Holidays are filled with traditions, some of which are downright odd when you stop and think about them. Where did they come from? Here are the origins of some of our favorite Christmas traditions.

- **Hanging stockings:** St. Nicholas learned of a father who was unable to pay for his three daughters’ dowries, so St. Nick dropped gold balls down a chimney, which landed in stockings hung by the fire to dry.

- **Using evergreens as Christmas trees:** People would use evergreen boughs to decorate their homes during the winter; the greenery reminded them that plants would return in abundance soon.

- **Leaving milk and cookies for Santa:** This tradition dates back to Norse mythology. According to legend, Odin had an eight-legged horse named Sleipnir. Kids would leave treats for Sleipnir, hoping that Odin would favor them with gifts in return.

- **Yule logs:** As part of winter solstice celebrations, Gaels and Celts burned logs decorated with holly, ivy, and pinecones to cleanse themselves of the past year and welcome the next one.

- **Christmas Cards:** In 1843 the first Christmas Card was produced. The greeting sentiment, “A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you.” was printed inside. A thousand was printed the first year. Today Americans send around 2 billion cards every year.

What traditions do you and your family enjoy doing together? What do you look forward to the most this time of year? Take time this year to participate in an annual tradition or start a new one!

**Student News**

- Madison Laan received a $3,000 scholarship to MO S&T.
- Clinton Barrington, Carly French, Kiersten Wiggs, Josh Richardson, and Makayla Wilson were inducted into National Honor Society.
- Phillip Lucas was accepted to Rockhurst University.
- Victoria Thomas participated in the Farmington Jazz Festival.
The mission of Upward Bound at Mineral Area College is to serve eligible high school students by providing academic enrichment, cultural experiences, and a support network to ensure their success in attaining a four year college degree.

A Federally Funded Program

The Mineral Area College Upward Bound I program is a TRIO program funded with a five-year, $1,495,566 grant from the U.S. Department of Education. This represents 100% of the program cost. Mineral Area College provides 25% of indirect costs to support the program.

The Mineral Area College Upward Bound II program is a TRIO program funded with a five-year, $1,298,771 grant from the U.S. Department of Education. This represents 100% of the program cost. Mineral Area College provides a portion of indirect costs to support the program.

Upward Bound is one of five programs established by Congress to help low-income, first-generation students enter college and graduate. These programs are referred to as the TRIO programs.

For more information on Upward Bound I or II or for information on how to apply, contact the Upward Bound office located at Mineral Area College, (573) 518-2156. Office hours are 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Mineral Area College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, disability, age, religion, creed, or marital or parental status. For more information, call the Title VI, Title IX, Section 504 or U.S. Department of Education, Office of Civil Rights.

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