



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year



By Stephanie Kohl
Marketing

"Sleigh bells ring, are you listening? In the lane snow is glistening. A beautiful sight,
we're happy tonight. Walkin' in a winter wonderland!"

As the year winds down and we find ourselves wrapped in the Christmas spirit and looking forward to ringing in the new year, it's a race to finish everything on our lists - trim the tree, hang the lights, bake the cookies, wrap the gifts! Regardless of the length of your list though, remember to slow down and enjoy the season.

Although I've been through 30 some-odd Christmases, I've only been through three with my son. At a few months shy of four-years-old, he allows me to re-live the magic of Christmas that can so easily get lost in the endless list of Christmas to-dos. Does my Christmas tree look as perfect as it did pre-kid? No. But it does look like a boy and his mom had an excellent time hanging all of the ornaments, eating candy canes, and willy-nilly throwing tinsel on its branches. Are my Christmas cookies perfectly iced and decorated? No. But they were baked with the memory of my grandma, who passed earlier this year, whispering in my ear and the giggles of my son making a mess of the red and green sugar and licking frosting from his fingers. It's December 14th - are all of my gifts wrapped? Heck no! They aren't even all bought! But, I've spent my evenings watching Christmas movies with my son, drinking hot cocoa from our Christmas mugs and talking about Santa Claus, and we've spent our weekends at a Winter Wonderland, checking out a Reindeer Flight School, and enjoying all the light shows area businesses and communities have put so much effort in to.

We only have so many years to enjoy the magic of Christmas. So, me? I'm going to soak it all in. What memories have you made this season? What is your favorite holiday tradition? What have you taken time to enjoy?

Before the start of the new year, I encourage you to do something magical. Take a look at your bucket list and cross something off. And think about all the things you have done in the past year and enjoy a sense of accomplishment. Most importantly, know that every year is a gift, and make 2022 your best year yet.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Precast Chalk Talk: Episode 28-1



In this episode of **Precast Chalk Talk**, learn more about the importance of insulation and the different types of insulation.

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Building Music and Performance Friendly Facilities for Students: Armerding Center for Music and the Arts



(Photo courtesy of FGM Architects and ©2020 Darris Lee Harris Photography.)

The [Armerding Center for Music and the Arts](#) was a two phase renovation project. While the first phase included the development of a state-of-the-art recital hall, sound-cancelling practice rooms and classrooms, two recording studios, and faculty studios, Mid-States was a proud project partner on the second phase. The second phase, completed in September 2020, included a 650-seat acoustically-engineering concert hall, a choral rehearsal room, and grand lobby.

"The product and the project was amazing," said Dean Michael Wilder. "I was really, really grateful for this approach and for the ways this made an amazingly efficient and well-constructed approach. It's really amazing."

Wilder said because the facility serves so many important purposes on campus, they focused on three main things: acoustics, function, and aesthetics - in that order.

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Test Your Christmas Knowledge: Christmas Trivia



With the Christmas season upon us, find out how much you really know about the holiday while testing your trivia skills.

1. True or false: Christmas trees cost more this year than they have in the past.
2. True or false: There will be more Christmas tree availability this year than last year.
3. How did red and green become Christmas colors?
4. What is the most successful Christmas movie ever?
5. How many packages does the USPS deliver during the holidays?
6. True or false: "Jingle Bells" was written to be a Christmas song.
7. When was the first tree put up at the Rockefeller Center?

8. Has Christmas ever been illegal to celebrate?
9. When was the term "Xmas" first used?
10. What are two other names for Santa Claus?
11. How many Americans use artificial Christmas trees?
12. What department store sold \$50,000 chocolate advent calendars in 2007?
13. Name the eight original reindeer.
14. How much do Americans spend on holiday shopping?
15. True or false: People no longer send out Christmas cards.
16. Why is kissing under the mistletoe a tradition?
17. Why are stockings hung?
18. How many ghosts show up in *A Christmas Carol*?
19. Which Hollywood actor played six different roles in *The Polar Express*?
20. How many gifts in total were given in "The Twelve Days of Christmas" song?

Find all the answers [here](#).



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