

# Challenger News

Keeping Parents and Campuses Connected

December 2017

## Merry Christmas from Challenger School!

As the Christmas season approaches, you may be caught up in a whirlwind of activities with family, friends, and co-workers. No matter how busy you are, I hope you take a moment to reflect on the actions of the people who have enhanced your life.

Many holiday traditions and cultural customs are created to provide special ways to express good will toward others. In the pressures of daily life, we may sometimes take for granted the people most important to us. The holiday season gives us an opportunity to step out of our daily concerns and to remember and reflect on the ways certain individuals add value to our lives.

Western culture has a tradition of exchanging gifts during Christmas as a way to show appreciation. Giving gifts can be among life's most satisfying experiences, but only if done as a sincere expression of appreciation. Gift-giving by rote, as a means to gain leverage or as something that you do only because you feel obligated, isn't nearly as effective in bringing true happiness to the gift giver or receiver.

You've heard the expression "it's the thought that counts." But in reality, it's not only what is in your head that matters; what is in your heart matters, too. That is the secret for feeling the true Christmas spirit.

Let your heart fill with appreciation as you think about those who enhance your life. As you select and give gifts, whether for family members, friends, or service providers, reflect on how each person added value to your life over this past year. Think about the specific things that he or she did. And accept gifts in the same spirit—as an expression of the other person's appreciation for you—reflecting on how you have added value to the life of the gift giver.

Here at Challenger, we want to take a moment in this Christmas season to express our appreciation to everyone who enhances our lives: our students, our staff, and you, our parents. Challenger is only able to fulfill our mission of providing outstanding education for our students because you are so concerned, loving, and committed. We are grateful to have you in our lives and as a vital part of our schools. Thank you, and have a very merry Christmas filled with laughter and joy.

Hugh Gourgeon  
CEO

*Season's Greetings!*



### December at a Glance

- **December 4–8 (PS)**  
Christmas Sings and Santa Visit\*
- **December 11–14 (K–G8)**  
Christmas Sings and Christmas Concerts\*
- **December 14–15**  
Class Christmas Parties
- **December 18–January 1**  
Winter Break—No School

\* Parents are encouraged to attend.



**CHALLENGER**  
S C H O O L

## Spelling Bee (G3–8)

Recently, third through eighth graders participated in class spelling bees. Class bees featured spelling and vocabulary words students have learned or will learn in class during the year.

Class finalists qualified for the campus bee, which utilized words and vocabulary from the Scripps National Spelling Bee. Congratulations to our fantastic spellers!



Christmas is a joyful time at Challenger!

## Pearl Harbor Day

On December 7, 1941, Japanese forces attacked the U.S. Naval Station at Pearl Harbor, plunging our country into war.

In classes this month, we will remember those whose lives were lost on that day and throughout World War II.



## In the Spotlight—

### Broadcom MASTERS Winner Pujita T. of Strawberry Park (CA)



Award winner Pujita T. of Strawberry Park (CA)

In late October, eighth grader Pujita T. of Strawberry Park (CA) was named a STEM Award winner for her Science Fair project from last spring.

The STEM honor, which was part of the 2017 Broadcom MASTERS (Math, Applied Science, Technology, and Engineering for Rising Stars) competition, was awarded to students who demonstrated acumen and promise in science, technology, engineering, and math.

As a first place STEM Award winner, Pujita received \$3,500 toward a STEM summer camp experience in the U.S. as well as an iPad.

Pujita was selected as one of 30 finalists from a record high of 2,499 applicants. Her project, *A Green, Low-Cost Adsorbent for the Removal of Dye from Aqueous Solutions*, used waste tea leaves to remove harmful dyes from ecosystems. Pujita hopes that her findings lead to an industrial-level system that will help factories pollute less. Excellent work, Pujita!

## Priority Enrollment for 2018–2019

Current Challenger families have the opportunity to enroll for the 2018–2019 school year before enrollment opens to the public. You'll receive more information in January.

**Current students must reapply every year before open enrollment begins to ensure priority placement.**

## Science Fair (K–G8)

Students in grades 3–8 have begun working on Science Fair projects. Kindergarten–grade 2 students will receive their materials after Winter Break.

Please carefully review the Science Fair packet that your grade 3–8 child has received. Help your child find a project that he can do on his own.

The Science Fair will be held in February.



The Science Fair is just around the corner!

## Christmas Sings (PS–G5) and Christmas Concerts (G6–8)



Students have been rehearsing and are excited to present their Christmas Sings and concerts. Parents are invited to come and enjoy the programs.

The date and time of your child’s performance is listed in this month’s Classroom News and is also posted on your campus page on our website at ChallengerSchool.com.

(Preschool classes will receive a flyer.) Please read the uniform care tips on ChallengerSchool.com to ensure that your child’s uniform looks its best.



We also invite everyone to attend the evening Christmas Concerts presented by our middle school students. Outstanding elementary classes will be featured, too. Join us for this celebration of the festive holiday season.

## Winter Break

Challenger School will not be in session from December 18–January 1. Please make alternate arrangements for child care during these two weeks. We hope that you and your children enjoy this family time, and we wish you the best in the new year!

## Learning Curve

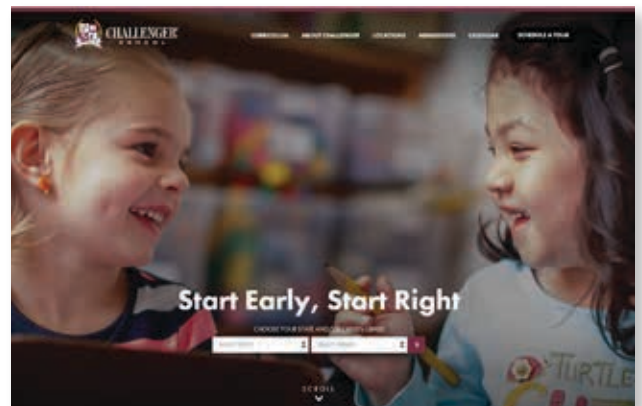
Can you identify these 12 Christmas songs that are represented by emoji? (Answers on back page.)

- |                   |                 |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| 1. 🤔 🌌            | 7. 👁️ 👁️ 👧 💋 🎅  |
| 2. 🧑🏻‍🎄 🏃‍♂️ ☁️ 🦌 | 8. 🥁 👦          |
| 3. 🌴 🅑 🏠 4 🎄      | 9. 🚦 🗣️ ⚡️ 🏛️   |
| 4. 🎅 ➡️ 2 🏙️      | 10. 👁️ 👁️ 🚢 🚢 🚢 |
| 5. 👼 👼 👂 ⚡️ 🖐️    | 11. 🅐 🙏 🌌       |
| 6. ❄️ 🧊           | 12. 😄 2 🌍       |

## Website Update

Have you visited Challengerschool.com lately? If so, you have undoubtedly noticed that our website has a fresh new look!

In addition to a new design, the site’s content has been updated and is much more mobile-device friendly.



This initial launch lays the groundwork for additional features that we’ll be incorporating soon.

We are excited about the benefits of the new site for all of our users. Check it out for yourself!

# Preschool

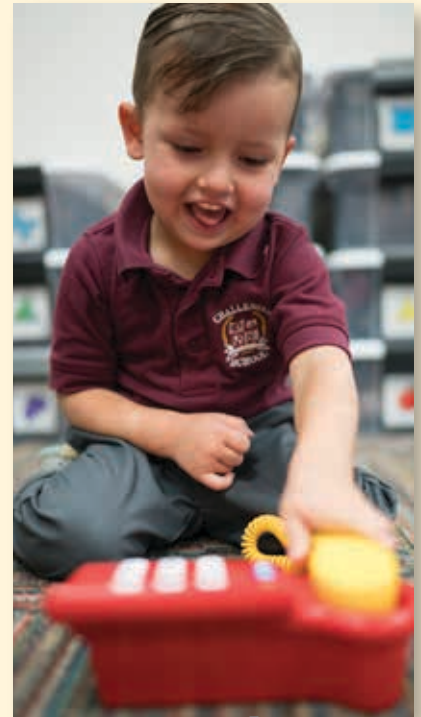
## Activities to Stimulate Thinking

In order to ensure that your child retains the skills he is learning in class, try these activities together over Winter Break:



**Watch educational DVDs** like Challenger Phonics Fun with your child (available at your campus or online at LearningCrew.org). The kit makes a terrific Christmas gift! Sing along with the songs. As you watch, ask questions about letters, sounds, and blending.

**Play counting games.** Ask your child to count the cookies on a plate or presents under the tree. While you're in the car, say, "Can you find eight houses that are decorated for the holidays?" or look at a calendar and ask, "How many days are left in this year?" Three-year-olds are learning to count to 20, and four-year-olds can handle even larger numbers.



# Happy Holidays!

## Heard It in the Halls

**Everest (ID) campus**—As the elementary intern was applying a bandage to a tiny cut on Avery's thumb, the girl noted solemnly, "I'm so glad this didn't happen in the old days because then I would have had to use a hot knife to stop the flow of infection!"



Look for Santa to make an appearance at preschool Christmas Sings and in kindergarten classes this month!

## Christmas Parties (PS-G8)

Classes will have parties on the last day of school before Winter Break. Challenger will provide fun activities and treats, so please do not send food or gifts to this in-class, student-only event.

1. Silent Night; 2. Grandma Got Run Over by a Reindeer; 3. I'll Be Home for Christmas; 4. Santa Claus Is Coming to Town; 5. Angels We Have Heard on High; 6. Frosty the Snowman; 7. I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus; 8. Little Drummer Boy; 9. Go Tell It on the Mountain; 10. I Saw Three Ships; 11. O Holy Night; 12. Joy to the World.

Answers to Learning Curve Quiz

