

WCU French Newsletter

Bulletin Français

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Joyeux Noël!

Joyeux Noël, les Francophiles!



Not taking French? We'd love to have you! The number of French students at WCU is growing fast, so if you think French would be something that you would be interested in this coming spring, email Professor Malissen at fjmalissen@email.wcu.edu.

WCU French Announcements:

- **French language courses available!**

If you are interested in the French language, culture, or food & wine, join us for this 5-week conversational French language course! Contact Dr. Malissen at fjmalissen@wcu.edu for the details.

- **New French tutors!**

- Catherine Walker- French 101-102 | Contact: Cjwalker5@catamount.wcu.edu
- Mackenzie Lewis- French 101-102 | Contact: Mslewis6@catamount.wcu.edu
- Anna Page- French 231-232 | Contact: Acpage1@catamount.wcu.edu

French Christmas Carol

Petit Papa Noël

C'est la belle nuit de Noël,
La neige étend son manteau blanc
Et les yeux levés vers le ciel,
À genoux, les petits enfants,
Avant de fermer les paupières,
Font une dernière prière.

Petit papa Noël,
Quand tu descendras du ciel
Avec des jouets par milliers,
N'oublie pas mon petit soulier.
Mais avant de partir
Il faudra bien te couvrir,
Dehors tu vas avoir si froid,
C'est un peu à cause de moi.

Il me tarde que le jour se lève
Pour voir si tu m'as apporté
Tous les beaux joujoux que je vois en
rêve
Et que je t'ai commandés.

Petit papa Noël,
Quand tu descendras du ciel
Avec des jouets par milliers
N'oublie pas mon petit soulier.

Small Santa

It's a beautiful Christmas night,
The snow is spreading its white coat
And eyes raised to the sky,
On your knees, little children,
Before closing the eyelids,
Make one last prayer.

Small Santa,
When you come down from the sky
With thousands of toys,
Do not forget my little shoe.
But before leaving
It will be necessary to cover you well,
Outside you're going to be so cold,
It's a bit because of me.

I can not wait for the day to come
To see if you brought me
All the beautiful toys I see in my
dreams
And that I ordered you.

Small Santa,
When you come down from the sky
With toys by the thousands
Do not forget my little shoe.

Et quand tu seras sur ton beau nuage,
Viens d'abord sur notre maison,
Je n'ai pas été tous les jours très sage,
Mais j'en demande pardon.

Petit papa Noël,
Quand tu descendras du ciel
Avec des jouets par milliers,
N'oublie pas mon petit soulier.

Petit Papa Noël

And when you are on your beautiful
cloud, Come first on our house,
I have not been very wise every day,
But I beg your pardon.

Small Santa,
When you come down from the sky
With thousands of toys,
Do not forget my little shoe.

Small Santa

Did you know?

- *Le Reveillon* is a post midnight mass supper feast
- Children put their shoes out for Pere Noel to fill
- 13 desserts (for Christ and 12 apostles) are put out
- Christmas celebrations start on December 6th, which is Saint Nicholas Day

Vocab Lesson

- Joyeux Noël: Merry Christmas
- Le Pere Noël: Father Christmas (Santa)
- Une étoile: Star
- Un cadeau: Gift
- Le Réveillon de Noël: Christmas meal
- S'embrasser sous le gui: To kiss under the mistletoe

Christmas in France

Interview of Professor Axelle Faughn

By Catherine Walker

What are some differences and similarities between American Christmas, and French? What are some French traditions?

France's main religion is Catholic, so there is a big emphasis on the role of Mary in the birth of Christ. The nativity scene is definitely a big tradition in most households, either by the fireplace or under the tree. So is the advent calendar, candles, and the subsequent epiphany. We celebrate Kings day on January 6th by eating marzipan-filled puff pastries. Christmas Carols are very similar, but on Christmas eve the French tend to have a huge family dinner (kind of like Thanksgiving here) with turkey, and what we call a Christmas log for a traditional dessert, which is a rolled cake with frosting on it making it look like a log. Christmas morning is usually spent opening presents similar to here.

Is the story about Santa the same in both countries?

Yes, I am pretty convinced I saw Santa flying across the sky with his reindeers when I was about 3 yo and looked out at the window of my elementary school.

Do all of the stores close in France on Christmas?

Yes, Christmas is a day spent with family. Most people might go for a leisure hike in the afternoon.

Neige En France

By Foster Dalmas



The French Alps, photo taken from the official tourism website of France.

France is not an overall snowy region, but does get its fair amount of snowfall. However there is a lot of snow in the mountainous regions of France, with over thirty mountains in the country. The two main mountain ranges in France are the French Alps and the Pyrenees mountains.

Throughout the mountains there are lot of popular ski resorts open all year round. France has a history of success in skiing at the Olympics and World Cup championships. Mostly recently, Alexis Pinturault set a world record for wins in the World Cup for a French skier with his nineteenth victory in giant slalom alpine skiing. Besides skiing, many snow parks and resorts offer ice-skating rinks. Husky treks and dog sledding lessons are a popular activity that's becoming more common in many ski resorts.

While you might not find a lot of snow in Paris this winter, France's mountains provide plenty of snowy slopes and activities all year round.

Traditions de Noël

By Bonnie Mac



In France, a Nativity crib is often used to help decorate the house. French cribs have clay figures in them. During December some towns and cities, such as Marseilles, have fairs that sell Nativity figures. As well as having the normal Nativity figures in them, French scenes also have figures such as a Butcher, a Baker, a Policeman and a Priest.

In French Happy/Merry Christmas is 'Joyeux Noël'. In Breton (spoken by some people in Brittany, Northern France) it's 'Nedeleg Laouen' and in Corsican it's 'Bon Natale'.

Yule Logs made out of Cherry Wood are often burned in French homes. The log is carried into the home on Christmas Eve and is sprinkled with red wine to make the log smell nice when it is burning. There is a custom that the log and candles are left burning all night with some food and drinks left out in case Mary and the baby Jesus come past during the night.

In France, Father Christmas / Santa Claus / St. Nicholas is called Père Noël (Father Christmas). In eastern France he is accompanied by Le Pere Fouettard, a man dressed in black. He might be the same person as Zwarte Piet in The Netherlands.

Dîner de Noël

By Brie Reidel



Most families have traditional holiday meals. Mom fills the house with Coconut Balls, spritz cookies, and peanut butter drops, Grandma has a special recipe for apple pie, and dad somehow always knows how to cook the ham or turkey just right to not dry it out. Well, America is not alone! France has many traditional holiday meals as well. Appetizers, main meals, and desserts; France has an abundance of unique holiday treats. For a short snack, amuse bouche – a small puff pastry filled with food such as ham, cheese, or snails – is a famous and easy dish.

The main meal commonly consists of a turkey or pheasant stuffed with ginger and surrounded by mushrooms. And, possibly the most festive portion of the whole ensemble, dessert is usually a Bûche de Noël. Known also as a Yule Log, the Bûche de Noël is a large swiss roll covered in frosting and decorated to look like a festive log. Traditions are comforting and encompass the holiday spirit, but, with all the possibilities, will you try something new?

Contacts

Professor Malissen

Department of World Languages

Instructor of French

Phone: 828-227-3873

Email: fjmalissen@wcu.edu

Office Address: McKee 131A

Catherine Walker- Head of Newsletter

Email: cjwalker5@catamount.wcu.edu

Brie Reidel- Co-Editor

Email: bmreidel1@catamount.wcu.edu

Foster Dalmas- Co-Editor

Email: fpdalmas1@catamount.wcu.edu

Mackenzie Lewis- Writer

Email: mslewis6@catamount.wcu.edu

Rosalie Alff- Writer

Email: rsalff1@catamount.wcu.edu

Bonnie MacAlister- Design

Email: brmacalister1@catamount.wcu.edu