

Christmas magic through *the eyes of children*

By Ronni Hannaman

As we look back upon our childhood, the most magical time of year was Christmas.

The anticipation began just after Thanksgiving and built until you couldn't stand it anymore. You learned Christmas Carols at school and sang them for your parents. Some schools had Christmas pageants, and our parents came to see us sing the timeless holiday lyrics.

Hours were spent thumbing through the Sears Christmas Wish Book that has since been replaced by the internet. Time just seemed to stand still, but then, the magical night came. It was early to bed, though you tried to stay awake to see the big guy and listen for the patter of reindeer hoofs. The milk and cookies were set out. Sleep overtook, but early to sleep meant early to rise, much to the chagrin of our parents. For many, this was the ritual for many years until the magic just seemed to wane – but never completely.

Christmas is still magical to us all and brings forth those memories of so long ago. Today, our children and grandchildren perform on the greatest stage in all of Carson City in front of the capitol where hundreds of family and friends shed a tear or two and sing along with the wonderful fifth graders – whether aloud or in our mind. Even those who don't have a child singing merrily away come to see this annual fete that gets better every year.

Silver and Snowflakes Festival



PHOTO: BEVERLY EISWERT

Mark Twain Elementary School teacher Christina Bourne leads her fifth-grade carolers in Christmas songs.

of Lights ushers in the holiday season in the most old-fashioned and memorable way that makes you proud of our school district and the teachers and students who make this event so very special for us all. It takes a lot of people, coordination, and dedication to put on this "grand" annual show reminding us all that no matter the travails in this world, there are lights that just cannot be dimmed. Carson City's

lights shine brightly this time of the year.

Join us as magic comes to life and the clear sweet voices of children rise to the heavens on Friday.

The show begins promptly at 5:30 p.m. in front of the capitol. Be sure to make your dinner reservations early.

Helping to continue to create magic are these wonderful music teachers:

- Melanie Bickert- Freemont Elementary
- Christina Bourne- Mark Twain Elementary
- Alan Catron- Bordewich Elementary
- Jeff Chmay- Seeliger Elementary
- Jessica Daniels - Carson City Montessori
- Will Durham- Carson City Montessori
- Kelly Ehrenfeuchter- Empire

- Elementary
- Kristina Meister- Carson City Montessori
- Sarah Newcomb- Carson City Montessori
- Luana Olsen- Carson City Montessori
- Kathy Roide- Saint Teresa of Avila School
- Shane Watson- Carson City Montessori
- Nicole Witkowski- Fritsch Elementary