



HAPPY EASTER!



Eternal Gems' Youth Newsletter



Hi Readers,

Hope your week is full of love and positivity.

When you hear the word "Easter", it might bring to mind baskets full of jelly beans and chocolate bunnies. Or maybe Easter egg hunts in the backyard. Or maybe even putting on your Sunday best to come to church. But what is Easter really all about? That's what we're going to talk about today. To understand what Jesus did around Easter time, we have to go all the way back to the beginning of time, when God created everything.

The story of Easter begins in the book of Genesis, when God created a perfect world. Adam and Eve disobeyed God and their sin messed up their relationship with him. Since that time, there has been a separation between God and humans. Then God sent Jesus, who was perfect, to bridge the gap and bring us back into a relationship with God. Jesus died on the cross, taking the punishment for our sins. What are sins? Sin are bad thoughts and evil thoughts. Sin are bad words and evil words that you say to others. Sins are bad actions and evil actions. Because Jesus died and rose again, we can be forgiven of all our sins and have a good relationship with God again. Thank you Jesus!

Jesus is alive! He conquered death. He destroyed sin. Jesus is alive in heaven. Heaven is above the solar system.

When we put our trust in Jesus, he will give us new life in and with him. He will take away our sins. He will give us back that good relationship with God. Do you know Jesus today? Do you believe that he died for you and rose from the dead? Do you put your trust in him? If you answered "yes" then turn away from your sin by asking Jesus to forgive you of your past, present, and future sins. Let's remember that Easter is a time to celebrate what Jesus did for us. Actually every time we come to church we can celebrate that. In fact, you can celebrate that all of the time, wherever you are. This news is too good not to celebrate all of the time, and to share with others. If you haven't met Jesus yet, but you want to know him, today is your day. Pray to him. Ask him to come into your heart. Ask him to take away your sins. Ask him to give you a good relationship with God. God loves us. He wants to have a good relationship with us. He sent Jesus to die for us and take away our sins. Jesus rose from the dead. This is happiness! This is good news! This is Easter!

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BOOK OF THE WEEK

HOLES BY LOUIS SACHAR



Stanley Yelnats is under a curse. A curse that began with his no-good-dirty-rotten-pig-stealing-great-great-grandfather and has since followed generations of Yelnats. Now Stanley has been unjustly sent to a boys' detention center, Camp Green Lake, where the warden makes the boys "build character" by spending all day, every day, digging holes: five feet wide and five feet deep. It doesn't take long for Stanley to realize there's more than character improvement going on at Camp Green Lake. The boys are digging holes because the warden is looking for something. Stanley tries to dig up the truth in this inventive and darkly humorous tale of crime and punishment—and redemption



- INGREDIENTS**
- FOR THE DOUGH**
- COOKING SPRAY
 - 1 C. WARM MILK
 - 2 1/4 TSP. OR 1 (0.25-OZ.) PACKET INSTANT YEAST
 - 2 LARGE EGGS, AT ROOM TEMPERATURE
 - 5 TBS. BUTTER, SOFTENED
 - 4 1/2 C. ALL-PURPOSE FLOUR
 - 2 TSP. KOSHER SALT
 - 1/2 C. GRANULATED SUGAR
 - 1/4 TSP. BAKING SODA
- FOR THE FILLING**
- 1/2 C. (1 STICK) BUTTER, SOFTENED
 - 3/4 C. PACKED BROWN SUGAR
 - 2 TBS. GROUND CINNAMON
 - 1/2 TSP. GROUND NUTMEG
 - 1/2 TSP. KOSHER SALT
- FOR THE FROSTING**
- 6 OZ. CREAM CHEESE, SOFTENED
 - 1/2 C. (1 STICK) BUTTER, SOFTENED
 - 1 C. POWDERED SUGAR
 - PENCH KOSHER SALT
 - 1 TSP. PURE VANILLA EXTRACT
 - 1/4 C. MILK OR HEAVY CREAM

CLASSIC CINNAMON ROLLS

LIGHTLY GREASE A LARGE BOWL AND A 9" -X-13" PAN WITH COOKING SPRAY. IN A SEPARATE LARGE BOWL OR IN THE BOWL OF A STAND MIXER USING A DOUGH HOOK, MIX TOGETHER MILK AND YEAST UNTIL YEAST IS MOSTLY DISSOLVED. ADD IN ALL REMAINING DOUGH INGREDIENTS ON LOW SPEED. CONTINUE MIXING ON MEDIUM-HIGH SPEED UNTIL A SMOOTH, SOFT DOUGH FORMS AND STARTS TO PULL AWAY FROM THE SIDES OF THE BOWL, 15 TO 18 MINUTES. TRANSFER TO GREASED BOWL AND ROTATE SO THAT OUTSIDE OF DOUGH IS THOROUGHLY GREASED. COVER WITH A KITCHEN TOWEL AND LET RISE UNTIL ALMOST DOUBLED, 1 1/2 TO 2 HOURS.

MEANWHILE, MAKE FILLING: IN A LARGE BOWL USING A HAND MIXER, CREAM TOGETHER BUTTER, SUGAR, CINNAMON, NUTMEG IF USING, AND SALT UNTIL LIGHT AND FLUFFY, 3 TO 4 MINUTES. PREHEAT OVEN TO 400°. TURN THE DOUGH ONTO A LIGHTLY FLOURED SURFACE AND DUST WITH MORE FLOUR. ROLL OUT INTO A LARGE SQUARE, ABOUT 18" -X-18". SPREAD TO EDGES WITH FILLING, THEN ROLL THE DOUGH INTO A LOG AND CUT INTO 12 EVENLY SIZED PIECES, EACH ABOUT 1 1/2" WIDE. PLACE ROLLS CUT SIDE-UP IN PREPARED BAKING PAN. COVER AND LET RISE AGAIN UNTIL ALMOST DOUBLED, 30 TO 40 MINUTES.

BAKE UNTIL GOLDEN, 20 TO 22 MINUTES.

MEANWHILE, MAKE FROSTING: IN A LARGE BOWL, COMBINE BUTTER AND CREAM CHEESE AND BEAT UNTIL LIGHT AND FLUFFY. ADD POWDERED SUGAR, SALT, AND VANILLA AND BEAT UNTIL SMOOTH. GRADUALLY ADD MILK (OR HEAVY CREAM) TO LOOSEN ICING.

REMOVE CINNAMON ROLLS FROM OVEN AND FROST IMMEDIATELY. SERVE WARM.

Fun Fact

Americans Eat About 1.5 Million Marshmallow Peeps During Easter. This is the most popular non-chocolate Easter candy. The Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, factory makes an impressive 5.5 million a day.



Riddle Time

Q: Why did Mickey Mouse go to Outer Space?

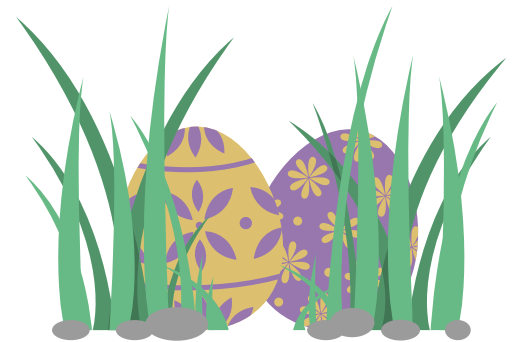
A: He wanted to visit Pluto.

Q: What do you call a fairy that hasn't taken a bath?

A: Stinker Bell.

Q: What did the beach say when the tide came in?

A: Long time, no sea.



"FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD THAT HE GAVE HIS ONE AND ONLY SON, THAT WHOEVER BELIEVES IN HIM SHALL NOT PERISH BUT HAVE ETERNAL LIFE."

JOHN 3:16



GOD SENT JESUS TO DIE FOR US. HE LOVED US SO MUCH AND IT WAS VERY IMPORTANT TO HIM THAT WE KNEW HOW MUCH HE LOVED US. HE GAVE HIS ONLY SON TO SHOW US THAT LOVE. THAT LOVE GUIDES US AND ENCOURAGES US TO BE BETTER PEOPLE.

