

The HOLIDAY season around the

WORLD

This time of year people of faith all over the world have something to celebrate. Here's a list of some you probably know and others you might never have heard about.



Mawlid
Religion: Islam
Dates: Nov. 20 (Sunni) or Nov. 25 (Shia). Dates may vary.
What it is: A celebration of the birth of the Islamic Prophet Muhammad. Mawlid is celebrated in a carnival-type manner with large street processions. People will decorate homes and mosques. Charity and food are distributed, and stories about the life of Muhammad are shared.

Hanukkah
Religion: Judaism
Dates: Dec. 2 - Dec. 10. Dates may vary.
What it is: Hanukkah is an eight day celebration of the Menorah that lasted eight days on one day's worth of oil. The celebration includes gifts, oil fried foods such as the latke, and playing with a dreidel. The heart of the celebration happens every night with the lighting of the Menorah.



St. Nick's Day
Religion: Catholicism
Date: Dec. 6
What it is: St. Nick's Day is celebrated in different fashions all around the earth. The night of the 5 is when children leave their stockings out and St. Nick comes and fills them with gifts and candy. This is a different day than Christmas where Santa puts presents under the trees.



Yule
Religion: Pagan
Date: Dec. 21
What it is: A celebration of the return of the sun and longer days. Although there isn't a specific way to celebrate, setting up alters and offering up prayers are traditional Pagan rituals.

Christmas
Religion: Christian
Date: Dec. 25
What it is: A celebration of birth of Jesus Christ. It is typical for people to decorate their homes, spend time with family, and exchange gifts. Christmas is also celebrated as a time to come together as family and friends and exchange gifts for non-Christians.

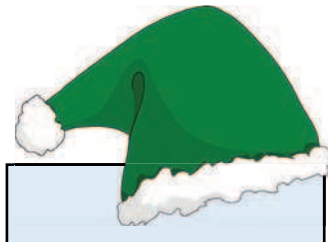


Kwanzaa
Culture: African American
Date: Dec. 26 - Jan. 1
What it is: A secular festival observed by many African Americans as a celebration of their cultural heritage and traditional values. Each of the seven days of Kwanzaa are dedicated to a core value: unity, self-determination, collective work and responsibility, cooperative economics, purpose, creativity, and faith.



Bodhi Day
Religion: Buddhism
Date: Dec 8 or Jan 13 Dates may vary
What it is: Services and traditions vary amongst Buddhist, but all services commemorate the Buddha's achievement of Nirvana. Individuals may choose to commemorate the event through additional meditation, study of the Dharma, chanting of Buddhist texts, or performing kind acts toward other beings. Some celebrate with a traditional meal of tea, cake, and readings.

By LAUREN MURPHY
 Keizertimes intern



What is an elf's favorite subject in school?

Elf-abet
 A: The

Snowman's Dance is Dec. 1

By DEREK WILEY
 Of the Keizertimes

McNary senior Jessica Wenning has played an elf, ballerina, cat, gingerbread, ice princess, north star and queen bat over the past 12 years.

This December, in her final performance of *The Snowman's Dance*, Wenning is playing the lead—Snowman.

"It's a tradition," Wenning said. "My winter, holidays, wouldn't feel the same."

City Dance Theatre's annual performances of *The Snowman's Dance* are scheduled for Saturday, Dec. 1 at noon and 3 p.m. in the Ken Collins Theater at McNary High School.

The show, which lasts about an hour and 15 minutes, is loosely based on the children's picture book by Raymond Briggs, turned animated television special—*The Snowman*.

While the main story of a

friendship between the Snowman and a little girl is the same each year, the journey the two characters go on changes.

Director Zoë-Lisa Banton has added an ocean scene this year.

"We change it up every year," Banton said. "We talk about all sorts during the summer."

City Dance Theatre begins working on *The Snowman's*

Dance in June.

The show features more than 175 girls and boys, ages 2-18, from all over Salem-Keizer.

Tickets are available for \$10 in advance at the studio, 3540 Brooks Avenue in Salem.

The 3 p.m. show typically sells out.

"We always recommend calling ahead or shooting us an email (cdtfaculty@comcast.net)," Banton said.

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