

# NYSSD Circle

*A Publication of the New York State School for the Deaf*



**2013-2014**  
**Spring Issue**

***Rathskellar Performs at NYSSD***

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## **NYSSD Mission Statement**

*Our Mission is to provide a foundation of learning that will enable students to become independent, self-respecting, and contributing adults in a multi-cultural society.*

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## **On The Cover**

Rathskellar performs at the New York State School for the Deaf and students pose for pictures.



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## SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE



### *Administration*

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Dormitory and School Transition  
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High School Residential Supervisor*

*Michael Anania  
Head of Maintenance*

*Christine Wagner  
Head of Food Services*

It is our pleasure to present our first Circle of the 2013-2014 school year. We are very proud of our accomplishments this year and the wonderful opportunities we have been able to provide our students so far this year.

It seems like this school year is just flying along and it is hard to realize we are well into January. It seems like yesterday we were celebrating fall with our Friendship Soccer Tournament. As you read through this issue I would like to draw your attention to all the exciting events we have had this year and give you notice of some upcoming events.

As the new Superintendent at NYSSD it has been my pleasure to serve the students, their families and the staff at NYSSD. I have served in six different school districts and I must say this has been a life changing experience for me. The students here are wonderful, their parents are very involved and supportive and the staff is among the most dedicated group of professionals I have had the pleasure to serve. The teaching staff is highly qualified and dedicated to make each child's educational experience the best it can be. The dorm staff is energetic, committed to excellence and professional in their interactions with students and staff. The support staff is dedicated to ensuring the facility remains clean, attractive and safe for students and staff. It truly is a pleasure to serve this school and I look forward to a long and happy relationship.

We have many exciting events here at NYSSD and many more to come. At the end of January we will be hosting the men's and women's basketball teams from Gallaudet University. They will be spending

time with us as they prepare to compete at SUNY IT and Cobleskill. Our students will have the opportunity to interact with college athletes who attend a University dedicated to the education of the deaf and hard of hearing. Our goal is to provide opportunities for our students to interact with students who have worked hard to achieve academically and athletically.

In February, NYSSD will host the Eastern States Deaf Athletic Association Girl's Division II Basketball Tournament. This three day event will provide schools from five different states to gather for athletic competition, social interaction and lots of fun. NYSSD has a reputation of hosting outstanding tournaments, another testament to the dedication of the staff, alumni and community.

Next December, NYSSD will be hosting the Academic Bowl sponsored by Gallaudet University. This is another three day event that brings academic competition teams from all over the eastern part of the country to compete for the honor of attending and competing in the national competition. 16-20 teams from deaf schools and their coaches will be here to compete, socialize and share in the experience. It is an honor to host this event and we look forward to putting together a memorable event for the students.

I hope you enjoy reading through this issue of the Circle. Enjoy!

*David Hubman*

Superintendent



# FRIENDSHIP SOCCER TOURNAMENT

*Submitted by Coach Dennis Ryan*

October brought a familiar yet popular activity to the campus of NYSSD. It was the 23rd Annual International Friendship Soccer Tournament. Sir James Whitney and E.C. Drury-both deaf schools from Canada; joined the Pennsylvania School for the Deaf in the 4 team tournament.

The weekend was started with an inspirational all-school pep rally on Friday afternoon. NYSSD was hosted by the dance group Rathskellar. Rathskellar performed several dance numbers and then joined with the four schools for the deaf in learning some new

## COVER STORY

dance steps. There was great fun and tremendous interaction between the four schools.

The tournament itself was also exciting. NYSSD lost both of its games but there was good sportsmanship and effort on behalf of the NYSSD team. NYSSD was led by its captains Kyle Sova, Eh Wah and Fayra Santiago. Also having great tournaments were Alexis Beckwith, Miranda Matthews, Michael Laughing, Ka Dil, Francesca Zegarelli and Brian Borden. The weekend also included an ice cream social and a captioned movie at a local theater.

In summation-another fantastic experience for the NYSSD student athletes. Plans are already underway for an even larger Friendship soccer tournament in October, 2014. Thanks to all the staff at NYSSD for their support of this event.



## LOOK WHAT'S HAPPENING AT NYSSD

### *Educational Review*

*Submitted by Assistant Superintendent Daniel Roberts*



I would like to commend the hard work and effort of our students at NYSSD. On Friday, December 13, 2013, NYSSD recognized students that had earned Honor Roll or Merit Roll for the 1st marking period. Honor Roll students who earn this distinction have a cumulative average of 88.5 or higher in all academic course work. Merit Roll students who earn this

distinction have a cumulative average of 84.5 – 88.4 in all academic coursework.

In addition to receiving awards, students were invited to an awards breakfast for their achievements. The breakfast was a huge success and a wonderful way to recognize the achievement of the students who continue to strive for excellence.

These students are role models and are being recognized for their academic success. It is with great honor I present the following names with the accompanying award recognitions for the first marking period:

#### **HONOR ROLL**

Miranda Matthews

#### **MERIT ROLL**

Abigail Anzalone

Snowy Jenner

Alen Kendic

Michael Laughing

Yousef Sawaqed

Mariah Sherman

Francesca Zegarelli

### *A Day in the Life of a Fire Fighter*

*Submitted by Theresa Matt*

In October, Ms. Linn's, Page's, Jackson's, Lee's and Matt's classes visited Westernville Fire Department to learn about fire safety and what fire fighters do in their job. The students got to see fire fighters put on all their gear and learned about what is special about the fire fighters clothing. This experience helps children be less afraid of fire fighters in their masks and gear in the event that a child ever needs help in an actual fire. Then the students got to watch fire fighters in action as they put out a car fire as part of their training so they'll know what to do in the event of a real fire. Students also got to see many different types of equipment and learned how they were used in emergencies. The best part, of course, was when our junior fire fighters got to "drive the trucks!"



### ***NYSSD Residential Program Happenings.....***

*Submitted by Residential Supervisor Marty Gorski*

When the school doors opened in September for the start of the 2013-2014 school year, the residential program was “officially off and running.”

Each week the residential Child Care staff meet with our Recreational Therapist-Mr. Dennis Ryan to develop our weekly and monthly schedules/calendars of events for the dormitory after-class program. We always try to incorporate a nice balance of educational and recreational activities for all our students and encourage them to participate.

NYSSD strongly emphasizes the importance of academics and that remains our #1 priority in the residential program. That is the #1 reason why your child is enrolled at our school. Next comes the social opportunities, the interscholastic sports program and all the fun after-class activities.

So, as you can imagine your child has been kept very busy and active this fall and early winter in a variety of fun-filled activities that have included:

- \* Four open-captioned movies at Rome Cinema:
- \* Free Birds
- \* Cloudy With A Chance Of Meatballs
- \* Planes
- \* Frozen
- \* Apple picking at North Star Orchards
- \* Open swim and open gym activities
- \* Dinner in the dormitories
- \* Monthly birthday celebrations
- \* Halloween party and scavenger hunt activity
- \* Community Outings- restaurant and shopping
- \* Deaf performance by “Rathskellar”
- \* Tour of the RCIL-“Wonderland of Lights” and hot chocolate and donuts
- \* Girl Scout activities
- \* Arts and crafts, table games, puzzles etc....



The dormitory program is gearing up for after our winter break when we have several big events planned: winter-festival, signing the National Anthem at the Syracuse Crunch game, snow tubing and bowling to name a few.

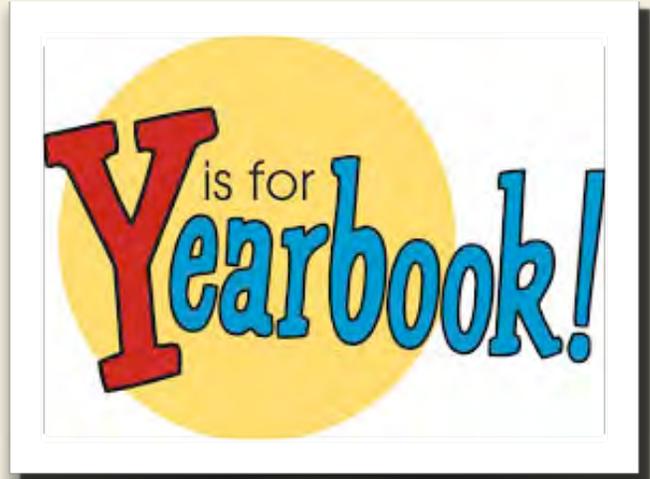
The dormitory is the place to be and as the commercial says, “Where the fun never stops.”

### ***NYSSD's New Yearbook Room***

*Submitted by Beth Wenzel*

There is a new Yearbook room in the NYSSD dormitory and it is officially up and running! Eight high school students have been working diligently with several staff members learning about taking and editing photographs, designing layouts and choosing themes. The students, including many who have never worked on a yearbook before, are excitedly learning new skills and acquiring the knowledge that allows them to be a valuable part of the process. As we watch our ideas come to life on the computer screen and our pages, these students are also gaining skills that they can take with them and apply to other endeavors throughout their lifetimes. The teamwork has been incredible and we look forward to watching this continue

through the second half of the school year. Feel free to pay us a visit in the new Yearbook room and watch some of our dedicated students hard at work!



### ***High School Girls Do Arts & Crafts***

*Submitted by Melinda Falcone & Susan Sharpsteen*



The girls have been busy making rice bags to help keep their families warm this winter. They sewed up a square of flannel fabric and filled it with rice. 2 - 3 minutes in the microwave is all it takes to warm up those little toes so cold or to help ease the aches & pains.

The girls also made recycled lightbulb tree ornaments.

The 1st step was to cover them with paper mache to keep them from breaking. Next we painted them a favorite color and added simple designs. Some painted on a coal mouth and an orange carrot and made a snowman.

The girls enjoy many different activities in the dorm, whether it be arts & crafts, sports, off-campus activities or just spending leisure time socializing with each other.



## *Little Listeners “Cookies with Santa” Event 2013*

*Submitted by Theresa Matt*



On Dec. 16th, Little Listeners Pre-K, Kindergarten and First grade classes performed for their families their own version of the poem, “’Twas the Night Before Christmas.” After the skit and a quick rendition of Jingle Bells, the real Santa stopped by to sample some of our cookies and to read our wish lists and just sit down and chat. About twenty-five of our students’ family members were able to attend and share in the festivities! But all good things come to an end and at last Santa had to get back to his busy schedule ...but we heard him exclaim as he left out of sight, “Happy Christmas to all and to all a good night!”

## *Elementary Soccer*

*Submitted by Dennis Ryan*

NYSSD has incorporated an elementary skills program for soccer, basketball and baseball. The program focuses on skill acquisition and learning the fundamentals of the sport. The program takes place on a weekly basis as part of the after school program.

The elementary soccer program was a huge success this year. The program was culminated by a real game against a local AYSO team on the NYSSD field. It was a fantastic game with excellent skills and teamwork being demonstrated. After the game there was a time of refreshments and social interaction with both teams participating. The students are already anxiously practicing their basketball skills in anticipation of a game in February.

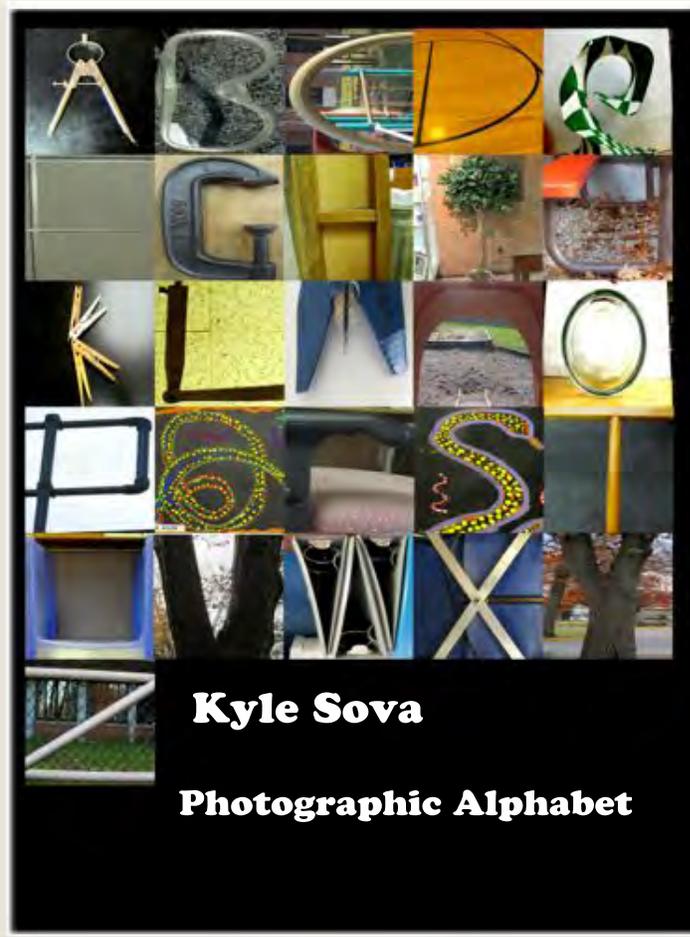
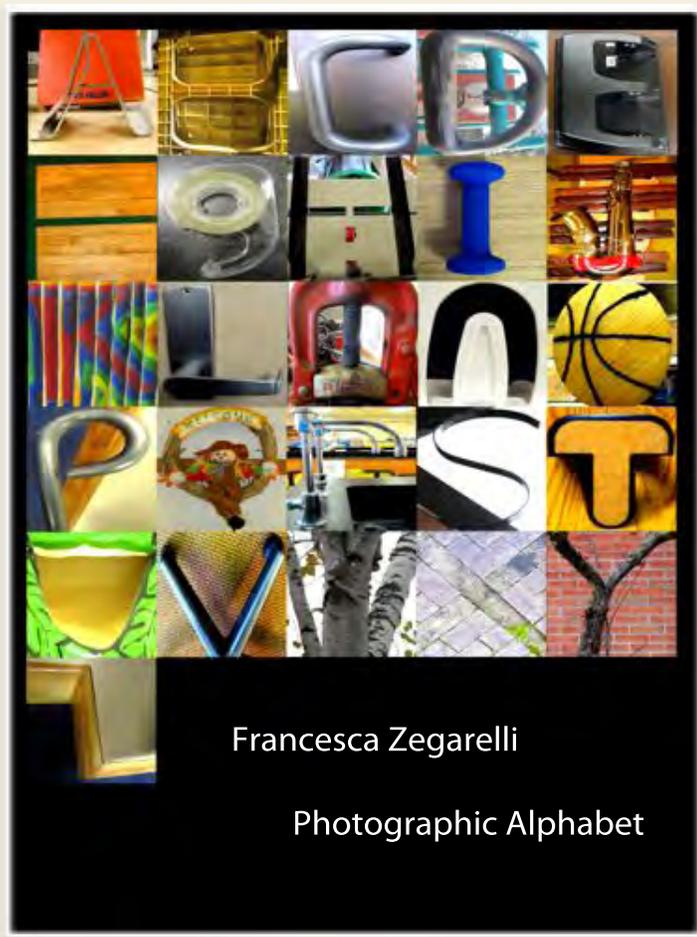
The NYSSD roster included Harland Oldick, Hunter Ocmad, Nathaniel Hoose, Evan Hawkins, Isaiah Corron, Katie Hence, Marquis Reeves, Anvita Corron, Dominick Bristol, Connor Schoener, JonMichael Grimaldi and Jayden Dibble.



## Student Photography

Submitted by Harry Baran

Students in the Digital Photography class have been learning about photography. Students were given a short introduction on the history of photography and how photography has evolved over the years. Today, most photographers shoot digital pictures which is much cheaper than film. Because cameras are less expensive and are now more accessible to people thanks to cellphones; photography has become more popular. It is especially interesting to students in our high school. Kyle Sova and Francesca Zegarelli, students from this class, recently completed a project that involved taking pictures of everyday objects that looked like letters from the alphabet. Students were able to use a camera, identify and use different camera modes on the camera and creatively photograph some interesting imagery. In addition, the students were able to use the program Adobe Photoshop to crop, enhance his/her photos, and create a poster to display their work. Below are their designs and they are very good. Other student photography projects in the works this year will be macro photography, photographing objects that are small and detailed; Stop-motion photography; creating a short film using pictures and photograph restoration and retouching. Check out the next issue of the Circle to see Kyle and Francesca's finished work.



## ***Bike / Kayak Outing***

*Submitted by Dennis Ryan*



September brought another very special event to the NYSSD calendar. It was the annual bike/kayak outing to Boonville. NYSSD had over 25 students on kayaks and 12 students on bicycles for a 2 hour spirited activity on a beautiful Fall morning. The students received training on how to use the bikes and kayaks and then got to experience a lengthy trail bike ride and a gorgeous kayak paddle.

Another plus to the activity is that the NYSSD staff and students get to work together on the activity. Most of the kayaks were tandems with a NYSSD staff person working together with a NYSSD student. It truly is remarkable to watch the cooperation and collective spirit this activity brings.

Among the students enjoying the kayaks were Asia Bohlen, Pee Eh Det, Lucy Hamilton, Robert Foland, Avian Maniccia, Nathaniel Hoose and Shanice White. The student bikers included Evan Hawkins, Darlene Martin, Tommy Cowin, Mathew Heinlein and Harland Oldick. It was truly a memorable and fun experience. Thanks to all the NYSSD staff for their help making this activity possible.



## *New NYSSD Elementary Speech Teacher*

*Submitted by Alexis Beckwith*

In the Fundamentals of a Mac class I am learning to use the program Pages. Pages is used for word processing and page layout. It is also used to make NYSSD's newsletter called the "Circle." In this class, I used Pages to write a story about a staff member at our school. I first interviewed her and then I used Pages to write the story and to create this page for the "Circle." Here is the interview.



**Claudine Holtman**

Q: What is your name?

A: Claudine Holtman.

Q: What is your job here at NYSSD?

A: I am a Speech and Language teacher.

Q: How did you hear about NYSSD?

A: My husband saw the job in the newspaper.

Q: Why do you want to work at NYSSD?

A: I think working with deaf kids is fun and they teach me many different things.

Q: Did you go to college? If so, what did you major in?

A: I went to college for Communication and Speech Language and Reading.

Q: How many years of college did it take for you to earn your degree(s)?

A: I was in college for about 6 years.

Q: Do you know sign language?

A: I know some and am learning more and more everyday. I need to keep improving.

Q: If so, who taught you sign language?

A: NYSSD students, Teachers at NYSSD and Sign language class at OCM BOCES.

Q: Do you like NYSSD?

A: Yes, there are many awesome people here and the students are fun and challenging.

Q: Do you have some family or friends who are deaf?

A: No, not really. A good friend of mine has a deaf sister.

Q: Have you made any friends here at NYSSD?

A: Yes, I have some good friends here.

Q: What advice would you give to the students at NYSSD?

A: Read. work hard, be good to each other, be good to yourself, try hard, set goals and meet them.

## *New NYSSD Special Education Assistant*

*Submitted by Snowy Jenner*

In the Fundamentals of a Mac class I am learning to use the program Pages. Pages is used for word processing and page layout. It is also used to make NYSSD's newsletter called the "Circle." In this class, I used Pages to write a story about a staff member at our school. I first interviewed her and then I used Pages to write the story and to create this page for the "Circle." Here is the interview.

**Q:** What is your name?

**A:** Liz Bertrand.

**Q:** What is your job here at NYSSD?

**A:** Special Education Assistant.

**Q:** How did you hear about NYSSD?

**A:** I grew up across the street from NYSSD.

**Q:** Why do you want to work here?

**A:** I believe education is the foundation to a successful life. I have known how to sign most of my life and thought I could be an asset to assist children with their education.

**Q:** Did you go to college? If so, what did you major in?

**A:** Yes I attended MVCC, USC and Florida Atlantic University. I studied Business and received my certification in Career Development, Interpreting and Teacher Assistant.

**Q:** How many years of college did it take for you to earn your degree(s)?

**A:** Two years and two more years on and off with continuing education and certification testing.

**Q:** Do you know sign language?

**A:** Yes.

**Q:** If so, who taught you sign language?

**A:** I had friends growing up and then as an adult entered an Interpreter Training Program.

**Q:** Do you like NYSSD?

**A:** Yes.

**Q:** Do you have some family or friends who are deaf?

**A:** I have many deaf friends outside of work.

**Q:** Have you made any friends here at NYSSD?

**A:** I hope so!

**Q:** What advice would you give to the students at NYSSD?

**A:** Read, read, read, work hard and use the people around you to learn everything you can.



**Liz Bertand**

## *New NYSSD High School Speech Teacher*

*Submitted by Eh Wah*



**Kasey Baillie**

In the Fundamentals of a Mac class I am learning to use the program Pages. Pages is used for word processing and page layout. It is also used to make NYSSD's newsletter called the "Circle." In this class, I used Pages to write a story about a staff member at our school. I first interviewed her and then I used Pages to write the story and to create this page for the "Circle." Here is the interview.

Q: What is your name?

A: Kasey Baillie

Q: What is your job here at NYSSD?

A: Speech Therapist

Q: How did you hear about NYSSD?

A: I grew up near the school. I grew up in Poland, New York.

Q: Why do you want to work at NYSSD?

A: I enjoy working with students that are deaf. I enjoy working in a small school.

Q: Do you have some family or friends who are deaf?

A: Not family, but I have made some deaf friends since working here.

Q: Have you made any friends here at NYSSD?

A: Yes from here.

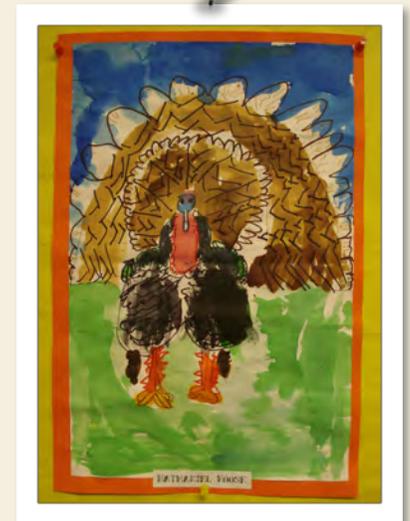
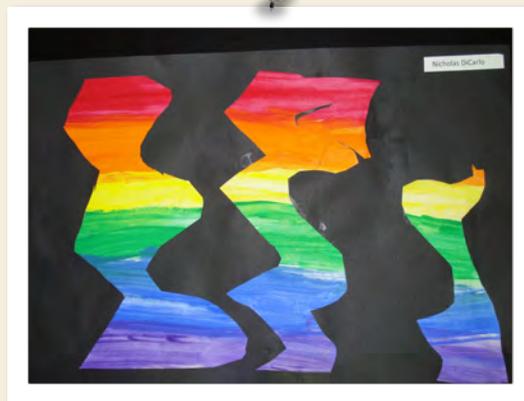
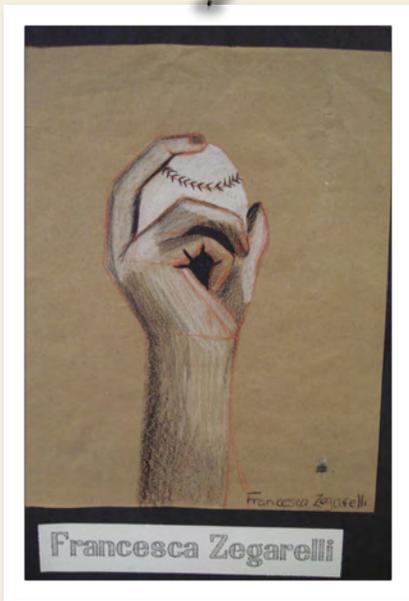
Q: What advice would you give to the students at NYSSD?

A: Always work hard, respect each other and be determined to reach your goals.

# LOOK WHAT'S HAPPENING AT NYSSD

## Student Art Created in Mr. Karpe's Art Classes

Submitted by Mr. Karpe



## *Elementary Girl Scout Troop #139*

*Submitted by Terry LaGasse, Kelly Szyper & Jenny Roberts*



**Katie Beare, Chelsea Best, Abigail Anzalone,  
Darlene Martin, Asia Bohlen & Anvita Corron.**

The Elementary Girl Scout Troop #139 went on a visit to Betsy Ross Nursing Home to help bring some Holiday Cheer. The Girls signed Christmas songs and played Bingo with the residents. Each resident was also given either a Holiday card or a photo from the troop.

The Girl Scouts really enjoyed baking homemade Christmas cookies to share with the residents at the nursing home. It was a festive fun time had by all.

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