

File: Leslie J. Steele  
School

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## 'Put The Anjul On The Tree'

# You Do Get The Idea, Don't You, Santi Clus?

By HELEN ORDNER

Children have always scrawled their letters to Santa Claus, trusting that they will reach the North Pole and their wishes will be fulfilled. They are kids, and misspellings in their earnest appeals just add charm and could be overlooked.

Today's children in DeKalb schools are writing their Santa letters by computer, and spelling be hanged.

The letters are examples of the Writing To Read program now in every DeKalb elementary school.

Writing To Read is a computer-based instructional system designed to develop the writing and reading skills of kindergarten and first grade students.

Students come to the lab for an hour each day to learn the letter sounds, using the computer program, and then apply this knowledge to writing their own stories — or letters to Santa.

These Christmas narratives and letters are the outpouring of children at Leslie J. Steele, under the direction of teacher Rita Myers.

Ms. Myers said that the children do add spelling to their skills, some sooner than others. A few were almost letter-perfect in their spelling, but all of them are marked by individualism and a freedom of expression.

Antonio Hughes, obviously an unselfish child, listed gift ideas for his mom. "She neda neclis" translates to "She needs a necklace," but any self-respecting Santa would know that.

Miya Booker wrote of Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer who likes to fly. Her story has a happy ending: "thin the uthr reindeer liked Rudolph."

Directions for decorating a Christmas tree come from Harold D. Williams who instructs to "put on the lits, the bolls, the iossiks (icicles?), the anjul, ornaments, the bow and the cadc cans.

David Tatum writes about Rudolph too, but his Rudolph fliz with Santa. "Rudolph fliz to my hous and givz me toiz."

"He givz me a chair, He givz me a thundr cat. Santa is nis," he concludes.

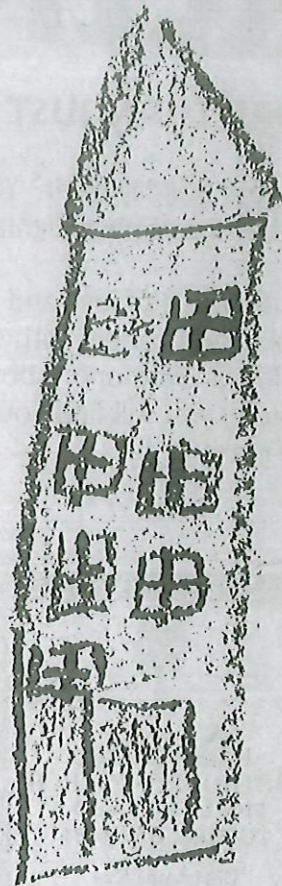
If you need help with wrapping presents, listen to LaCarla Brown. "You get a box. And put it down. And get paper. And bet a bol. And rap and kut."

Daniel Somerville is the hero in the story he wrote. Horror of horrors, Santa got stuck in his chimney. Daniel went to the rescue, however, writing "I was so sad i helpt him. He let me go to his house. I likt him."

Not all of the letters reflect bounty. One child ends by saying "Im gowg to get my mom som food.

Santa is going to have a heavy pack carrying lists prepared by many of the kids, such as Justin Singleton's. Specifically, Justin wants a six speed black and white bike, a Nintendo woch, a Nintendo power set, and aback to the future part.

In an understatement, he adds "I like toys."





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The Decatur News <sup>Saturday</sup>  
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## Students Explore Space Shuttle At Huntsville

Dola Phillips' class from Leslie J. Steele Elementary School got a first-hand look at America's past and future in space during a visit to The Space and Rocket Center on Nov. 22.

They learned about the space shuttle by examining the only full-scale space shuttle exhibit on earth, and experienced America's first space station inside the mockup NASA used to design Skylab.

Alabama's top science attraction, the Space and Rocket Center has several new space activities. In The Spacewalker, visitors bounce as though they were on the moon. They feel the power of an Apollo launch in the centrifuge.

Special movies shot by shuttle astronauts in space give viewers in the Spacedome Theater the feeling of being in orbit, looking down on Earth.

More than 100,000 children and adults will visit The Space and Rocket Center during the 1988 school year, representing more than 2,000 schools, churches and scouting groups from across the eastern U.S. and Canada.

"Young people are generally fascinated by space exploration and the space program," said Space and Rocket Center Director Edward O. Buckbee. "By letting them touch and experience the space program for a day, we hope they become more responsive to their math and science courses at school."

The shuttle exhibit towers more than 80 feet above the Space Center. Built in the late 1970's, it played an important role in helping NASA prepare for the first space shuttle launch in 1981.

**Leslie J. Steele** *11/15/89*  
**School Holding** *10:00*  
**Open House Today** *11:00 Sun*

Leslie J. Steele School extends a warm invitation to its community to participate in American Education Week, Sunday, Nov. 12 through Saturday, Nov. 18.

American Education Week allows the community to view the public school system and to voice their opinions. Parents and community members are invited to visit classrooms during this week. Leslie J. Steele has set aside Wednesday, Nov. 15 as Parent Day. Parents will visit in their children's classes from 9 to 11 a.m. At 11, all parents and friends will share a luncheon planned especially for them.



*Sehall news / Sun* *12/6/89*  
**Leslie Steele Honoring 'Honor Roll' Students**

*School*  
Leslie J. Steele Elementary School will acknowledge those students who have achieved excellence and have been placed on the Honor Roll with a special program. Grades four through seven will attend a special rap session with the Rev. Walter Kimbrough, a senior pastor at Ben Hill United Methodist Church, on Wednesday, Dec. 8 at 9 a.m. He will speak on the theme, "Accept The Challenge."

Ann Thomas, dressed as Raggedy Ann, will speak to the primary grades on the importance of good grades, and how important it is not only to be present at school but also to be on time. This program will be held Friday, Dec. 8, at 1 p.m.

All parents and families are invited to share in these special occasions.

Ms. Thomas is a lead teacher at Toney Elementary School.