

Labor Gakuen Newsletter

December 2023



IN THIS EDITION:

What's coming up at Labor? - 1

Santa Paws is comin' to town - 2

Christmas Wordsearch - 3

Swedish Christmas Eve in England - 4

Mark's Christmas movies to watch this year - 4

What's coming up at Labor?

Here's a peek at some special events coming soon!

December 22nd 15:30 - 17:00 - the Labor Christmas Party - have fun and meet some new people at the party.

February 14th 18:30 - 20:30 - a special lesson with Kris to practice the present perfect.

February 15th 18:30 - 20:30 - a special lesson with Mark for talking about movies.

February 21st 18:30 - 20:30 - a special lesson with Justin to practice using conditionals.



Did you know? In Denmark people throw dishes at the front door of family and friends' homes to bring good luck for the New Year!

Did you know? The word 'Xmas' has been used for hundreds of years! Christ is written Χριστός (Christos) in Greek, and X is commonly used to mean Christ. Mass is a church service, so 'Xmas' is 'Christ's mass'.

Santa Paws is comin' to town!

Yappy Holidays! Last year in Bristol, England, a family decided that their dogs should also enjoy Christmas. On Christmas day, Roger the Dodger, Timmy, Maisy, and Misty May all sat down to enjoy a traditional Christmas dinner. On the menu was turkey, roast potatoes, green vegetables, and a few **doggie** treats mixed in with some delicious gravy. The four dogs waited patiently for their special dinner. And it was worth it. According to their owners, Bob and Marge, the dogs were so happy! Usually at Christmas the dogs would sit around the table staring longingly at the wonderful food, wishing they could have some. But that wasn't all! The lucky **pooches** also got to open Christmas presents and go to the park to **run off** all those Christmas dinner calories! This year, Bob said, they **are going one better**. Some of the dogs' **canine** friends will also be invited and there will be a barbeque in the back garden. And for the **felines**? The cats will have snacks by the fire and Santa will be bringing lots of cardboard boxes for them to climb into! It sounds **purr-fect!** (Justin)



Labradorable! Roger the Dodger, Timmy, Maisy, and Misty May ready to **tuck in**. **Bone appétit!**

Santa Paws - Santa Claus - 'paws' are the feet of dogs, cats, bears and so on.

Yappy Holidays! - Happy Holidays! - 'Yappy' is the adjective for 'yap' - the verb for the bark small dogs make.

doggie - 'Doggie' is a noun meaning 'dog.'

pooches - 'Pooch' is also a noun meaning 'dog.'

run off all those Christmas dinner calories! - 'Run off' means to do exercise to use the calories.

are going one better - means 'improving on.'

canine - 'canine' is the group word for dogs, jackals, wolves and similar animals.

felines - 'feline' is the word for animals in the cat family - cats, tigers, lions and so on.

purr-fect! - perfect. 'Purr' is the sound cats make when they are happy.

Labradorable - Labrador + Adorable (cute)

Tuck in - To begin eating (informal English)

Bone appétit - bon appétit - From the French 'good appetite', or 'Enjoy your meal'.

Did you know? Brussels sprouts (like mini cabbages) are traditional in some houses at Christmas in England, but many people never eat them the rest of the year.



Christmas Wordsearch

This is a nice wordsearch for you to try, from crayonsandcravings.com! Can you find all the words?



CANDY CANE

HOLLY

SANTA

CAROLS

LIGHTS

CHRISTMAS

SLEIGH

MERRY

DECEMBER

STOCKING

NORTH POLE

ELVES

TREE

ORNAMENTS

WINTER

GINGERBREAD

PRESENTS

WREATH

JINGLE (bell sound)

REINDEER



Christmas desserts in Justin's house in England - all homemade



Lemon Curd Tartlets



Mince Pies



Christmas Pudding



Christmas Cake

When I was a child, my mum was always busy cooking for Christmas. The Christmas pudding and Christmas Cake were usually made in November, and the mince pies and lemon curd tartlets in December. They are all very fattening!! The Christmas Cake was always large and very heavy and we usually finished eating it in late January! You can find recipes on the internet if you want to make them, but it's hard to find some ingredients in Japan.



Did you know? The popular Christmas song 'Jingle Bells' was the first song played in space! Also It was not originally a Christmas song. It was written for Thanksgiving, in November!

Swedish Christmas Eve in England - Kris



When I was a boy in Birmingham, England we used to celebrate Christmas on 25th December like most British people do. However, I was lucky because my family also celebrated Christmas Eve (24th December) like most Swedes do.

Why did we do this? Well, my grandmother, who lived near us, was Swedish so my mother, being half Swedish, wanted to celebrate Christmas Eve in the traditional manner.

The meal

We had a buffet type dinner called Julbord, which consisted of 3 courses, unlike traditional meals in Sweden which can have up to 7 courses. Probably the most well-known dish was Kottbullar or Swedish meat balls. Every year I would try to eat more than the previous; I think I often ate 20 or so Kottbullar.

A dish which I definitely didn't eat was called rollmops. It's a dish consisting of pickled herring. I can remember it smelling very fishy and tasting sour!

There were many more dishes, but a couple I really liked were Prinskorv, which are small Swedish sausages. I was also quite fond of a dish called bruncol, which is red cabbage that has been braised for 2 or 3 hours. It is remarkably sweet.

And perhaps the most controversial dish (for Japanese people anyway) was risalamande. Risalamande is a Danish rice-pudding made with Arborio rice and thick cream served cold! I used to love it and would eat as much as humanly possible. Hopefully this Christmas I can make Kottbullar for my sons!

Mark's Christmas movies to watch this year



As readers know, Christmas (along with Thanksgiving) is the biggest family time of the year. Families get together, unwrap presents and have a big Christmas meal. And when they are full (and often a little drunk) parents sit down with their kids and watch Christmas TV. Many TV programs have a Christmas special and nearly everything on TV has a Christmas theme, and that includes movies. So here is a short list of Christmas films that you can guarantee people will be watching this year.

It's a Wonderful Life (1948)

This timeless, heartwarming classic is one of the most watched films over Christmas and is an absolute joy. Just try not to cry if you are watching it for the first time.

Home Alone (1990)

Written by the legendary John Hughes and directed by Chris Columbus (Harry Potter), this comedy film is both fun and funny. (And yes, these two words have completely different meanings.)

Die Hard (1988)

One of the greatest action films ever made is also a Christmas movie. Relive the film that made Bruce Willis a household name.

Gremlins (1984)

A dark comedy that has some great heart and special effects. Fun for all the family. Just remember: don't feed them after midnight!

Love Actually (2003)

For those that love Romcoms (romantic comedies), this is one of the best Christmas romantic comedies there is.

If there is nothing here that interests you, try searching online for Christmas movies. There are over 100 to choose from! Merry Christmas!!