

## Q: Tell us about a family tradition.



In the month of June, it will be “Ramadan,” a holiday where Muslims fast for the entire month from sunup until sundown. Fasting during Ramadan is one of the Five Pillars or religious duties of Islam. When the fast is over it will be “Eid,” when my family, uncles, aunts and

their families will gather in my grandfather’s house. We exchange congratulations during this happy occasion. After that we sit all together and have lunch. My mother and grandmother prepare a kind of sweet dessert called Kleja. It is a pastry filled with date spread. Fathers give their kids money so they can buy toys and gifts on this day. It is my favorite holiday because I get to see all my family.

–Mustafa Al Timimi, fifth grade  
Albany School of Humanities (ASH)



My dad and his family moved to America from Guatemala in 1982. They established a new life for themselves here but are still very in touch with their roots. A tradition they practice is going back to Guatemala on missions with my grandmother’s church to help with medical care, delivering food and providing clothing. I

look forward to accompanying them on a trip sometime soon.

– Isaiah Chajon, sophomore  
Albany High School



Our family tradition is going to grandma’s house every Sunday. This has been a tradition for more than 11 years. I have a feeling of comfort as I walk in the front door of her grass-green and snow-white house with the most beautiful flowers. Grandma cooks something different every Sunday. The kids love playing football or basketball outside while adults are inside laughing, talking and catching up. This tradition allows us time to be a family.

–Desmond Jones, fifth grade  
New Scotland Elementary School



A family tradition I have is homemade mats. These mats are both cultural and a family tradition. They are hand-sewn and stuffed with cotton by my mother. These mats are not just regular mats but have nice style and comfort and are used for sitting on and sleeping. My family uses these mats for sitting on when

we eat. We don’t use high tables with chairs; we have low tables and sit on these mats to eat. What kind of family tradition do you have?

– Amara Koshniyazova, seventh grade  
William S. Hackett Middle School



A significant family tradition that I enjoy is baking pies during the holidays. It is a very hands-on activity that enlists the entire household and leaves no one sitting around. My family always makes more than enough, to ensure that even members of our extended family can

have some if they are unable to attend dinner. We don’t have many daily traditions, so this celebratory one that we all can participate in makes it just as sweet as the pies themselves.

– Antoinette Mastrangelo, senior  
Albany High School



My favorite family tradition takes place at Christmas, when we celebrate Jesus’ birthday. The reason it is my favorite is because we receive gifts and open them on Christmas morning. We sit and watch people open the gifts we gave then we open our own. After Christmas morning we begin to get dinner ready. It

is usually a big dinner and lots of family comes. At the table we say grace before we eat, then we have the huge dinner we prepared to end the day.

–Nick Otero, seventh grade  
Stephen and Harriet Myers Middle School



I celebrate Thanksgiving with my family every year. This is our tradition. What makes it special for me is that my grandmother comes from New York City. She makes a big Thanksgiving dinner! Some of the things she makes include turkey, ham, yams and stuffing. My favorite would have to be her baked macaroni and cheese. Afterward, we break up into teams and play a

family game of charades. My team usually wins!

– Briana Spaulding, fifth grade  
Philip Schuyler Achievement Academy



On Christmas morning I always wake up first! Then I go wake up my mommy. We wake up my little brother and go open our presents. After our presents have been opened, we go over to one of my grandmother’s houses. We usually have chicken for dinner. After dinner we open more presents and have fun. After

that we go to my MeMe’s house and finish opening our presents. Then we finally go back home. Every Christmas night we all sit around the TV and watch our favorite Christmas specials.

– Leimoni Whineglass, third grade  
Arbor Hill Elementary School