

**Lyceum 124, December 25, 2025** – a forum to Think, Discuss, Share, and Learn from one another. Your input is welcomed - Iron sharpens iron.

Neighborhood “The 1826, in Connecticut, a farmer named Josiah Holbrook started a school for ‘the general diffusion of knowledge and raising the moral and intellectual taste’ of Americans. In those days, the opportunities for higher education were limited to those venerable old universities that had long served the upper crust. Holbrook’s vision was to make learning – practical, liberal, and humane – available to working people of all kinds. He named his school the Lyceum, after the garden where Aristotle once taught his students philosophy.... We need to go deeper than the superficial fights that characterize public life. We need to return to the first principles and meet each other there as human beings.”– Nathan Beacom, Plough Magazine, Autumn 2023, p. 9.

**We continue and finish** with Advent Potpourri of Ethics guidelines, principles, and applications garnished with quotations, and tickled with humorous riddles. If there is no laughter in heaven,” says Martin Luther, the reformer, “I do not want to go there.”

During this Advent, Christmas, and Christmastide as Jesus fills us with his Spirit, blessings, and love, be present by thought, word, and deed to the moment; increase your ethics vocabulary, immerse yourself in quotations of a moral caliber, enhance your pursuit of living the virtuous life, and become acquainted with some shakers and movers of ethics. In addition, be tickled by seasonal riddles along the way.

**Roger J. Vanden Busch, a blessed Christmas and a healthy New Year. 96% of happiness is good health, and the other 4% is either grit or gravy. -rvb.**

**Friday - December 19 - Be strong for others.**

Ethical word- soft determinism - While there is a cause for all action, certain choices can still be made freely as actions that stem from the character or will of the person, thus preserving the notion of moral responsibility.

*“Even the most rational approach to ethics is defenseless if there isn't the will to do what is right.”-Aleksander Solzhenitsyn*

What laundry detergent do people in the North Pole use?

Answer: Yule Tide

**Saturday - December 20** – Say a prayer.

Ethical words- bioethics - The branch of ethics that studies moral problems in medicine and biological technology, for example issues about euthanasia and cloning humans.

“I consider ethics, as well as religion, as supplements to law in the government of man.” -Thomas Jefferson

What do elves learn in school?

Answer: The elf-abet!

**Sunday - December 21 – (Fourth Sunday of Advent)** - Care about doing your absolute best.

Ethical word- amoral - Devoid of morality; operating completely outside the realm of moral value.

“Little progress can be made by merely attempting to repress what is evil. Our great hope lies in developing what is good.” -Calvin Coolidge

Where does Santa put his suit after Christmas?

Answer: In his Claus-et

**Monday - December 22 - Inner music is a lasting gift – always have a song in your heart.**

Ethical word- altruism – An empathic and unselfish concern for the welfare of others, with no other end in mind.

“The simplest and shortest ethical precept is to be served as little as possible . . . and to serve others as much as possible.” - Leo Tolstoy

Why did Jimmy's grades drop after the holidays?

Answer: Because everything was marked down!

**Tuesday - December 23 - Be happy for no reason all – be full of smiles.**

Ethical word-” akrasia” (weakness) - Ancient Greek, incontinence, weakness of will; a condition where one knows something is good, desires it, yet still does not embrace it.

“Have the courage to say no. Have the courage to face the truth. Do the right thing because it is right. These are the magic keys to living your life with integrity. - W.Clement Stone.

Why did Jimmy's grades drop after the holidays?

Answer: Because everything was marked down!

**Wednesday - December 24 - Live in spirals – twists and turns we encounter.**

Ethical word- consequentialism - The view that the value of an act should be judged solely based on one act and how it impacts others, that is, the consequences of one's actions. This contrasts with aretaic ethics where the value of an act is determined by the character of a person, where the value is determined by the intentions and motives of the person.

“The most important persuasion tool you have in your entire arsenal is integrity.” -Zig Ziglar

How much did Santa pay for parking his sleigh?

Answer: Nothing, it was on the house!

**Thursday - December 25 – The Nativity of the Lord - Every person is a hero.**

Ethical word – benevolence - The belief that the happiness and good of others is desirable and that such happiness should be spread as equally and as widely as possible among the beings being affected.

“The world has achieved brilliance without conscience. Ours is a world of nuclear giants and ethical infants.” - Omar N. Bradley

What did the kids' mother say after they finished opening presents?

Answer: Oh! What a Christmess!

**Friday - December 26 – Love yourself as well as others.**

Ethical word- Cartesian dualism - Referring to the mind/body problem; it holds that the mind, although a substance separate from the body, nevertheless interacts with the body, a different substance.

“Over the past two decades, we have clearly seen an erosion of ethical values.” -Arthur Levitt Jr

What is a snowman's favorite breakfast?

Answer: Frosted flakes

**Saturday - December 27 - Keep on playing.**

Ethical word- categorical imperative - As a moral principle formulated by Immanuel Kant, it states “act only according to that maxim that you can at the same time will that it should become a universal law.”

“A man is ethical only when life, as such, is sacred to him.” -Albert Schweitzer

Where do elves go to vote?

Answer: The north poll.

**Sunday - December 28- The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph - Let faith be your guide.**

Ethical word- Eudaimonia -. Ancient Greek, “happiness or well-being,” associated with the ethical views of Aristotle.

**“Your ethical muscle grows stronger every time you choose right over wrong.” -Price Pritchett**

Why did Santa get a ticket on Christmas Eve?

Answer: He left his sled in a s(no) parking zone.

**Monday - December 29 - Take a walk.**

Ethical word- meliorism - The view that the world can become increasingly better through human action, thus improving the human condition.

**“A country should be defended not by arms, but by ethical behavior.” -Vinoba Bhave**

What do you drain your Christmas cranberries with?

Answer: An advent colander

**Tuesday - December 30 – Stretch**

Ethical word- hedonism - The ethical theory that claims that the pursuit of one's own pleasure should be the aim of all action.

**“Ethics is knowing the difference between what you have a right to do and what is right to do.”- Potter Stewart**

How does Santa feel when he is stuck in a chimney?

Answer: Claus-trophobic

**Wednesday - December 31 – Savor the gift of your health.**

Ethical word- humanism - Any view that emphasizes the importance of human dignity, welfare, and values, especially in contrast to religious or supernatural views.

**“The first step in the evolution of ethics is a sense of solidarity with other human beings.”- Albert Schweitzer**

Why is a foot a good Christmas gift?

Answer: It fits right inside a stocking.

**Thursday – January 1 – Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God. -Experience the moment.**

Ethical word- intuitionism - In ethics, the view associated with G.E. Moore that knowledge of ultimate good and morality is apprehended directly by some special faculty in us of moral sense.

**“Action indeed is the sole medium of expression for ethics.” -Jane Addams**

**I am a bank, but I do not have any money. What am I?**

**Answer: A snowbank**

**Friday – January 2 - Rekindle hope.**

**Ethical word- problem of evil - The view that a benevolent, omnipotent, omniscient God is incompatible with the existence of real evil in the world.**

**“The time is right to always do what is right.” – Martin Luther King Jr.**

**What kind of motorcycle does Santa like to ride?**

**Answer: A Holly Davidson**

**Saturday – January 3 - Write a Haiku – here is mine – “Slowly falling flakes, landing on our eager tongues, announcing winter.” -rvb.**

**Ethical word- greatest happiness principle - A view central to Jeremy Bentham and utilitarianism, holding that moral action requires that the greatest good be attained for the greatest number of beings, regardless of who the individuals who receive that happiness.**

**“A man without ethics is a wild beast loosed upon this world.” – Albert Camus.**

**What is Santa’s favorite sandwich”**

**Answer: Peanut Butter & Jolly**

**Sunday - January 4 - The Epiphany - The End of Christmastide - Practice joy**

**Ethical word – justice - Commonly divided into retributive and distributive, the former deals with punishments that correct the imbalance to society caused by a crime; the latter concerns the fair allocation of benefits and burdens of in society.**

**“Only morality in our actions can give beauty and dignity to life.” – *Albert Einstein***

**What is the best thing to put into a Christmas cake?**

**Answer: Your teeth.**