

Black Education Center

Kwanza is the celebration of the seven principles of the Nguza Saba. These are the seven principles: (1) Umoja - Unity; (2) Kujichagulia - Self-determination; (3) Ujima - Collective work and responsibility; (4) Ujamaa - Cooperative economics; (5) Nia - Purpose; (6) Kuumba - Creativity (7) Imani - Faith.

Robert R. Parker III
Age 9

Kwanza means the first fruits. There are seven days of Kwanza. The first night of Decemer and it ends on January 1st. Each night somebody lights a candle that stands for one of the seven principles of blackness.

Kwanza is a little word but it means a lot to me. . . . It's seven days I celebrate with my whole family. Red is for our blood. Black is for our people. Green is for our land. Each day and night of Kwanza one principle is explained. The way we demonstrate them shows the knowledge we have gained.

I love Kwanza!

Lasondra Joy Myrick
Age 9

Kwanza is for black people. Kwanza means "first fruits." We celebrate Kwanza. We love Kwanza. We make ankhs and we do dances. After Kwanza we open up our gifts.

Tendi
Age 8

Kwanza is a Black Celebration. You can celebrate it for seven days of fun and joy. December 26 is the 1st day of Kwanza. We drink, eat, dance, talk to other black people. Other black people cook the food like red beans and rice. Little kids do dances for the parents, and the parents see what the children have been doing in school lately. They like the dances. The kids like to do the dances very well. They like to sing the songs. They are black songs. The kids are out of school and come back to school and do their work neatly. The teachers like the way they work. Black people love Kwanza.

Hakeem,
Age 7

For Kwanza we have a Kikombe, which is a unity cup. During our celebration all Afrikan people drink from the Kikombe. Kwanza lasts for seven days. It is a happy time. Kwanza is for Black Afrikan people.

Lateef
Age 6

Kwanza is a Holiday for African people. The first night you are to light a candle. It means one principle. Kwanza starts December 26. It ends on January 1st. Kwanza is not Christmas. The Nguza Saba is a song we sing on Kwanza. We celebrate Kwanza for seven days. On the last day we have a feast and we be grubbin'.

Tana W. Herndon
Age 8

Kwanza is fun. I like to sing and do other things. Kwanza is a Black celebration. We eat and drink and dance, and we do lots of things. Kwanza is for Black people. Kwanza's for sisters, Kwanza's for brothers, la la la la la celebrating Kwanza la la la la la. Kwanza is for Black people. It's a Black holiday.

Alitash
Age 7

Kwanza is a Black celebration. It is an Afrikan holiday and means First Fruits. Black people celebrate by making Afrikan symbols, like Afrikas and ankhs and decorating their houses. It lasts seven days. Kwanza starts on Dec. 26 and ends on Jan. 1. Each night we sing and dance and have fun. On the last night we have a big feast.

Thembik Reeves
Age 9

For Kwanza we make fruits. We cut out ankhs and Kikombe. We make a straw mat. We color a basket of fruit. We have ears of corn to put on the Kwanza table. We put up seven candles. The candles are for the seven principles. We cut out Afrikas and make red, black and green decorations.

Ayesha
Age 7

Kwanza is for Black people. We make Afrikan symbols like Afrikas and ankhs. We celebrate Kwanza for seven days. It's a holiday for Black people.

Kifah
Age 5

I learned some Kwanza songs. Kwanza is not Christmas. Kwanza is fun. I like Kwanza. Kwanza songs are fun. My mom likes Kwanza. When Kwanza comes I'm going to get my pictures done.

Tyler
Age 5

Kwanza is coming. It lasts for seven days. We make chains for Kwanza. We fix up our house. Everything is Red, Black and Green. We celebrate Kwanza because it is a Black holiday. I like Kwanza because it is for Black people.

Phillip Thomas
Age 6

We celebrate Kwanza and Nguza Saba which is the seven principals of Blackness. Kwanza is seven days of fun where Black Afrikan people gather together to sing, dance, eat, and to give reverence to our great ancestors.

Arietto
Age 5

Will you come when Kwanza is here? You can see the sisters dance. You can see the brothers dance and play the drums. You can see us sing Kwanza songs. We sing the Nguzo Saba.

Malik
Age 5

Applegate

Christmas is . . .

A time for giving,
A time for sharing,
Christmas is a time for loving,
and a time for caring.
Christmas is a time for expressing
Your feelings.
Christmas is a time for doing
everything good!

Cristy Holcomb
Grade 5

Christmas is . . .

Joy and good feelings to everyone. Christmas is giving and returning presents and decorating a tree. Christmas is a stuffed stocking, skiing, sledding, and ice skating.

Alicia Johnson
Grade 4

Christmas is a time for giving presents and Joy and Love and getting a Christmas tree and decorating it.

Tany Young
Grade 3

Christmas is . . .

The meaning of Christmas is to share and the thought of Christmas is to love. Most people think Christmas is just for presents, but it's not. I wish everyone understood.

Chrisetta Mosley
Grade 5

Christmas is . . .

great, because you get presents and get to go places. You get to see people, too. My favorite place to be on Christmas is home. First thing in the morning I wake up my mom and run into the living room to see which presents are mine. Then I tear off the wrapping paper.

Sarah Gourde
Grade 4

Christmas is a time for sharing. Gifts and love for all people. It's a time to give and receive.

Kory Murphy
Grade 4

Christmas is . . .

December
Just before the new year comes
Sometimes there is snow
Sometimes it's sunny or rainy
I like Christmas it's fun
I like to find the presents under the tree.

Jackie Williams
Grade 4

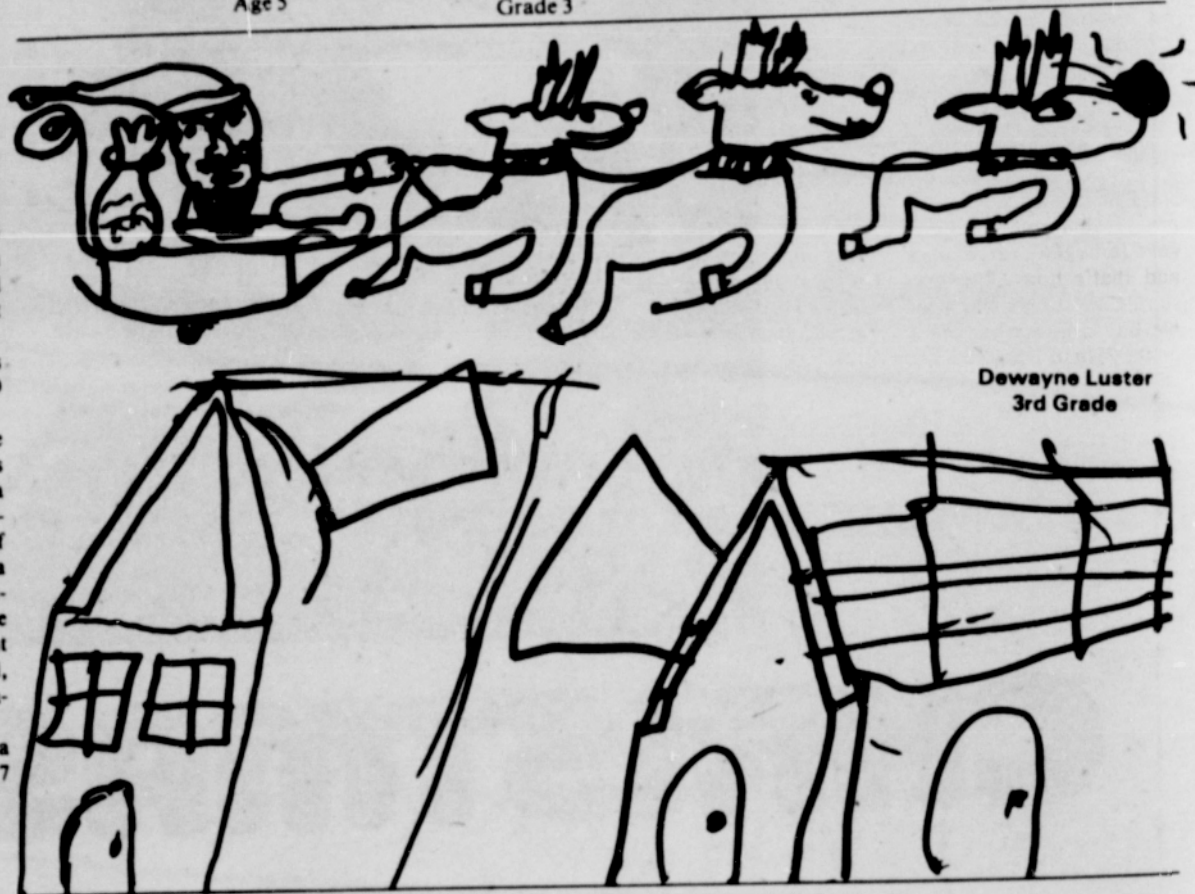
Christmas is . . .

Sharing and caring. Some people think Christmas is no fun. Some people think it's lots of fun. I like it a lot; it's really fun. I like all the light and decorations. Fun in the snow with your friends and family. Surprises in packages. It's lots of Fun, Fun, Fun.

Hannah Peterson
Grade 5

Christmas is all the comb and cookies you can make for the men-women.

Sharveil Willis
Grade 2



Dewayne Luster
3rd Grade

Applegate School

Christmas is . . .

A time for giving and receiving, loving and caring. Christmas is also a time for CHEER.

The decorations glistening in the dark, colored lights and decorations making the tree a beautiful, beautiful sight to see!

Christmas also brings the family together making me feel loving.

When it's over don't feel bad, think of the good time you had!

Shannon Ball
Grade 5

Christmas is . . . when Jesus was born, and it is when you celebrate the day he died for us and Christmas is happiness and joyfulness, and you open Christmas presents. And you are with your family.

Cory West
Grade 4

Christmas is a month of the year and brings joy. And you have to be good to give presents.

Ezekiel Gray
Grade 3

Christmas is . . .

Christmas is a time for love and sharing. A time where you give and you shall receive. A time where you think of needy people and not just yourself. People think of Christmas as a time when they get presents. They don't hardly think of it as Jesus' birthday. Christmas is a time for love, caring and sharing. Christmas is a time for love.

Carmen Anderson
Grade 5

Christmas is a time for giving and love and joy.

Laura Williamson
Grade 3

Christmas is . . . a time for giving. And time for sharing and living. And it snows. Because it's winter time. And you put Christmas trees up in our home. If you are good Santa Claus will come and give you presents. Like some of these toys: dolls, bikes, and coloring books.

Brandie Roley
Grade 3