

Christmas Story winner

Family, timely snowfall made this Christmas memorable

Christmas is a wonderful time of the year, full of joy and happiness and giving.

My favourite part of Christmas is the first snow fall. Sometimes it snows in September, sometimes in October and rarely on Christmas Day — but that has happened. Miracles happen at Christmas. Christmas is such an awesome holiday.

One year, I was awakened by an excited eight-year-old. As I tried to wipe away the sleep in my eyes, my sister frantically danced around. I stumbled my way to my brothers' room to wake them. My sister was more than happy to jump up and down on my mom's bouncy, comfy double sized bed.

After I saw that my brothers were up I checked to see if Santa really did come. I rushed to the kitchen and on our counter was an empty glass of milk and some cookie crumbs and a half eaten cookie. I quickly looked under our lighted, beautiful

Christmas tree and what I saw was four nicely placed stockings and four wrapped presents from Santa. Next to four presents was a single movie with my mom's name on it. The tag read to: Mary, Love: Santa!

Ever since my mom had seen an old preview for 'Monsters Inc.', she had been determined to find it in one of the stores, but she just couldn't. My mother had decided to ask Santa Clause for it, and on Christmas Day, next to our four gleaming presents, was my mother's nicely placed movie, 'Monsters Inc.'

Mom gave us our stockings and we all pulled something out one by one. I grabbed our video recorder and gently handed it to my loving and caring mother. As she taped and watched us smile with happiness and glee she looked happy and grateful.

Mom tries every year to put lots of presents under our tree and she succeeds. But what she doesn't know is that we

are just happy to be able to be together on Christmas Day each and every year.

My dad used to always say "It's a piano," when he handed us our presents. But since he left when I was 10, my older brother now says "It's a piano" and hands us our presents. Now, no matter what the size of the present, my brother always says it with happiness in his voice and a smile on his face.

After we were all done opening our presents, we all opened and played with our toys and games. My little brother was busy playing a video game. My little sister was eating the chocolate she got in her stocking, and my big brother was already testing his PsP games. So I was stuck helping my mom pick up all the wrapping paper off our smooth and soft carpet. When I was picking up all the wrapping I found my self peeling off the tape on the carpet as well.

When everyone was cleaned up and ready

to eat we all sat down to our juicy turkey and melt-in-your-mouth potatoes. We had gravy, cranberry sauce and vegetables — all that Christmas dinner needs.

After we all finished eating our delicious supper we all gathered into the living room and covered up with 'blankets'. Mom put on 'The Elf' and we all watched and laughed together

as a big happy holiday family. My sister fell asleep half-way through and my little brother fell asleep towards the end. My older brother left to go to his room to play his games and mom fell asleep on the couch.

As for me, I watched the movie again and then decided to go to bed. But before I did I looked at my little sister and smiled. My brother

and mom looked happy too.

As I laid my head down to sleep I thought about all the great things that happened that day: food, gifts, family, happiness, trees ... And then I look out the window and see a light snow fall.

Merry Christmas! :)

Savanah Lepine
Sprucewoods

Christmas Recipe winner

Pecan Pie Ginger Cheesecake

Here is an easy, yet yummy recipe:

Pecan Pie Ginger Cheesecake

- 1 refrigerated pie crust, softened
- 8 ounces cream cheese, softened
- 6 tablespoons sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla
- 1 egg
- 1/4 cup finely chopped crystallized ginger

Topping

- 2 tablespoons flour
- 1/4 cup butter, melted
- 3/4 cup firmly packed

- brown sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 2 eggs
- 2 cups pecan pieces

Heat oven to 350°F. Prepare pie crust as directed on package for one crust filled pie, using a nine inch glass pie pan or deep dish pie pan. In a medium bowl, combine cream cheese, sugar, 1/2 tsp vanilla and one egg; beat at medium speed until smooth. Stir in ginger. Spoon and spread filling in crust-lined pan.

In large bowl, combine flour and butter; mix well. Add brown sugar, 1 tsp. vanilla and two eggs; mix well. Stir in pecans. Carefully spoon mixture evenly over filling.

Bake at 350°F for 40-50 minutes or until centre is set and crust is golden brown.

Cool one hour. Refrigerate two hours or until thoroughly chilled. Store in fridge.

Silvia M. Ukleja
CFB Shilo

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