

THE EPOCH TIMES

LIFE &

TRADITION



Remember to look for joy in this world, and to remember the power of beauty and goodness.

Keep your faith in God, your country, your family and friends, and the heritage of your civilization.

MARIYA LIMAZHUTTERSTOCK

Stars in the Darkness:

A Christmas Letter to My Grandchildren

JEFF MINICK

Late last December, I made some New Year's resolutions that included writing a letter every week to two of my grandchildren at a time and bringing treats once a month to our public librarians and the baristas of the coffee shop I frequent. Usually, my resolutions have the life span of a mayfly, but this time, I published these intentions in an article for *The Epoch Times*. Failure was not an option.

At the time, my platoon of grandchildren numbered 20 boys and girls, not counting three who had returned to God at their birth, and they ranged in age from 14 to 1. A month ago, a newborn girl brought another addition to these ranks.

In ways large and small, you must stand your ground and defend liberty.

My grandchildren enjoyed these letters. For the little ones, I wrote far fewer words, but added plenty of stickers from the Dover books purchased at my local bookstore. One of the youngest carried her letter everywhere she went for a couple of days.

I'm unsure whether I will continue this project—I'm guessing I probably will—but I decided to end the year with a bang. I'm sending out the letter below to all my grandchildren along with a personal note on a Christmas card, which should especially please that letter-loving kid.

Our young people need our encouragement, particularly now, and our country needs them if liberty is to survive. Maybe letters like this one will help give them the strength and courage to persevere:

Dear ones,

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you!

As I write these words, I see you in my mind's eye gearing up for the holidays, decorating your trees and homes, making homemade gifts for Mom and Dad, and I hope, pitching in to help your parents around the house.

This will be a different sort of letter than the ones you've gotten from me this past year. No jokes this time for you older kids, and sorry, little ones, no stickers of farm animals, penguins, and airplanes.

Continued on Page 2

Teen Delivers 'Notes' of Christmas Cheer to Veterans, Seniors

Franki Moscato from Oshkosh, Wisconsin, puts others first—and creates free digital concert this holiday season

MAUREEN MACKEY

Young Franki Moscato is on a mission. Several missions, actually.

First, the talented 18-year-old singer and performer from Oshkosh, Wisconsin, believes that veterans and members of law enforcement across the country deserve our robust and enduring thanks for all that they've done—and still do—to protect the vast freedoms we enjoy in America.

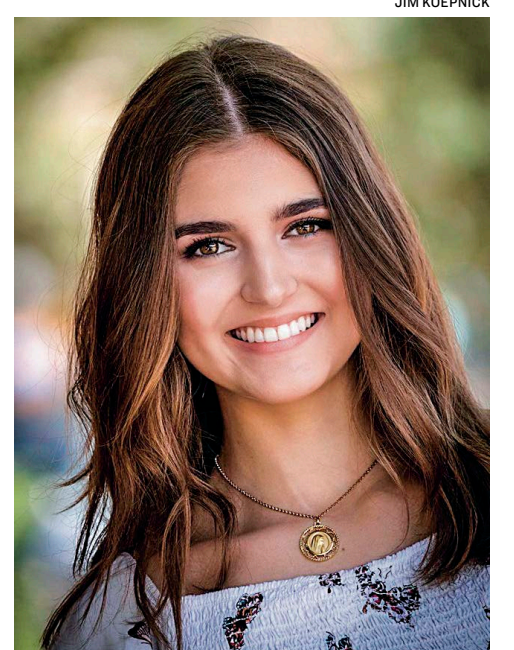
She goes out of her way to salute them. That includes singing the National Anthem for them, and for many other people, at every opportunity.

Second, Moscato rails against cy-

berbullying—something she herself has experienced in her life, she explains. Those experiences forced her to change schools several times as a young teen.

Because bullying of all types can lead tragically to suicide for too many individuals, Moscato started a foundation a year ago to bring greater awareness to the topic. No young person, she believes, should ever hurt himself or herself because of brutish treatment from others. Help is at hand, she shares with children and teens—and we all need to be kind toward each other.

Continued on Page 3



JIM KOEPNICK

Franki Moscato, 18, is a singer and student at the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay.

EDUCATION

Zoom School Gets an F, But Some Online Learning Providers Excel

KERRY MCDONALD

Students in 40 percent of school districts across the country haven't been inside a classroom since last spring, and others are now returning to virtual "Zoom school" as coronavirus cases rise. Remote public schooling as a response to school shutdowns has been a disaster for many children, with a record number of F grades issued this academic year. Both parents and kids are fed up with Zoom school, and teachers are frustrated with it as well. The Washington Post ran a headline this month saying we must finally admit that "remote education is a failure."

It's important to make a distinction here: Remote pandemic public schooling may be a failure, but remote education more generally is flourishing. Many private, online learning providers are seeing their enrollment numbers climb, as parents search for high-quality, virtual education options for their children and teens. Here are three remote education programs that are excelling during the pandemic:

My Tech High

My Tech High was launched 12 years ago by entrepreneur and educator, Matt Bowman, and it has experienced rapid growth. With the 2020 school shutdowns, My Tech High's popularity surged, growing 150 percent over 2019 to serve nearly 20,000 students in eight states. Most of the students attend tuition-free, accessing My Tech High through innovative partnerships with charter school networks and some school districts that allow for a more personalized, home-based education for young people ages 5 to 18. It's been a particularly big hit with military families who move around a lot and value the program's consistency and customization.

"We have seen that when it's done right (i.e. not Zoom-schooling all day), students can truly thrive in a personalized education program like My Tech High," says Bowman. Entrepreneurship is a cornerstone principle at My Tech High, and children of all ages are encouraged to be creative and inventive. "With our focus on tech and entrepreneurship," says Bowman, "we have students as young as 5 years old learning the basics of coding and we've had 8-year-old students start their own profitable businesses."

Arizona State University (ASU) Prep Digital

ASU Prep Digital is a K-12 virtual charter school network affiliated with Arizona State University that offers a particularly innovative program for high school students across the country. Fully online and self-paced, the ASU Prep Digital high school program is high-touch with regular, live, online check-ins with teachers and mentors. It is fully accredited and students can receive a high school diploma if they choose. They can also enroll as a part-time



YULIA D./SHUTTERSTOCK

Pandemic Zoom school may be a short-lived failure, but online learning is set to soar.

student, taking a la carte classes to supplement other learning.

A key benefit of ASU Prep Digital is that it allows enrolled students to attend concurrent online classes through Arizona State University, accumulating college credits while still in high school and dramatically reducing the cost of college when those credits are ultimately transferred to a four-year university. Moreover, students who do well academically at ASU Prep Digital automatically meet the admission requirements to attend Arizona State University.

The best news? ASU Prep Digital is tuition-free for Arizona residents and, at just under \$7,000 a year, an affordable option for many out-of-state high school students as well. When parents consider that the tuition includes college credits during high school that ultimately defray university costs, it becomes even more appealing.

Sure enough, enrollment at ASU Prep Digital skyrocketed 700 percent this year over 2019, to 4,500 students. The school's CEO, Julie Young, led the Florida Virtual School from its inception in 1997 as the nation's first public, fully online school. She told Inside Higher Ed that school shutdowns and related remote learning plans are responsible for ASU Prep Digital's recent enrollment surge. "We are definitely hearing from families that the pandemic is a catalyst for our growth," she said, acknowledging that many parents were uncertain about the quality of their school district's remote learning approach and valued more well-established, reputable online learning options.

Galileo

Galileo is an online, self-directed learning program for homeschoolers, unschoolers, worldschoolers, and other students who are seeking a bit of structure, access to more classes, and a lot of community. Daily, virtual check-ins with a teacher and small groups of students around the globe offer opportunities for consistent social connection, goal-setting, group presentations, and accountability. Classes are offered throughout the week on a wide range of

topics, from history, math, and foreign languages to debate clubs, music clubs, book groups, and entrepreneurship incubators. Tuition plans start at \$2,000 per year, or parents can choose a monthly option that allows them to cancel at any time.

Launched in the summer of 2019 by a group of parents, educators, and software developers, Galileo has grown from 20 students in its inaugural group to 159 students this fall in 28 countries. Lizz Quain, a director at Galileo, says that while some of these students likely would have joined Galileo regardless of the pandemic, school shutdowns and remote learning have boosted enrollment.

"Some former public and private school families who were disillusioned with the traditional school system and wanted a change anyway did enroll, and are enjoying this new [to them] way of learning, and plan to stick around," Quain told me in a recent interview. "Some of those parents were so aghast at how their previous schools were handling distance learning, realized that their kids weren't getting a good education, decided to look for a better online learning environment, and found Galileo."

Quain believes that the trend toward remote learning was already emerging before 2020 and that parents will continue to seek enriching and effective virtual education models for their children. "The future of online learning was happening pre-pandemic. The pandemic just brought it to the forefront and to the masses," says Quain. "Unfortunately traditional schools don't know how to do online learning well. Future-focused and innovative edtech companies such as Galileo are being created to disrupt the traditional education model by truly engaging students, making learning fun again, and allowing for individualized learning, for students to pursue their passions and to create life-long, independent learners."

Pandemic Zoom school may be a short-lived failure, but online learning is set to soar. Families have grown more comfortable with virtual interactions this year, more parents will telework post-pandemic, and many students appreciate flexible, customizable education approaches—particularly when they offer an accelerated pathway to college or career goals.

Innovative, private online learning providers will continue to emerge and expand, offering more high-quality, low-cost, individualized education options for students and families. As Quain says: "Once students get a taste of the freedom to choose what they want to learn, it's not the easiest transition to return to a top-down, authoritarian, and institutional learning environment."

Kerry McDonald is a senior education fellow at FEE and author of "Unschooling: Raising Curious, Well-Educated Children Outside the Conventional Classroom" (Chicago Review Press, 2019). This article was originally published on FEE.org

Private online learning providers are expanding and offering high-quality, low-cost, individualized education options.

DEAR NEXT GENERATION:

'We need to keep the final destination in mind'

→ Advice from our readers to our young people

Grandma's Quotes:

1. If you're ever headed the wrong way in life, remember the road to Heaven allows U-turns.
2. The future should be very important to you. It's where you will spend the rest of your life.
3. It's a wasted day if you haven't laughed.
4. Of all the things you wear, your expression is the most important.
5. If you're afraid you'll make a mistake, you won't make anything.
6. If you want to leave footprints in the sands of time, wear work boots.
7. It takes two people to start an argument, and only one to end it.
8. If you don't have anything nice to say, don't say anything.
9. Be the job big or small, do it well or not at all.
10. Pink sky in morning, sailors take

warning. Pink sky at night, sailors delight.

11. 30 days has September, April, June, and November, all the rest have 31 except for February has 28 (every four years 29).

My mom used to say these to us. Now I tell my grandkids.

—Arline Tobola

It takes two people to start an argument, and only one to end it.

Dear Next Generation,

When I was young, I heard an older person say, "Always remember, you are just passing through." At the time, I didn't think much about these words. There is a tendency when you are young to think that life will always be the way you see it around you. But now that

I am much older, I see that there is wisdom in these words. We are just passing through, but it matters greatly how we pass through.

We are all heading somewhere, and we need to keep the final destination in mind. It affects the way we live life in the present, especially when we realize there are eternal consequences for the way we "pass through." Our lives are valuable and important in spite of the hard knocks we take and the problems that we ourselves cause. Our lives end up affecting others in ways we can't even imagine. We would probably be amazed and even horrified if we could somehow be given a visual picture of the impact our words and actions were having on others. With this in mind, we need to live respectfully, honoring God and considering the lives of other people as important as our own.

Will we make mistakes? Absolutely, and some of them will be serious. Can we be forgiven? Yes, but we have to ask for it in sincerity and realize our great need for it. I believe there is a "happily ever after" to life, but it's not in the here and now. It's in the final destination. But we need to "pass

through" in the right way in order to get there.

Since I've always loved fairy tales and now have grandchildren, I recently wrote a fairy tale for children. This gave me a chance to express these ideas in a creative way. It's called "The Kingdom of Fairwind" and was published last year. I do believe in happy endings.

—Phyllis Woods

What advice would you like to give to the younger generations?

We call on all of our readers to share the timeless values that define right and wrong, and pass the torch, if you will, through your wisdom and hard-earned experience. We feel that the passing down of this wisdom has diminished over time, and that only with a strong moral foundation can future generations thrive.

Send your advice, along with your full name, state, and contact information to Next-Generation@epochtimes.com or mail it to:

Next Generation, The Epoch Times, 229 W. 28th St., Floor 7, New York, NY 10001

ALL PHOTOS BY SHUTTERSTOCK



(Above) The Baroque-style Winter Palace in St. Petersburg, Russia, is reflected in a puddle on Palace Square. (Below) Chandeliers hang from the vaulted ceiling in a corridor near Alexander Hall.

LARGER THAN LIFE: ART THAT INSPIRES US THROUGH THE AGES

St. Petersburg's Sumptuous Winter Palace

Russia's monumental pastel-green Winter Palace in St. Petersburg was once home to some of the country's most notable emperors and empresses. The palace encompasses many types of art and architecture, including Baroque, Neoclassical, and Gothic styles, through to Rococo.

In 1754, Empress Elizabeth Petrovna commissioned Italian architect Bartolomeo Francesco Rastrelli to build a Baroque win-

ter palace that would surpass the beauty of the best European palaces.

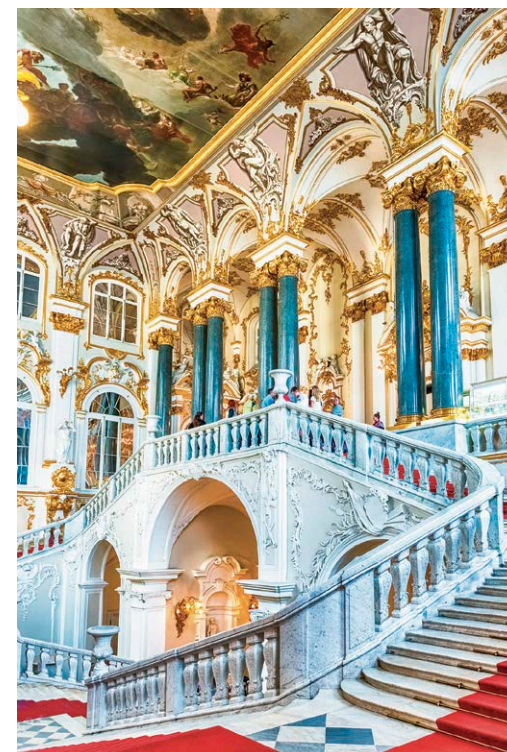
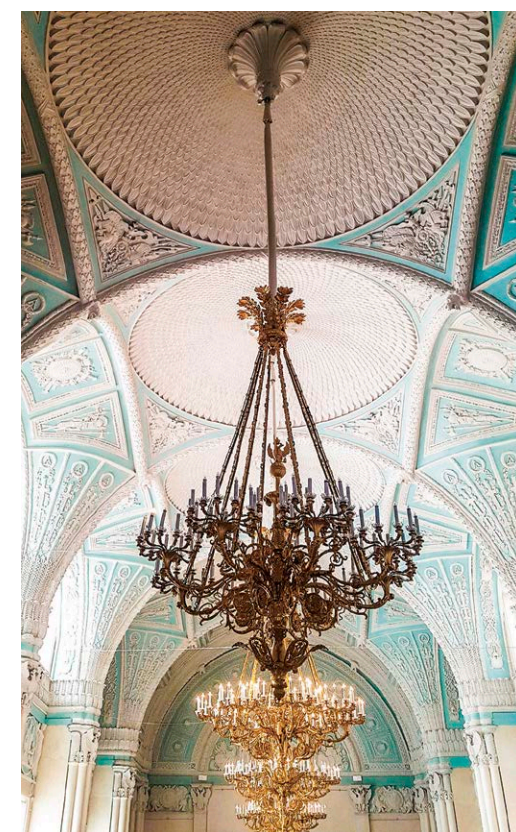
Constructed over eight years, the palace contains more than 460 sumptuous rooms. But not all the rooms were decorated according to the original Baroque design. In 1762, just after her coronation, Empress Catherine II (Catherine the Great) took up residence in the Winter Palace. She favored the new Neoclassical style of architecture, and so the palace took on a

more refined style.

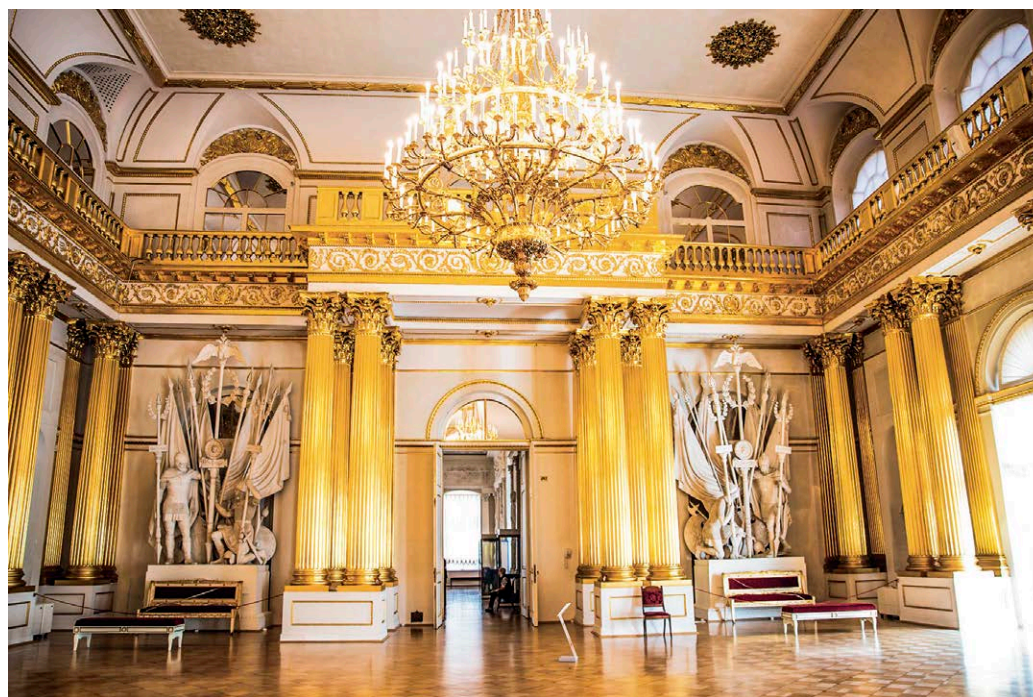
After a fire ravaged the building in 1837, the style of the palace changed again. Russian architect Vasily Stasov restored the exterior, the Jordan Staircase, the Grand Church, and the main state suites to the original design and decoration. Some of the rooms he decorated were made even more opulent. For example, he gilded the Neoclassical columns in the Armorial Hall. And Russian artist Alexander Brullov redesigned and decorated some of the smaller rooms in 19th-century fashion, from Gothic to Rococo styles. One of the notable new rooms was the Malachite Drawing Room, which was the reception room for the empress's suite.

The 1903 Winter Palace Ball marked the last great gathering of the imperial family. Grand Duke Alexander Mikhailovich said it was "the last spectacular ball in the history of the empire."

Now the Winter Palace is part of the State Hermitage Museum, and Catherine the Great's art collections form the foundation of its world-renowned collection.



(From left to right) 1. A marble statue in an alcove on the Jordan Staircase. 2. A Russian throne in St. George Hall (the Large Throne Room), the main hall for all the Russian czars. 3. The Rococo-style Jordan Staircase. 4. The 1812 War Gallery.



The Armorial Hall.



The Malachite Drawing Room.

HOMESCHOOLING

Homeschool Resolutions: 21 Ideas for 2021

BARBARA DANZA

As the holidays wind down and we pack away ornaments while enjoying the last remnants of homemade cookies, homeschool parents are looking ahead to the next segment of the homeschool year.

Veteran homeschoolers often report that the early months of the year, when daylight is scarce and temperatures are low, can be a challenging time to maintain motivation. Add to that a lingering pandemic and, well, it might be a good idea to have some homeschool resolutions in your back pocket.

Here are 21 ideas to consider for 2021.

1. Be Present
When you're home, there are so many other things besides your homeschool responsibilities that beckon—the mess in the corner, laundry, screens, and incoming messages. However, the most important thing you can do is to be fully present with your kids as you work through your homeschool day.

Add an element of unexpected delight by sprinkling in some 'sudden' cancellations to the mix.

2. Upgrade the Soundtrack
Add new music to your playlists to create a lovely atmosphere that is conducive to focus and creativity. We find that focusing on one classical composer at a time has been a remarkably easy way to learn about the genre and periods of music through history, as well as to simply being able to recognize the composer of a piece by ear.

3. Make It Art
Marketing guru Seth Godin once stated: "If it's work, we try to figure out how to do less. If it's art, we try to figure out how to do more." Turn your homeschool assignment into art projects and watch how much more fun they become.

4. Simplify
Now that you've got a few months of this homeschool year under your belt, you can see what's working and what's not. Sepa-

rate the wheat from the chaff and keep your highest priorities front and center. From your schedule to the volume of materials you keep on hand, simplify, simplify, simplify.

5. Go Outside
Author Alfred Wainright famously wrote, "There's no such thing as bad weather, only unsuitable clothing." Don't let some sprinkles or chilly temperatures stop you and your family from lacing up those shoes, bundling up in those coats, and heading out the door each day.

6. Just Add Treats
Sometimes the work is a struggle. When the long division feels like a chore or the writing project has reached a stall, just add treats. It's amazing what a plate of freshly baked cookies, a bowl of warm popcorn, or a platter of sliced fruit can do to help push on through.

7. Plan to Cancel
Add an element of unexpected delight by sprinkling in some "sudden" cancellations to the mix. That Tuesday, when you canceled math and drove to the beach, or that Thursday, when you scrapped school for the day and headed to the zoo, will become the memories that your children will look back on with a giant smile.

8. Start a Project
Don't forget to offer your kids opportunities to take on longer-term projects, such as producing a research paper, a presentation, a website, or a movie. Put to work their creative interests on projects that teach values such as consistent effort, persistence, resourcefulness, and overcoming challenges.

9. Documentary Nights
Winter nights are especially conducive to movie nights. Make some of them educational by strategically sprinkling in documentaries that enhance the topics you're already studying or those that your kids have expressed particular interest in.

10. Outsource
Just because you're homeschooling doesn't mean you need to do all the educating yourself. Look ahead at the new year and decide how you can outsource some of your goals for the rest of the year.



Gradually give your children more responsibility, whether that means taking charge of a new chore or getting involved in your community.

11. Schedule a Makeup
Life happens, and that feeling of falling behind schedule can nag at a homeschooler. Pencil in a lifeline right on your calendar by scheduling makeup days or even a week where all you do is catch up.

12. Celebrate
When the big holidays are over, it doesn't mean you should stop celebrating. Think of fun things to do for holidays like Valentine's Day, Groundhog Day, Presidents' Day, Saint Patrick's Day, Spring Equinox, Easter, and any birthdays or anniversaries that your family may be marking.

13. Increase Responsibility
Now that your homeschool year has been running for a while, perhaps it's time to place more responsibility on the shoulders of your children. Whether that means taking charge of a new chore around the house, getting involved in the community, getting a job, or starting an independent venture, encourage age-appropriate incremental increases in the responsibilities your children carry.

14. Start a Journal
An easy way to ensure that writing practice happens consistently is to incorporate the practice of journal writing into the mix. Give your kids attractive journals and fun pens and stickers to encourage them to keep up with a new habit.

15. Use the Library
Hopefully current circumstances haven't

knocked out the services of your local library. Use the request system to focus on specific authors or topics and regularly visit the library with your kids.

16. Be Silly
Don't be too serious. Tell silly jokes. Sing silly songs. Lighten up and laugh with your kiddos.

17. Add Anticipation
After the year we just had, what family doesn't need something to look forward to. Put a fun excursion or celebration on the calendar. Even if you pencil it in for the end of the coming year, just knowing that you've got something to look forward to makes the day-to-day that much easier.

18. Notice Progress
It's easy to notice that your 6-year-old is struggling with reading or that your 12-year-old is just not getting algebra, but how often do you remember the areas in which your children are excelling? Don't forget to notice and cheer them on when they're knocking it out of the park—which might be a lot more often than you think.

19. Let Them Linger
Sometimes you'll hit on something that totally fascinates your kids, whether it's the Revolutionary War, the Great Barrier Reef, Chinese characters, oil painting, woodworking, or photography. When they're genuinely interested, back up and let them linger.

20. Connection Over Completion
You've got a list with boxes that you just want to check off, but don't lose sight of the importance of connecting with your children during this period of their lives. Checking boxes is not nearly as important as connecting with your kids and walking with them along this homeschooling journey together.

21. Remember Gratitude
Pause regularly to reflect on all that you're grateful for—including this opportunity to homeschool your children. It's such a gift for them, for you, and for everyone they'll impact in their lives going forward. When the going gets tough, sit with gratitude for a while. The perspective it brings can be extraordinary.



FOR KIDS ONLY

THE EPOCH TIMES

Week 52, 2020

THE FIRST Noel

English carol, 17th century

The first Noel the angels did say
Was to certain poor shepherds
in fields where they lay,
In fields where they lay
keeping their sheep
On a cold winter's night
that was so deep.
Noel Noel Noel Noel!
Born is the King of Israel!

WHAT'S ANOTHER NAME FOR SANTA'S HELPERS?

ROMAN SAMBORSKY/SHUTTERSTOCK

“I will honor Christmas in my heart and try to keep it all the year.”

CHARLES DICKENS

HULTON ARCHIVE/GETTY IMAGES

This Week in History

WASHINGTON CROSSES THE DELAWARE



On the night of Dec. 25, 1776, Gen. George Washington and his army of cold, hungry soldiers boarded boats to cross the Delaware River and surprise the opposing Hessian forces in Trenton, New Jersey.

Washington's troops crossed in dangerous weather conditions and in the midst of a storm of freezing rain, snow, and wind. The strategy to catch the troops off-guard after a night of Christmas celebration proved wise and the patriots enjoyed a much needed, swift victory, marking a key turning point in the Revolutionary War.

By Aidan Danza, age 14

ALL ABOUT DIRT: HOW SOILS FORM

Soils form in many different ways, causing them to exhibit many different characteristics, as seen in my last article about the types of soil. Fundamentally, though, all soil begins with the weathering of rock and impacts of other factors, such as climate, the shape of the land, living things, and time.

Rocks weather in a few different ways. Temperature change, wind, water flow, gravity, chemical reactions, and living things can break rocks down into small particles. Oftentimes, the type of rock will influence the soil it forms. For example, soils made from granite are often coarse, sandy, and useless, while basalt soil is usually very fertile clay. This process can take anywhere from a few dozen to tens of thousands of years!

After or during the rocks' weathering process, many factors come into play. Climate can be a very significant in soil formation. For example, if soil is

permanently frozen, it can inhibit things going in and out of the soil. A large amount of water over an extended period of time will change soil, as will dry conditions. Temperature and wind also have an effect. The shape of land, or topography, impacts the formation of soil. If soil is formed over a sloping area, its top layer may slide downhill over time. Loose substances, such as leaf litter, will also slide down a hill, taking away organic material that would be present in a flat area. Living things or organisms play an enormous part in soil formation. The more life there is in soil, the more fertile it will

be. Roots will anchor soil, making it stable. Worms will leave their castings, fertilizing the soil; and decomposing organic material will make the soil only more fertile. Time plays an enormous factor in what stage a soil is in. Most of these impacts take a very long time to occur. Climate isn't something that changes very often and suddenly, just like topography, which usually stays constant. The weathering of rocks can take tens of thousands of years!

Soil scientists refer to these factors as CLORPT: climate, organisms, relief (topography), parent material (disintegrating rocks), and time.



Earthworms incorporate large amounts of organic matter into the soil.

PARENTING

Family Staycation: How to Make the Most of Winter Break

BARBARA DANZA

As the kids begin their winter vacation, the last few weeks of the year present many opportunities for quality family time. Here are 10 ideas to make the most of your time together and have a fun winter staycation.

Play Tourist
If you were visiting from out of town, what would you do? Check out the local tourism website for your area to identify fun things to do that you may have previously overlooked or taken for granted.

Plan a Game Night
Check the weather forecast and schedule a family game day, or game night, whenever the most unfavorable weather is predicted. Serve your favorite snacks and prepare dinner in the slow cooker to keep things easy. Turn off the digital devices and pull out your family's favorite board games. This is a great activity that compels everyone to remain present and focused on time together.

Visit Local Zoos, Museums, Historical Sites
Just as these are likely points of interest you'd seek out on vacation, don't overlook these destinations in your own backyard. It may have been a while since you last vis-

ited, or there may be some you haven't gotten to yet. Enjoy these local attractions with your family and make a day of it! Make sure to call ahead and arrange reservations, as they may have limited capacity.

Go Out for Ice Cream
Because every good vacation needs ice cream, head to your favorite local spot or try out a new place!

Try a New Restaurant
Experiencing local cuisine is a key element of any good vacation. Get takeout from a restaurant you've been meaning to try and enjoy a meal with your family.

Go Ice Skating or Snow Tubing
Celebrate the new winter season by partaking in some good old-fashioned winter fun on your winter staycation.

Avoid the Temptation to Catch Up
A pitfall that parents may run into on "staycation" is giving in to the temptation to work. If at all possible, allow yourself to really enjoy the fruits of a vacation by not burdening yourself with work or chores. It may be tempting to want to get ahead, but allow your focus to remain on restoration and family. You'll be back at work soon enough.

SAMIRA BOUADU/EPHOC TIMES



Head outdoors to enjoy winter fun.

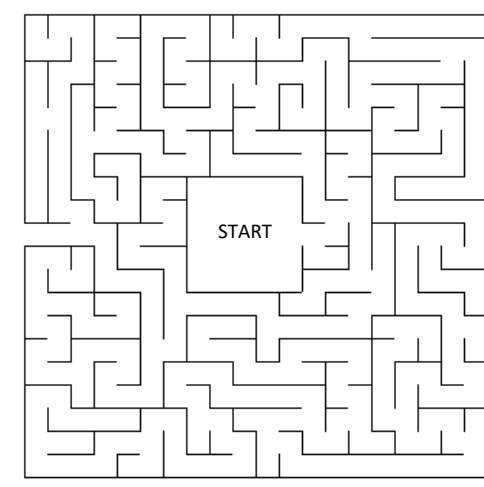
A pitfall that parents may run into on 'staycation' is giving in to the temptation to work.

Head Downtown
Venture out for a day of shopping and exploring your very own town or city. Great joy can be had in appreciating your own backyard. Don't forget to pick up a souvenir from your staycation!

Hit the Library
Stock up on books and enjoy actually having that time to read them. Encourage the kids to try new genres, or pick up books about a budding interest or your local area.

Review the Year With Gratitude
Tell your kids what you were most grateful for this year and encourage them to share the same. A staycation is a great opportunity to appreciate all the riches in your life.

AMAZING ESCAPES!



USE THE FOUR NUMBERS IN THE CORNERS, AND THE OPERANDS (+, -, AND X) to build an equation to get the solution in the middle. There may be more than one "unique" solution but, there may also be "equivalent" solutions. For example: 6 + (7 X 3) + 1 = 28 and 1+ (7 X 3) + 6 = 28

Easy puzzle 1

2	5		
32			
1	4		
+	-	x	÷

Solution For Easy 1
2 × 5 = (1 - 5)
1 × (1 + 2 = 5)

Medium puzzle 1

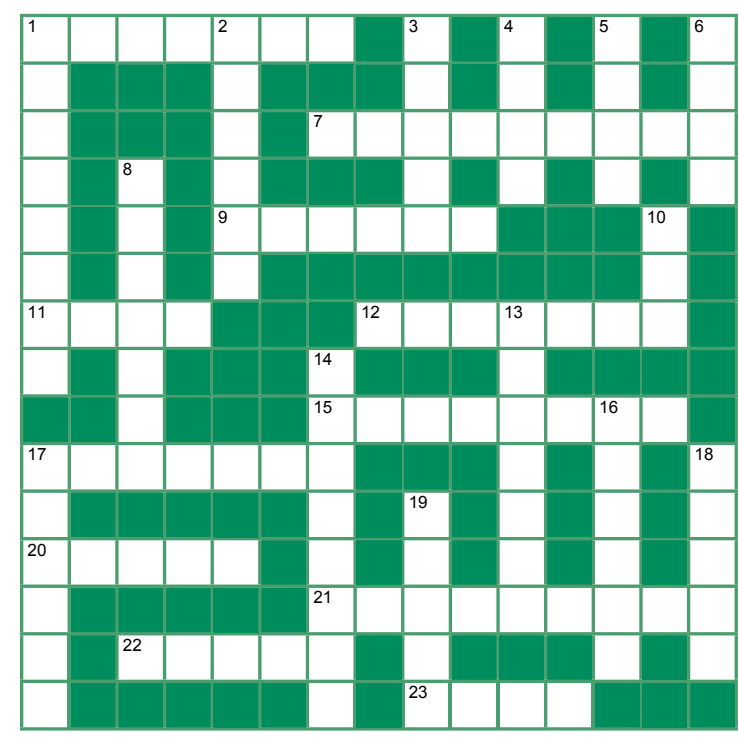
5	11		
64			
4	8		
+	-	x	÷

Solution for Medium 1
(9 - 8) × (5 + 11)

Hard puzzle 1

13	23		
40			
12	19		
+	-	x	÷

Solution for Hard 1
21 - 61 × (61 - 62)



Across

1 Macy's holiday window (7)

7 "The Nutcracker" dancer (9)

9 Christmas decoration (6)

11 Santa has a long one on Christmas eve (4)

12 "___ begins at home" (7)

- Down**
- 1 What we like to do to our tree (8)
- 2 What we decorate with outside (6)
- 3 What the Cratchits planned for Christmas dinner (before Scrooge bought them a turkey) (5)
- 4 ___ giving is a holiday tradition (4)
- 5 Dec. holiday, briefly (4)
- 6 "Frosty" air? (4)
- 8 News (7)
- 10 "___ to the World" (3)
- 13 His nose glows! (7)
- 14 Santa leaves these under the tree (8)
- 16 Holiday drink (6)
- 17 Who we like to spend Christmas with (6)
- 18 Hot mulled holiday drink (5)
- 19 Many people display these during the holidays (5)
- 15 Dasher, Dancer, Prancer & Vixen, etc. (8)
- 17 Celebratory (7)
- 20 A gift of the Magi (5)
- 21 Santa's spot (5,4)
- 22 Christmas tradition with family (5)
- 23 What Comet, Cupid, Donner, etc. pull (4)

THE EPOCH TIMES

TRUTH and TRADITION

REJECT THE CHINESE COMMUNIST PARTY

The Chinese Communist Party's (CCP) coverup of the novel coronavirus led to a pandemic that now threatens the lives of people around the globe. Call out the deception and take a stand against the ideology that has hurt and killed so many.

Let's reject communism. Let's condemn the CCP.

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