipe, you can run any dessert that catches your fancy through a series of questions to help you determine whether it really is one that is worth making or if it is one you should probably pass up. Here are a few examples of the types of questions to ask:

1. *How Long Will It Take?* If you

*Ask Annie continued on page 4...*

# BRIGHTLY LIT(erature)

Spotlighting Student Writers & Literary Critics

## Green: Book Zero A Book Review

Timothy Meigs  
Columnist

Continuing with our Ted Dekker theme...



Thomas Hunter stands in the desert before 3,000 lovers of Elyon

who await him to start the ceremony that will mark the beginning of their night of feasting and dancing in celebration of Elyon's love for them and their love for Him. Six maidens clothed in white move back into the crowd after their part in the ceremony. It is Thomas's turn. He begins the ceremony, praising Elyon who chose them for His bride. As he finishes, his son Samuel rides up, having taken no part in the ceremonies. After a few words, Samuel drops an object on the ground and it rolls forward to be illuminated by the firelight.

It is a human head. A Horde head.

An open challenge to Elyon's command to love the Horde.

And as Thomas listens with growing dread his son openly challenges their beliefs down to the very existence of Elyon and His promises. "Where is Elyon?" he asks the multitude. "Where is our God?"

And few challenge his words. Elyon's followers have waited for Him to fulfill His promises for ten long years, fugitives in the desert from Horde and Eramites, during which time not a single sign from Elyon has been seen.

Before Thomas' eyes, the seams of their very beliefs begin to come apart.

Anguished and desperate, he interrupts Samuel's challenges with a challenge of his own to be taken to Qurong, Supreme Leader of the Horde. A challenge to a battle of spiritual forces on a metaphorical Mount Carmel, Elyon vs. Teeleh, in an event of astronomical proportions that will test Thomas, Samuel, Qurong, Teeleh's priest Baal, and others in their faith, devotion, and love.

So begins the latest thriller by renowned Christian author, Ted Dekker. Green: Book Zero, the beginning and the end of the Circle trilogy (Black, Red, White).

Meanwhile, 2,000 years earlier, Billy Rediger from the Showdown trilogy (Showdown, Saint, Sinner) and Janae de Raison, daughter of Monique de Raison, are being drawn by a force that neither of them understands to find a way into Thomas's dream world in the future, and they will go to any length to accomplish their task. No matter what the cost.

In a tale of love, faith, and courage, Green tells the story of two worlds filled with spiritual darkness and one man's fight to save all that he loves in the day of Elyon's wrath. In the epic battle that plays out between the forces of good and evil, which side will be victorious? What role does Thomas have in it, and what will it cost him?

Enter, lovers and fighters, the world of Green: Book Zero. The beginning and the end. ▲

*Brightly Lit continued on page 4...*

are planning on spending six hours during a week baking, and you plan to make three recipes, anything that would take more than two hours to prep, bake, and clean up is out of the question for that week.

2. *Will It Be Difficult to Make?* Especially when you are starting out, don't try to do more than one really complicated recipe per week. If you do, you may end up exhausted and burnt out on cooking. (No pun intended.)
3. *Who Will Eat It?* If you go to all the trouble of making a lovely dessert, you want to make sure it gets eaten. Check with your parents, siblings, and friends to see what kind of sweets they enjoy. This is guaranteed to help narrow your options. Remember, not everyone has to like everything you make, but it is always better if at least SOME of your family and friends will enjoy your sweet creation with you.
4. *What Are **Your** Favorites?* Are there any recipes that you have tried at a restaurant or a friend's house and then wished you could make at home? The Internet is a great resource for finding recipes, but if you do not know what you are looking for, it can be a little overwhelming. Try googling the name of a favorite dish. It will narrow your search field, and you may find a way to create your favorite restaurant dessert at home.

I hope that these tips help you with your recipe selection. Happy baking, and I'll see you next month!

*Sincerely,  
Annie*

*Do you have any recipes or baking tips for our readers? 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](mailto:askannieatbrighton@gmail.com)▲*

## Samantha's World (part 4 of 4)

*Anna Ireland  
Junior Columnist*

*Samantha has just remembered her father and sister....*

My sister Julie was going to be worried, and maybe even Dad! I slowly looked up at the man and asked, "What about my dad?"

He laughed. "You worry altogether too much! We called your father and he said that you can stay here until your ankle is better." That took care of all my worries for now, so I ate while I talked to three-year-old Joe.

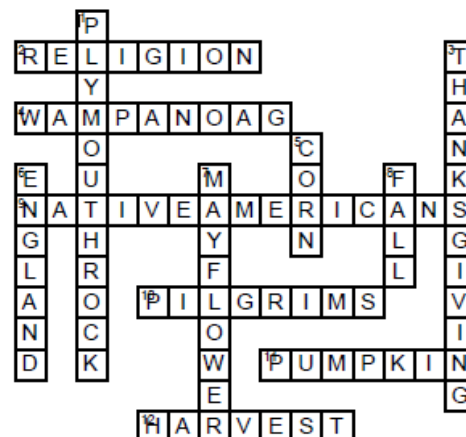
After Joe left, Jonathan's mother came in with a doll and her trunk. She said, "This is what the store in town could not sell. My husband got it for you. He had me come and give it to you. He must to do the chores, so he cannot come to see you."

The doll had soft brown curls, understanding brown eyes, rosy cheeks, pink lips, and a lovely light blue dress trimmed with white. "She's just like a princess!" I exclaimed.

"You have got to go to the doctor, Samantha dear, because you have a broken ankle, but cheer up," she told me. Then she called, "Jonathan!"

Jonathan came in, carried me over to the horses and the cart, and settled me in comfortably. When everyone was in, the horses trotted off. As we cantered through the country side, I looked past the meadows to the sun shining on the distant mountains. In spite of my broken ankle and the doctor, I was sure I was the happiest girl in the world.▲

### The Answers to Last Month's Thanksgiving Crossword:



# TEACHER FEATURE

## ★ Jennifer Vrablic ★

*Lydia DeWolf*  
Reporter

**1. What is your full name?**

Jennifer Ann Vrablic.

**2. What classes do you teach at Brighton, and how long have you taught them?**

This year I teach Junior High Spanish B, Spanish 1, 2 and 3. In the past, I also taught Elementary Spanish and Junior High Spanish A. This is my fourth year at Brighton.

**3. Where did you grow up?**

I grew up in Gladstone, MO.

**4. Where did you attend college and what did you major in?**

I went to KU for my undergraduate degree in Spanish Language, Literature and Culture. I completed my M.A. at the University of Illinois-Chicago in Spanish Applied Linguistics.

**5. Do you have any children? What are their ages?**

Yes, I have two children. Mark is twelve years old and in seventh grade. Sarah is nine years old and in fourth grade.

**6. What is your favorite holiday tradition?**

Oh...it's hard to pick one. Christmas Eve is my favorite day of the year. We get together with all our relatives (my parents, aunts, uncles, cousins, their kids, everybody) and eat and open presents...and eat some more. We then go to late church service and go home and get ready for Santa to come by putting out cookies and milk for him, carrots for the reindeer, and we sprinkle reindeer food (oats with glitter mixed in) on the lawn so Santa can find our house. We then read 'Twas the Night Before Christmas before bed.

**7. Have you traveled any places interesting or exciting?**

Well, I studied in Spain when I was in high school...that was very exciting! Since then, I've traveled to Mexico and throughout Europe and Eastern Europe visiting my sister who has lived in all sorts of different countries.

**8. What is your worst fear?**

My worst fear is that something bad would happen to my children.

**9. Do you have any hobbies?**

I love to swim, water ski, tube...anything in the water. I also like to read, watch old movies, and work out at Jazzercise.

**10. What do you usually do in your free time?**

Ha! There's not much during the school year, is there? When there is, I like to read or watch an old movie.

**11. What was your first car?**

Oh! My first car...I haven't thought about that in a LONG time! It was a two-tone brown '82 Buick Skylark passed down from my mom when she got a new car. Definitely not the coolest car to have. But I was happy to be able to drive to school and not have to take the bus.

**12. What advice do you have for any student considering entering your field (education and/or Spanish)?**

I would say get out there and talk to people in Spanish as much as possible and don't be afraid to make mistakes. Once you get over being worried about speaking perfectly, a whole new world opens up to you. It's amazing all you can learn just from having a conversation with somebody else! ▲