Spring Valley & Elmwood School/Community Highlights

LETTERS TO SANTA

(Editors Note: These are typed as written by the wonderful first graders of Spring Valley Elementary School. Sometimes it is impossible to fully read a word or name signed on the letters. Please enjoy them in their original form and decoded to the best of our ability.)

Dear Santa,
I have been reading alot. I want an apple iphone 13 pro, 9 popits, and a playhouse for christmas. Thank you santa. How is Mrs. Clause? With Love, Evie

Dear Santa,
I have been good all year. I would like a nintendo switch, a pet cat, and a lot of fidits. Do all reindeer fly? With love, Maya

Dear Santa,
Ive helped mi mom with decorations. I would like a hamster, fidgets, and lol dolls. How are the reindeer doing? With love, Brooklyn

Dear Santa,
I have been makeing presints. I want candy, legos, and a compeuter for me on Cristmas. Do you have a riender with a red nose? With Love, Brant

Dear Santa,
I have been good. I would like a nintendo switch, a phone, and a kiten. How do your elves get here so fast? With love, Ivan

Dear Santa,
I have been learning alot about math adding. I would like a new hat, ipad 13 pro, and a dirt bike. Hou are the reindeer doing? With love, Brandt

Dear Santa,
I have been learning alot about chrismas. I would like a chikin to chace, I would like to have a tobot, and a chismas star. Do all elfs make all the toys? With love, Caleb

Dear Santa,
My little bruther has ben notey. I would like a trex toy, a drone, and a new bug city. Duse Mrs. Claus demand you to eat a lot of food? With love, Davis

Dear Santa,
I have been learning alot of new things. I would like a puppy, I want my mom and dad to live together, and a drone. Do all elfs mack toys? With love, Liam

Dear Santa,
I have been good this year for christmas I would like a puppy, ultimate hot wheels and candy. How do you make it around the world in 1 night? With love, Landon

Dear Santa,
I like you santa. I like school do you . can you get sneakers for me. I have ben a gud grl. I have ben lisning. How fast can uor rander go. With love, Zylyn

Dear Santa,
I have ben eating cookies. For christnas, I wot a nrf gun. And robot. And hot wheels. Do you like cookies. With love, Lucas

Dear Santa,
I have ben doing chores. For christmas I would like a model kit, a fox stuffed animal and I want a guitar. How fast do you reindeer go? With love, Jace

Dear Santa,
I have been good this year. For christmas I would like a starbelly dream light, another omg lol doll, and a pop it. Why can I hear you on christmas eve and do you like the packers? With love, Cora

Dear Santa,
I have been good this year. For christmas I want a tractor, a new hat, and some candy. How fast do you reindeer fly?With love, Braxton

Dear Santa,
I have been very good. For christmas, I want money, santa and a sleigh. Am i on the nice or naughtly list? With love, Drew

Dear Santa,
I have been learning in school about families. For christmas, I want a barbie dream house, a boomerang and abigail dolls. And a chocolate bear. How fast do your reindeer go? With love, Clare

Dear Santa,
I have been learning a lot at school. For Christmas I would like a flying reindeer, a fish, and a stoffed elf. Do you have a wig beard? With love, Maci

Dear Santa,
I have been good at school. For Christmas I want a dog, a car, and an elf. How fast do's your rendeer go's? With love, Blaize

Dear Santa,
I have been good. For christmas i want a pop it fidget pack, and little craf stuf have you put a christmas tree up. With love, Lexi

Dear Santa,
I have been vore good. For christmas I want a bunch of homework, candy and a reindeer. How high can you fly? With love, Josey

Dear Santa,
Iv got bett at listining. For christmas I want dollrs. I want 1 big star crunch and a dimino. Are you real? With love, Miles

Dear Santa,
I have been lisaning to the techr. For christmas I would like christmas ornaments, a cat, and a barbie doll. How many reindeer do you have? With love, Sophia

Dear Santa,
I have been good at home. For christmas I would like a sonic etc plushie, a sonic exe game, and one billion dollars. Why do you have a beard? With love, Cash

Dear Santa,
I have been learning a lot about story problems in math class. I want a ps5, a puppy, and a pet reindeer. Do you eat every ones cookies? With Love, April

Dear Santa,
I been listening. I want a ps5, 1000 rolex, and 100000000 bucks for christmas. Do you have kids? With love, Mason

Dear Santa,
I have been playing with my famiy a lot. For christmas I want toy dionsaurs, toy boat, and a toy plane. Do all reindeer fly? With love, Ryan

Dear Santa,
I have been a good girl. I want a flying reinder, a baby kitten, and a barbie doll. Is it okay if i have a big present? It can be anything. With love, Piper

Dear Santa,
I have lrnd a lot about story problems in math class. I would like bucks, a giant home fild with candee, and 100000000000000000 dolrs. How do reindeer fly? With Love, Westen

Dear Santa,
I have been good for christmas, I wold wont a pet puppy, and I want a toy raschtrak with cars. With love, Axel

Dear Santa,
I have been good. I rile want christmas sock's for christmas a new bike, more sock's, and Pokeman? Do all rander look like dasher? With love, Leah

Dear Santa,
I been lrning u a lot uve siyis. I want a puppy, a hors, and a guinea pig for christmas. Do all reindeers floy? With love, Harper

Dear Santa,
I been good. For Chrismas I want a 1000 dolrs. I want minecraft. How do yow get so fat? With love, Oliver

Dear Santa,
I am in first grade. For Christmas I would like the flash action figure, a black flash action figure and a pencil box. How many toys are in your bag? With love, Adam

Dear Santa,
I have leearning in school. I wud like talusp, I wu d like ralr blads, I would like a horse and a barn. How many people are on the good list? With love, Reese

Dear Santa,
I em good at a lot of stof. I would like a shaprs and nedos, and a tablit for crismis plees. How's mis Claus doing? With love, Harper F.

Dear Santa, Iv been doing a lot of art. I wold like this mrmad hachmls on my moms fone, the unicorn game on my mom fone, and the spase game for christmas. Is it that yor magic!? With love, Lily

Dear Santa,
I have been learning about story problems. Would you find me if im at the dels? I rile want a fone. Dear Santa. I want a missle. Do yor elf make toys? With love, Ivan C.

Dear Santa,
I have been really good this year. I would like a skateboard, a hatchamal, and a monster truck rc and a robot watch. How do you eat so many cookies? With love, Deklan

Dear Santa,
I have been learning alot this year. I would like a drone this year and xmas mug hot chocit.
With love, Adman

Cruising with Cari

By Cari Cornelius

Before I moved to Wisconsin officially, I had already spent weeks and weeks in a town not to far away called Turtle Lake. Every summer, I would visit my favorite person in the world – my grandma – and spend weeks at a time over the summer with her. She would watch me swim in Horseshoe Lake where my mom grew up, watching diligently from the dock in her lawn chair with a romance novel in hand. When I wasn't swimming, she would send me packed with a cup of oatmeal, or can of corn, and a net. I would crouch over the side of the dock sprinkling the bait into the water and scoop the sunnies from beneath. Of course, at that time, I just dumped them back in and caught them again.

Towards the end of the summer, I would go to Vacation Bible School at the local Methodist Church where my grandma was a renowned organ player, making it through the whole week to Sunday when we would perform for our adoring fans. For all the weeks I spent with my grandma as a little girl, she would narrate our travels between meeting my mom halfway or running errands in neighboring towns. We even went as far as Rice Lake for school shopping at Herberger's and J.C. Penney's – two stores she loved. Every car ride she would tell me the name of the town – "This is Clayton. It's about six miles to Turtle Lake and five more to the house." We would sit and listen to audio books or the news station, snacking on salted white popcorn, which grandma said, "helped keep her awake."

When I turned 15, she was brave enough to let me drive her mint condition, tan, Chevy Impala. She navigated while I drove, hands at 10 and 2 and terrified to be on a two-lane road. She never got nervous, just kept her voice steady and continued to tell me where we were. St. Croix Falls, Amery, Osceola, Cumberland, every time I drive past these towns, I hear her sweet voice and know how many miles I have to go.

All those summers we spent together, we did our fair share of baking, although in the early years we used a hand mixer, or my arm and a wooden spoon. We never got much past chocolate chip cookies, but grandma was diabetic and loved her sweets so when I came to stay it was an excuse to have one and feed the rest to me. I think those summers I gained 10 pounds, but it sure was worth every single one.

My grandma had eventually gotten a beautiful white, Kitchen-Aid stand mixer, complete with a whisk and paddle attachment, and even a hook for making bread. The stand mixer was a prized possession of hers - and much too high tech for me. I would watch her whip up all kinds of wonders with it, but never used it myself.

My grandma passed away almost two years ago, leaving a hole in many hearts. Even though she is no longer with us, anyone that knew her could tell you what an incredible lady she was – and without a doubt the best grandma a girl could ask for.

About a year ago, due to a lack of counter space and baking skills (sorry, Mom) I was asked if I would like to have the white, Kitchen Aid stand mixer. In a heartbeat I said yes, now having two prized possessions from my grandparents – a riding lawn mower (that may never ride again, but I will keep forever) and the infamous mixer.

With Christmas fast approaching, I decided to do some cookie baking over the weekend and saw the chance to bring out my special prize.

Until Saturday, I still didn't quite know how to use it. Last year Tony and I had brought it out once to mix up our ramp butter. Not knowing about the switch to clamp the head down, we put it on high and were surprised as the butter and bits of green onion shot across the kitchen, hitting the microwave, the stove, the fridge, and even the ceiling. Since then, it has been in my cupboard until Saturday. As I mixed up my cookies, I couldn't help but think of all the time spent with my grandma, and how much I miss her every day. With the holidays approaching, there is so much joy, and still so much sadness for those who can't be with us anymore. I finished my baking and tenderly cleaned off the components, thankful that something as simple as a Kitchen-Aid stand mixer could evoke so many emotions. Here's to wishing you and your loved ones a happy holiday season and remembering all those who can't share it with us. Merry Christmas!

Girls' hoops team sweeps the week, wins pair of conference games

By Ron Cipriano
Sun-Argus/Gateway News

SPRING VALLEY, WI - The Spring Valley girls' basketball team put it all together last week for a pair of big wins over conference rivals Glenwood City and Boyceville, marking three straight wins and improving their overall record to 4-2 and 2-1 conference mark.

The Cardinals traveled to Somerset this past Tuesday night and will host Cumberland on Wednesday, December 29 in a pair of non-conference games.

Spring Valley 51, Boyceville 33

The Cardinals jumped all over the Bulldogs from the beginning then coasted home for the win.

Valley dominated Boyceville to a 28-5 halftime lead, then let some sloppy play get the best of them in the second half as the Bulldogs never quit. The score never got too close, but Boyceville did cut the lead in the second half.

The Cardinals shot 40% from the field, making 20-of-50 shots from the floor - including going 3-for-8 from three point range. Boyceville made just 19% of their shots, going 10-for-54 (4-of-28 from three point range). Despite the dominant win, the Cardinals still had 25 turnovers in the game, something Head Coach Sean Hoolihan would like to see change. Valley did dominate the boards, pulling down 50 rebounds compared to just 28 for Boyceville.

Mara Ducklow, for lack of a better term, just plain went off! The sophomore led the Cardinals, and all scorers, with 26 points, making 11-of-16 shots from the floor, 1-for-1 from three point range, she also pulled down 10 rebounds and had four deflections. Charli Vanasse had nine points and 12 rebounds to help the cause.

Hailey Hanestad had nine points to lead the Bulldogs in the losing cause.

Spring Valley 55, Glenwood City 27

Just like the game earlier in the week, the Cardinals dominated from wire-to-wire in this win as well, jumping out to big first half lead and never letting it get any closer the rest of the way.

Valley forged a 25-10 halftime lead and outscored the Hilltoppers 30-17 in the second half.

While the Cardinals didn't shoot as well as they did against Boyceville, they did clean up some other parts to their game. Valley made just 32% from the floor shooting, connecting on 21-of-66 shots (including 5-for-13 from three point range). Defensively, the Cardinals held Glenwood City to just 19% shooting (11-for-58, 1-for-6 from three point range) and forced Glenwood into 29 turnovers while also accumulating 15 steals. Valley cut down on their turnovers to have just 13 in the game.

Ducklow was the lone player to score in double-digits in the game with 16 points. Freshman Halle Thomas had eight points while junior Lydia Hannack had seven and Vanasse and senior Kaitlin Graham had six each.

Isabel Davis led the Hilltoppers with nine points in the losing effort.

SNAPSHOT!

The Director of the Elmwood Area Ambulance, Collin Gilles, receives a donation of $200 from Elmwood's American Legion member and Mayor, Bill Stewart. This donation fulfills the Legion's by-monthly donation to organizations in the Village. The ambulance service is vital to the surrounding area. Submitted photo