

Stories with Santa: Students hear classic Christmas tale with school visitors



Jennette Moore, Goodman librarian, read *The Night Before Christmas* to Mrs. Andrea Harper-Wright's First Grade Class at Goodman-Pickens Elementary School on Thursday, December 20. Moore also invited Santa Claus to visit the kindergartners and first graders. Pictured at top, children in Mrs. Wright's class – Mariah Anderson, Khaleesi Brown, Kayden Coffey, Catelynn Crayton, Kristiuna Davis, Curtis Gibson, Dana Harrington, Madysyn Jenkins, DeRyshia Jones, Jakobe Primer, Kaleb Primer, D'Vion Reasor, ZyMarion Williams and McKinley Winston. Pictured above, first graders with Santa Claus and Moore in Ms. Brittney Russell's class are: Khloe Andrews, Kaycee Blanden, Akiyah Clayton, Kristiana Davis, Jaymykle Edwards, Darius Johnson, Demarcus Jones, Da'Ayviyon Kyser, Austin Mosley, Fredrick Parks, Javarius Primer, Jakeirra Wilcox, Da'Marion Williams, and Tionna Williams. (Photos submitted)

Christmas Remnants

The remnants of the many different favorite foods that I had prepared over the course of a week has been eaten/inhaled and all that is left is the carcass of a 15 pound turkey and the left overs from the many casseroles sitting on our bar. Our stomachs are filled to capacity and we probably need a "long winter's nap" but now we attack the main attraction of the day - PRESENTS!!

Each precious little, and not so little face is sitting around my big den in anticipation of opening the gazillion gifts running into the floor from underneath the dried out Fir tree decorated with colorful lights. The expectancy and impatience from each one is on high alert! We try our best to begin with the younger children but as always it turns into a circus of sorts as everybody grabs one of their gifts and begins to tear into the bounty. There is absolutely no way to watch each as they bring out the reward so I just try to catch each one as they hold it up on display. I always get a list to draw from when Christmas shopping and try my best, within reason, to comply with each request. I always try to buy my "little boys", Michael and Marc, and "little girl", Pam, something well remembered from their childhood.. This year it was a "Snake Eyes" GI Joe, a Star Trek communicator, and a Rainbow Bright Doll. This always brings back so many good memories of Christmases of yesteryears. I believe these treasures might have been their favorite gifts this year. This year the adults drew for White Elephant gifts and as I told them, I might have misunderstood White Elephant and my two gifts might draw some slight embarrassment! Whoops!! After much laughter, teasing, and holding on to their prize we are neck-deep in

wrapping paper and cardboard boxes and ribbon. We clean up our happy mess and just enjoy the time with each other. Two of our "heart children" have gone on home and we always remember them at these special times and are so thankful for their time in our lives.



Peggy's Take

There are no more lights blinking, no more red and green glittering tinsel, no more Santas sitting on the sideboard, 50 Nutcrackers have been put to sleep for another year, and all 8 Christmas trees have been put away once again. My house looks as if it never saw Christmas this year, but it surely did! My walls welcomed and cherished 27 people this year, 13 of them my much loved grandchildren. My walls were erupting at the seams with all the laughter and love of this special family..... I have given this recipe before but it is one of my favorites for leftovers so here it is again.

Turkey Pot Pie

Begin with two bought pie crust. Layer one into the bottom of a ten inch deep cast iron skillet and cook for 8-10 minutes on 350*.

- I add to the crust leftovers.
- 1 1/2 - 2 cups chopped cooked turkey,
- (the remaining is left over from my casseroles)
- 1/2 cup of green beans
- 1/2 cup butterbeans
- 1 cup corn casserole
- 1 cup hash brown casserole
- 1 cup broccoli and rice casserole

No salt needed as it has already been added in the cooking. If your skillet is big enough you can add more vegetables. Cover the top with the other pie crust and cut vents into the top. Bake until bubbly and the top is browned. It is better the second time around.

**Peggy Sims is a life-long resident of Attala County and columnist.*

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