

SILVER & SNOWFLAKES



PHOTO: RONNI HANNAMAN

The Mark Twain Elementary fifth grade class will join the area fifth graders from seven other schools in singing at the 2021 Silver & Snowflakes Festival of Lights. Shown here are: BACK ROW: Alexander, Giancarlo, Aiden, Madden, Pedro, Christian, Vidal and teacher Christina Bourne. MIDDLE ROW: Hailey, Ben, Liam, Meleena, Ayden, Emiliano. FRONT ROW: Elmer, Hidalgo, Colin, Riley

CARSON'S FIFTH GRADERS TO SING HOLIDAY TUNES

As they have since 1988, Carson's fifth graders take center stage annually in front of the Nevada State Capitol to usher in the holiday season at the Silver and Snowflakes Festival of Lights.

Singing in the festival has been a fifth-grade "rite of passage" to the sixth grade, although the fifth grade class of 2020 was not able to sing due to Covid restrictions that cancelled the 2020 event.

Over 300 students from the six Carson City elementary schools to include Bordewich-Bray, Empire, Fremont, Fritsch, Mark Twain, and Seeliger, will be participating. Also participating will be students from Bethlehem Lutheran and Saint Teresa of Avila.

The music teachers from the various schools have been teaching the classic holiday songs to students since early November in preparation for the big night on December 3rd.

Fritsch Elementary School Music Teacher Nicole Witkowski sums up the student experience, "Fritsch students look forward to Tree Lighting every year. It's a tradition that their siblings and friends have been a

part of in previous years, which builds their excitement even more. It's funny... we fall in the trap of skipping Thanksgiving! Immediately after Halloween, we get started on these songs in class. We make games to memorize the words, and overall, we just have a really fun time together. It's great to see these students share this experience with each other. Above all else, it teaches these students the value of community and giving back to our town."

Not only will the student singers delight family, friends, neighbors, and the hundreds who come out to be thrilled by this hometown show, they also will be singing for Governor Steve Sisolak and First Lady Kathy Sisolak and Mayor Lori Bagwell and her husband Jim Bagwell. The Governor and the First Lady will assist Santa in lighting the newly decorated downtown.

Christina Bourne, Music Educator at Mark Twain Elementary, has coordinated the musical portion of the festival for years and states, "The annual tree lighting is one of my favorite events of the year. At

Mark Twain, the students buzz with excitement as we rehearse each song. We appreciate everyone involved in keeping this Carson City tradition alive, and we look forward to singing for our community this year!"

This is the first festival for General Music Specialist Jonathan Chang of Fremont Elementary who writes, "I am elated to share my very first Christmas Tree Lighting with my 5th graders! The students continue to grow as musicians and a family, and I'm honored to share it with them!"

A special Christmas shout-out to the dedicated music teachers who keep the tradition of Christmas carols alive:

- Natalee Medel- Bethlehem Lutheran
- Alan Catron- Bordewich Elementary
- Cassidy Robinson- Empire Elementary
- Jonathan Chang- Fremont Elementary
- Nicole Witkowski- Fritsch Elementary
- Christina Bourne- Mark Twain Elementary
- Kathy Roide- Saint Teresa of Avila School
- Dom Van Orman- Seeliger Elementary

With Max the Grinch was lonely no more

What kind of dog would want an owner like the Grinch? Dogs, we all know, are the friendly and loving sort and just want to please their owner, even if that owner is named the Grinch.

We know the Grinch was a lonely sort, living alone in his mountain cave high atop Mt. Crumpet with no one to talk to or love. Yes, even a Grinch gets lonely and needs companionship. So, we can only surmise the Grinch went to a local shelter (like the one we have in Carson City) in search of a companion as lonely as he.

There he saw a shivering scruffy little mutt who had been at the shelter for weeks and when that little mutt looked into the eyes of the Grinch and shyly wagged his tail, that miserable Grinch heart did soften a bit. Dogs, as we all

know, do not judge and do not care how we look.

So, the Grinch reached down to scratch the floppy-eared mutt and was rewarded by the little dog scratching him back. This small gesture cemented the deal and next thing the little mutt knew, the Grinch picked him up and to his new home he went in the arms of the Grinch who now called him Max.

As we all know, Max was a loyal companion to the Grinch even when the Grinch was mean-spirited, for he knew deep down, the Grinch was lonely and had a kind heart and just needed someone like him to love.

Max felt so lucky to leave the shelter behind and to be loved and cared for by the Grinch who took him for walks every day to explore Mt. Crumpet and

chase rabbits and squirrels. He especially loved the antler chews the Grinch gave him to nibble in his bed placed in front of the fireplace. He even let the Grinch dress him as Rudolph - red nose and all - and though he did not think he was strong enough to pull a sleigh, he did as he was commanded just to please his master. That's just how dogs are.

We all know how the story ends and Max was not surprised when the Grinch came to love Christmas and all the residents of Whoville who in turn came to love the Grinch and most especially Max. Dogs are a patient sort and full of love that makes their owners deeply love them right back. All the Grinch needed was a bit of puppy love to be able to give love.



Max wants the Grinch to take him to Benson's Feed on Saturday, December 4th between 9:30 am-3pm to have their picture taken together to support CAST's efforts to help shelter dogs like him, for there may be a loyal and loving dog just like Max to take home from the Nevada Humane Society shelter in Carson City or Reno to make family holidays bright for many years to come.

SHARE THE HOLIDAY SPIRIT BY GIVING

Many of us will never have to experience food insecurity or lack a roof over our heads. There are many not quite as fortunate who seek your donations to make spirits brighter this holiday season.

You may wish to donate to the following causes:

DONATE NON PERISHABLE FOOD

- December 10 - Share Your Christmas Drive-By Food Drive

■ Where: 6am-6pm at the Nevada Governor's Mansion 606 Mountain St.

■ Carson City

Donations benefit:

■ Advocates to End Domestic Violence 6 a.m.-10 a.m.

■ Friends in Service Helping 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

■ Ron Wood Family Resource Center 2-6 p.m.

DONATE FOODS, CLOTHING AND UNUSED CHILDREN'S TOYS

■ Till Dec 9th at all northern and eastern Nevada GNCU and GNM locations

MONETARY DONATIONS OR GIFT CARDS

■ Friends to All Santa - Santa visits to Homebound Seniors on Dec. 11

■ Contact: Friends To All c/o A+ Documents (775) 301-6747

■ 411 W. Third Street, Suite 1, Carson City, Nevada 89703

TOYS

■ Toys for Tots - Ron Wood Family Resource Center - 2621 Northgate Ln., Suite 62. 775-884-2269 or carson-family.org

SALVATION ARMY ANGEL TREE TOY DRIVE

Carson City Walmart north and south Carson.

Look for Salvation Army Red Barrels to donate new toys & new clothes at your local retailers.

Listen for the Bell Ringers with the Red Kettles.