

THE BURROW

The Student Newspaper of Hamilton County Senior High School

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Flipping the pages of history



Santa Claus, the jolly old man who delivers presents to all the good children in the world.



By Nick Holloman
The Burrow

Christmas is one of the biggest holidays for the community. Even if you don't celebrate it you probably know its customs. Sitting in front of the fireplace, singing carols, the giving of presents, and the Christmas Day feast, are just a few origins that go back hundreds of years before Jesus Christ.

The Yule Log tradition, originates in what is present day Norway in which the Vikings celebrated light and birth in the darkest days of winter. Sometime near the winter solstice the Vikings would take a large log and set it aflame in the middle of their settlement. During this time they would feast on meat fresh from the slaughter and drink the recently made wine that had spent the year fermenting.

Many families gather together to exchange presents and dine together. This tradition is one that was not put into place by the first Christian churches, but one that was made by the Romans. In mid to late December the Romans began the seven day long holiday called Saturnalia. It was believed that during this week the two strongest gods, Mars and Zeus, would step down and let Saturn rule for one week. To celebrate this Romans would feast and exchange gifts to one another. While Saturnalia didn't necessarily fall on December 25, it does contain many similarities as to current day Christmas traditions.

It wasn't until sometime in the fourth century A.D. that the birth of Jesus Christ was celebrated. The exact day of Jesus' birth has been disputed by many, but one thing is for sure. Pope Julius I, founded December 25 as the day Christians should celebrate the birth of their Savior.

Saturnalia was abounded and Christmas became the holiday to celebrate. The holiday was spread throughout the known world, and celebrated in one form or another. Most commonly by attending a church service in the morning and then the poor would enter the houses of the rich and demand their best food and drink.

In the 1600s, Puritans who didn't except the holiday banned it. Over the years the

Restriction was lifted, but it wasn't until 1870 that Congress

recognized Christmas as a Federal Holiday. In truth, Christmas, the way it's celebrated today is less than 200 years old. Through the decades, Americans have absorbed the traditions of

past cultures and customizing them as they see fit to give us the Christmas that we celebrate this current day.

Toys for Tots



Mrs. Link has helped with "Toys for Tots" for 12 years.



By Sara Vetch
The Burrow

"Toys for Tots" is a very worthwhile organization that is a big part of Christmas. If it weren't for one very dedicated woman right here in our own school, this program would not be as big of a success here in our community.

Sharon Link, the secretary in the Jr. High office, has been helping with this charity for about 12 years. It started in 1993 when a sorority she was in decided to participate. The next Christmas when her sorority chose not to help again, Link and Beverly Gage took over.

The first year they did it they

only raised about \$800 to buy the toys with, but the last few years they have raised up to \$3500. There are many people that volunteer to help with the shopping. They divide up the names of the children among the shoppers. They have their name, age, and size. They pick a day and go shopping. They go to Wal-Mart because they have a big selection. When they are done shopping they bring everything back to the Laborers' Hall and lay everything out. Link said, "People would be amazed if they saw the amount of things that are bought with that amount of money. It is neat to see everything all laid out." They don't wrap the gifts they just bag them up and give them to the children's parents, that way they can decide whether they want the gift to be from them or from "Santa Claus." Link said, "It makes me feel good to help the kids. It really makes you feel good when you have a parent that is grateful."

This charity would not be possible if it weren't for the help of other people. Link would like to thank the Interact club for all of their help. If you would like to know how you can help see Mrs. Link in the Jr. High office.

At a second glance



By Katie Kimble
The Burrow

Christmas is nigh, and the undeniable sound of Christmas carols is inescapable. Each year we hear chants about an anti-social reindeer, or someone demanding figgy pudding and sometimes wonder how in the world people came up with these songs. As for "The Twelve Days of Christmas," not many people know the origin (or even the words) of the real song, and by now you are probably wondering what a bird in a fruit tree is doing in a Christmas carol.

The actual Twelve Days of Christmas (not the song), are the twelve days after Christmas, ending on January 5th, the day before Epiphany. Epiphany is January 6th, and celebrates the Three Kings bringing their gifts to Jesus after his birth. In the mid-1500s through the 1800s, Catholics in England were being severely persecuted. It became so bad that it was almost to the point where it was a crime just to be Catholic. The song "The Twelve Days of Christmas" was used as a teach-

ing tool for the children of the time, so that they could remember what they were celebrating and not be persecuted for it. Each line of the song had a deeper meaning than the words suggested.

The song starts out, "On the first day of Christmas my true love gave to me..." The "True Love" refers to God, and each of the following days refers to a gift that God has given the Christians.

"A partridge in a pear tree..." The partridge is Jesus the Christ, because a mother partridge is known to fake injury to distract predators from her young.

"Two turtle doves..." The two turtle doves represent the Old and New Testaments, the backbone of the Christian faith.

"Three French hens..." The French hens represent the three theological virtues found in 1 Corinthians 13: Faith, Hope, and Love.

"Four calling birds..." The four calling birds stand for the four Gospels that tell the story of Christ's life: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.

"Five gold rings..." The gold rings symbolize Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and

Deuteronomy, the first five books of the Old Testament.

"Six geese a-laying..." The six geese represent the six days of creation.

"Seven swans a-swimming..." The seven swans stand for the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit, listed in Romans and Corinthians. They are prophecy, ministry, teaching, abstinence, giving, leading, and compassion.

"Eight maids-a-milking..." The eight maids symbolize the eight Beatitudes, found in Matthew 5. They are the poor in spirit, those who mourn, the meek, those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, the merciful, the pure in heart, the peacemakers, and those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake.

"Nine ladies dancing..." The nine ladies represent the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

"Ten lords a-leaping..." The ten lords symbolize the Ten Commandments, found in Exodus.

"Eleven pipers piping..." The eleven pipers stand for the eleven faithful apostles.

"Twelve drummers drum-

ming..." The twelve drummers highlight the twelve points made in the Apostle's Creed.

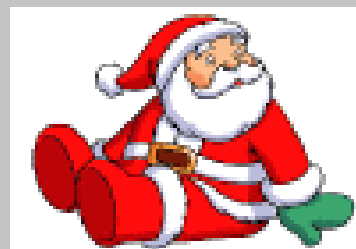
As you set out with your earmuffs, hot chocolate and cheery voices on a mission to lighten up the locals, just remember this: silly as some songs may seem, not all are utterly pointless.

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“All I want for Christmas is Christmas!”

 **By Travis Ackley**
The Burrow

It seems that Christmas, like everything else in our society, has officially become an offensive four-letter word. As a result of pressure from hyper liberals to be “politically correct,” many corporations and industries have chosen to omit the “C-word” from all seasonal promotions, product lines, etc. Instead, they plan to use the neutral, yet incredibly generic, phrase “Happy Holidays.” Wal-Mart headlines the list of cautious moneymakers attempting to please the masses.

Hollywood is also handling the Santa season differently this year. In years past,

Christmastime blockbusters have headlined the box office during this time of the year. This winter though, you will be more likely to see Bigfoot making four-leaf clover soup with Elvis Presley than you will be to see a new Christmas flick. I for one will truly miss seeing another overweight has-been playing the role of Santa in a lackluster Christmas film, but that’s just me.

The reason some in the business and political world wince at the mentioning of Christmas lies in the first six letters of the word; CHRIST. They are afraid that they will lose the support or profit of those whom they have offended by “promoting Christianity”. However, According to religioustolerance.org, three out of every four adults in North America identify them-

selves as Christian. Christianity is also the most popular religion globally, influencing just under 35% of the total population.

Even regardless of religion, Christmas is still the most celebrated holiday in the United States (not to mention the entire world), and is observed by the Christian and secular populations alike. Yet corporate America succumbs to pressure from the definite minority (those who don’t celebrate or recognize Christmas), and completely disregards the dominant majority. Altering seasonal advertising slogans is not the end of the world. However, catering to a few at the cost of almost everyone, as is the case in this particular situation, simply defies any sense of reasoning.



Student Profiles at HCHS



Krista Beth Welch

Krista Beth Welch is fourteen years old. Welch doesn’t drive yet so she doesn’t have a car but if there were any car that she could have she would drive a 2005 Mustang. With being only fourteen she doesn’t have job. Welch’s hobbies are riding four-wheelers and talking on the phone. When she turns the radio on pre-sets are set on R&B, Rap, Hip-Hop, Country, and Oldies. Welch’s favorite movie is Dukes of Hazard. Her dream man would be tall, good looking and have a lot of money. Welch stated that if she were able to go anywhere for vacation it would be Hawaii.



Danielle Lynn White

Danielle Lynn White is fifteen years old. Her dream vehicle would be a big Chevy truck. White works at her family owned restaurant, Kettles. She’s worked there for about two years and enjoys it. In White’s free time she enjoys hunting and bothering Mr. Johnson during English class. Her favorite type of music is country and to go with that White’s dream man is a cowboy. If she were able to vacation anywhere it’d be Texas.

Lindsay Faye Meadows is sixteen years old and drives a Hyundai Tiburon. Even though Meadows likes her car, if she were to get whatever she wanted it would be, “A black 2005 fully loaded Chevy truck.” Meadows works two jobs. She works at Auten’s and Cathy Ann’s in Benton. She’s worked at both places for about a month. Meadows enjoys both jobs but if she had her way she’d be hanging out with all her friends. Meadows doesn’t care what kind of music she hears just as long as there’s music. Her favorite movie is Grease. In Meadow’s mind the perfect man is not too tall but not too short, dark eyes and a dark complexion, nice body and dimples. “The



Lindsay Faye Meadows

best vacation would be if I could go to Hawaii with all my friends and my sister.”

Jason Scott Slagle is seventeen years old. “I have two cars that don’t run so I usually drive Dad’s blue and silver Dodge.” Slagle’s not too picky on what kind of car he drives just as long as it runs and looks nice. Slagle has worked at McDonalds here in McLeansboro for a little over a year and helps with lunch in the high school cafeteria. Slagle was asked if he enjoyed his job, “McDonalds...definitely not, but the job I have in the cafeteria and with the janitors can be kind of cool.” Slagle’s hobbies are mainly going to the card shop up by the square. He likes all types of music except Rap and Pop. His favorite movie is Shrek. Slagle described his perfect woman as, “No



Jason Scott Slagle

taller than me, sparkling eyes, long hair and hey, I’m a sucker for blondes. She has to know how to smile.” If Slagle could vacation anywhere it’d be outer space.

THE BURROW

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The Burrow is the student newspaper of Hamilton County Senior High School and is produced by the Journalism & Desktop Publishing classes. Suggestions may be placed in the suggestion box outside of Mrs. Lueke’s room.

I’ve got to get away

 **By Brittney Heil**
The Burrow

If you’re looking for a good, humorous to liven up the sometimes bland holidays, *Skipping Christmas* by John Grisham is the book for you.

Skipping Christmas is about a couple, Luther and Nora Krank, whose only daughter is leaving for the Peace Corps. It will be the first Christmas without their daughter. That’s when Luther had the brilliant idea to skip Christmas. No crowded malls, no



office parties, no unwanted Christmas presents, and not even a Christmas tree. There won’t be any need for a tree because come December 25 they’ll be on a Caribbean cruise. They had it all planned and they were even getting ready to pack. Then they get an unexpected call on Christmas Eve that will change everything they had planned.

Skipping Christmas is a hilarious book on the chaos and commotion that has become part of our holiday tradition. “This was a great book and it always kept me interested after each page,” said junior, Jonya Stephan.

THE
GOOD



Wrapping presents

THE
BETTER



Putting them under the tree

THE
BEST



Opening the presents!!!

On the flipside of Christmas

By Caleb Miller
The Burrow

The upside down Christmas tree is one of the unique fads for this holiday season, but is not making its first appearance in history.

In the 7th century, a monk went to Germany to teach people the Word of God and used a Fir tree to help describe the Holy Trinity (God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit). As a result, the converted people in Central Europe began hanging fir trees upside down from their ceilings as a symbol of their Christianity.

Some people have been criticizing the tree though saying that hanging a Christmas tree upside down is sacrilegious. One belief is that trees were meant to be stood with the point facing upwards, towards heaven, but when upside down, is pointing to a very opposite place.

Despite this assumption, the trees



are selling very well according to Joe Jamrosz of Hammacher Schlemmer. "We increased the amount we ordered from last year, but ended up selling all of them already."

As strange the upside down Christmas trees may seem, they do have their advantages to the more traditional, upward facing trees. The upside down tree allows more room for larger gifts and leaves more space in rooms that are already limited.

Just over a decade ago, artificial trees were a rarity and considered untraditional, but are now becoming more and more common in homes. The thought of upside down trees in homes may seem unreal now, but only time will determine its fate.

Merry Christmas whatever you celebrate!

By Brandon Miller
The Burrow

There are many celebrations that take place in late December aside from Christmas. These celebrations may be cultural, religious, or secular and may have originated anywhere in the world. Yet because the American populace is so diverse, these celebrations are popular right here in the U.S.

A common religious Christmastime celebration is the Jewish Hanukkah (Chanukah, Feast of Dedication, Festival of Lights). Hanukkah is an 8-day observance of a miracle in the Jerusalem temple during a war fought for religious freedom from the Greeks. Just as the main symbol of Christmas is the Christmas tree, the icon around which Hanukkah is centered is the Menorah. The Menorah is a 9-branched candelabrum used to symbolize the eight days of the festival. Each candle in the Menorah represents one day of the eight days of Hanukkah. The ninth, highest candle, usually in the middle or at the end of the Menorah, is called a servant candle and is used to light the other candles.

Another celebration in December that is rapidly increasing in popular-

ity is Kwanzaa (a.k.a. Kwanza, Quansa). Kwanzaa is a recently developed, weeklong cultural festival devoted to the remembrance of African-American heritage. Each day of the festival is dedicated to one of the seven principles of Kwanzaa; these are: unity, self-determination, purpose, faith, collective work and responsibility, creativity, and purpose. "Kwanzaa" is derived from a Swahili phrase that means "the first fruits of the harvest".

Festivus is a newer celebration than many others and unlike the latter two, it is neither a religious, nor truly cultural celebration; it is entirely secular. Festivus was created in 1966 as a gathering day for the entire family and friends. The original celebration included a wrestling match among the children in the family and an audio taping of grievances in which each person present complained to friends and family about the ways they had disappointed him or her in that year. Also featured at the original Festivus party was a clock in a bag, but the significance of this has been lost to 49 years of history. Instead of using a Christmas tree or a Menorah as celebratory decor, Festivus celebrators use an undecorated aluminum pole, usually five or 6 feet in height.

No more playing around

By Caleb Kirsch
The Burrow

In past years, professional sports teams were scheduled to play on Christmas Day. Some people have taken it into their Christmas tradition to watch games that day, while others are offended that pro sports are taking over a sacred holiday.

Some people are accepting the fact that sports are taking over the Christmas season. More people than ever are tuning to sports channels to watch games on Christmas. With sports games being some of the most viewed shows on television, it is obvious that some fans will tune in on Christmas to watch their favorite teams play. With sports games being scheduled to play every Christmas, it gives some people more to look forward to on Christmas day.

On the other hand, others argue that Christmas is a family holiday, and should be celebrated together, without sports. These people think that not only should there not be sports on Christmas, but that athletes should be given the day off to spend with their families. Even the teams that don't play on Christmas may still be getting in hours of practice preparing for their next game.

Christmas means different things to different people, but both Sophomores, Orry Taylor and Brody Mitchell agree on the subject of playing sports on Christmas. Mitchell says, "Yes they should play, it's a tradition." Taylor simply replied saying, "Yes."

Sports games will still be aired on Christmas on this year, but some people are still optimistic that it may be changed, sooner than later.

Merry @#&%\$mas!

By Amanda McEwen
The Burrow

Each year the controversial subject of whether or not it is offensive to say "Merry Christmas" instead of "Happy Holidays" is brought to surface, but this year it seems to be particularly frequent and unhindered.

"So many people are from different religions, you never know who you'll offend and people don't want to take that chance. But I think Christ is the real reason for Christmas and people need to realize that," says sophomore, Jessica Maurath.

In some schools across America all decorations with a message stronger than "Happy Holidays" or "Season Greetings" are being banned. This is not just happening in the United States. In British Columbia

the school superintendent told schools not to refer to Christmas in their winter concert advertising.

Even clothing stores such as The Gap have ordered its employees not to greet its customers with "Merry Christmas." Along with Macy's taking down signs stating Merry Christmas.

The irony with greeting individuals with "Happy Holidays" is the word holiday when broken down means "holy day." Which in simpler terms means, a sacred day, or a religious day.

Some say if this controversy continues it will become more and more difficult to find cards that state anything about Christmas. While others also believe it is offending more individuals when saying it is wrong to talk about the season in a way that professes Christ.

Athletes are people too!

By Devane Prince
The Burrow

Every year the Atlanta Falcons team volunteers with Toys for Tots to help out the unfortunate during Christmas time. The team collected over 4,000 toys and \$20,000 through a series of events, culminating with the game day Toys for Tots toy drive December 18, 2004 at the Falcons home game vs. the Carolina Panthers at the Georgia Dome.

"I think it's great that a NFL team can take time out of there season and give back to the less fortunate," said sophomore Orry Taylor.

Last year all-pro defensive back



Jason Sehorn took kids from South Side Day Nursery to Toys R Us to shop for holiday gifts as part of Sehorn's Christmas Wishes Program. "I love helping the kids," said Sehorn. "It's great seeing the smiles on the kid's faces," said Sehorn.

In a society which pro athletes are many times viewed as greedy, it is good to see that some athletes genuinely care for people other than themselves.

Shopping safely



Toys that made the list.

By **Stephanie Hart**
The Burrow

As the holidays approach, many people flock to malls, department and specialty stores in search of the perfect gift for loved ones. A difficult decision could be what Santa will be getting for the tiny tots. The Toy Retailers Association has the tedious task of selecting the top 10 toys every year. This year, however, the list couldn't be limited to 10 and is made up of 12. Baby Annabell, Furby, Monopoly Here

and Now, Steam Along Thomas Train Set, and Tumble Time Tigger are a few of the toys that made the list. The Steam along Thomas Train Set gives a nostalgic touch to the toy isles this year; the 60 year old icon is still popular among children. Baby Annabell uses the new technology of tears to make motherhood a little more realistic to little girls. Furby is again on the list, this time Furby is bigger and smarter than before. Monopoly Here and Now gives a new spin to the family game.

Because some parents will go at any lengths to ensure a good Christmas for their children, they will stop at nothing to get the best gift. The Tickle Me Elmo frenzy of 1996 is an example. This Christmas, children aren't asking Santa for the same gifts, so one could venture to Toys R Us without body armor.

Playing in a winter wonderland

By **Rhet Vaughan**
The Burrow

There is always that certain feeling you get when it comes to winter sports. As a basketball player, you can always tell when its time to play. The smell in the air and the temperature outside are all signs of the season. The Eldorado Holiday Tournament is always a Holiday ritual local basketball fans. Last year, the Foxes were the 8th seed in the EHT, but prevailed the rankings as they finished 6th overall. Players all know the feeling of

coming in from the cold snowy weather to a gym filled with fans at the ball game. It truly makes it feel like the holiday season is here.

The Super Bowl is possibly the most anticipated event of the season. Football fans wait all fall and all winter for this, so when it comes they all make sure it is worth the wait. When the Super Bowl finally comes and goes it marks the end of the winter season.

Sophomore Luke Bowman said, "Watching football in the snow is the best part of the winter." Maybe this year fans will see another game played on the white gridiron.

A Christmas Story



By **Aaron Trotter**
The Burrow

The classic movie "A Christmas Story" has entertained families for generations and has become a tradition for many homes.

Ralphie, a young boy growing up in the 1940's, has his mind set on a Red-Rider Carbine action two-hundred shoot BB gun for

Christmas. The plot takes the viewer through the many actions Ralphie takes to convince the people around him, especially his parents, that he desperately needs one of these. Santa Claus even denies Ralphie of his wants. The climax ends with Christmas morning, and the presents that lay under the tree.

While Ralphie is on his mission, he is met with many challenges of regular childhood, such as school and a pair of bullies as well.

All parts of the family will be entertained as this classic is appropriate for each. So if the viewer's family is looking to start a tradition, watching "A Christmas Story" is one of the best they can start.

Top Ten Holiday Movies



"Elf" starring Will Ferrell was voted the #1 Christmas movie.

By **Callan Howton**
The Burrow

It's the Christmas season again and along with hopes of snow, shopping, wrapping gifts, decorating trees, and celebrating the baby Jesus, comes getting out your favorite Christmas movies. A survey was given to random English classes to determine the top 10 Christmas movies.

"Elf" starring Will Ferrell was voted the #1 Christmas movie. In this movie a baby, Buddy, crawls into Santa's bag on Christmas Eve night and is taken to the North Pole. He is then raised there by elves. As the years go by, Buddy,

played by Ferrell, realizes he is not like the other elves. He soon learns he is a human and his biological father lives in New York City. When Buddy gets to New York he begins to see that everyone has lost sight of the real meaning of Christmas. As Christmas gets closer Buddy makes it his personal goal to bring Christmas back to his father, New York, and the rest of the world.

The cartoon movie voted #2 was "Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas". "The Santa Clause", starring Tim Allen, was #3. The timeless cartoon "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer" was chosen as #4. The original Charles Dickens play "A Christmas Carol" was voted #5. The #6 Christmas movie was the classic "Miracle On 34th Street". "It's A Wonderful Life" was voted #7. "A Christmas Carol" was picked as #8. The move chosen #9 was "Nightmare Before Christmas". "Home Alone", starring Macaulay Culkin, was voted the #10 Christmas movie.

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HOLIDAY GREETINGS

To: Kevin
From: Faith

Thanks 4 everything!

Love ya!



Happy New Year!

TO:
FROM: YOUR SIS



HOPE YOU HAVE A GOOD CHRISTMAS!
LOVE YOUR BIG SIS!

SEASONS GREETINGS

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

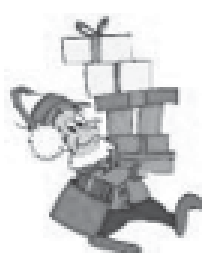


Love Ya Lots!!

To: Sam
From: Faith


Merry Christmas!

I love you lots!
Thanks for being a great friend!




To: Faith From: Samantha

To: Michaela, Erin, & Mel
From: Sara
Message: Merry Christmas! Love you guys!



HAVE A HOLLY JOLLY CHRISTMAS!

TO: RACHEL, MEGAN, MICHELLE, MALENA, ARIBI, ALICIA, & ALLISON



FROM: JAMIE

TO:
FROM: JON




HEY, HOPE YOU HAVE A GOOD CHRISTMAS!

SEASONS GREETINGS

To: Rachel Wall

Santa Claus is coming to town!



Hey beautiful, I hope you are having a great day! Love ya Lots!

From: Buttercup




Happy Holidays!

To: Adrea, Erin, Jonya, & Nikki
From: Brittney Heil

I Love you girls!

To: April & Megan




From: Jamie

Have a good Christmas!

HAVE A HOLLY JOLLY CHRISTMAS!

TO: ALICIA HOPE YOU HAVE A GREAT X-MAS! -YOUR THE BEST SIS ANYONE COULD EVER HAVE!



FROM: LINDSAY


Merry Christmas & Happy New Year



I Love You!!

To: All My Girls!
From: Faith


SEASON'S GREETINGS



Have a great X-mas! Love you girl!


To: B
From: Lindsay

To: All My Lady's
From: J.J.



I Love You All

To: Callan, Sara, Haylee, & Danielle
From: Brittany




Merry Christmas!

HOLIDAY GREETINGS

To: Mrs. Lueke, Mr. Johnson, and Miss Allred

From: Abby Hill

Thanks for being my inspiration to teach



HAPPY HOLIDAYS


Have a Merry Christmas!



*To Caleb Miller
My favorite Burrow staff writer*


From: Nick Burke

To: Kayla
From: Rachel



Have A Happy Holiday Season!
Message: Love Ya!

**To: Coach Rush
From: Colton**



HAPPY HOLIDAYS

TO
Toni, Leta, Katie, Bea, Brittani & Jenny



MESSAGE
Happy Holidays
Love Ya'll

FROM
Rachel

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Season's Greetings 


Nikki - Just wanted to wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! Love Ya!

From: Rachel


Merry Christmas! Love ya!

TO: LINDSAY BREILING

FROM: AMANDA MCEWEN



Happy Holidays!



To: Abby, Sam, Katie, Syd Brid, Kota, Britt, & KWood
I love you all so much!!

From: Autumn Dixon

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