

World Language Curriculum Corner December

In class, your 6th or 7th grader is learning to differentiate between what defines a legend versus a fable, and he/she will read and discuss several stories throughout the marking period that are culturally connected to Spanish-speaking countries. Believe it or not, your child will be able to identify character traits and put the details of a story in order with their own ending...all in Spanish! In the context of the story, students will learn vocabulary and expressions having to do with houses and habitats, animal names and actions, and physical characteristics.

Eighth grade students are learning about expressions and vocabulary to describe family members, including physical traits, ages, likes/dislikes, and relationships. The eighth grade curriculum emphasizes the importance of having students communicate with one another in the target language as much as possible. To continue this practice at home, try looking at a family photograph together and ask about the relationships and physical descriptions of the people you see. You'll be amazed at how well your child can describe the photograph with only a few weeks of language instruction! At the end of the quarter, they will have a project to prepare about their own family connecting the language they are learning to their own lives in a meaningful way.

Since we are now in the holiday season, your family may have had a big dinner of *pavo* (turkey) with *salsa de arandano* (cranberry sauce), *papas* (potatoes), and *relleno* (stuffing). Soon we will hear *musica de Navidad* (Christmas music) and you will probably hear the song, "Feliz Navidad," by Jose Feliciano on the radio quite a bit. It is very easy to sing along to together, and the translation for the words is embedded in the song! You may even have an *arbol navideno* (Christmas tree) or celebrate a seasonal holiday such as *Jánuca* (Hanukkah) or *Kwanza* (Kwanzaa), with *lucis* (lights). At the end of the month, we all celebrate *año nuevo* (New Year's). In Spain, people celebrate in town square, and as the clock strikes 12, for each sound, everyone eats a grape (sweet to have a sweet new year)! By the end, you have 12 grapes, *uvas*, to eat at once! What types of traditions do you have in your family?

¡Feliz Navidad y próspero Año Nuevo!