

## Christmas in Disney

By Joey D. Grade 4

Snowing on Main Street? That's the magic of Christmas in Disneyworld. If you are going to Disney for the first time, go at Christmas. It's an even more magical time of year, Christmas Disney style.

The day after Halloween, Disney turns itself into a Christmas wonderland. Disney puts up most Christmas decorations throughout the parks and resorts at night so the guests don't see them. The decorations are based on each park or resort's theme. For example, Animal Kingdom's theme is Africa, so they use African decorations, like painted animal masks and carved animal statues in their Christmas trees and garland. The resorts are similar, decorated by theme, but they add just a little more with huge gingerbread houses and miniature train sets in the lobbies. For guests who are staying for Christmas, you can get a little Christmas tree sent to your room.

At the Magic Kingdom, on certain nights they have what is called "Mickey's Very Merry Christmas." It costs extra, and is from 7:00pm to midnight. There are only a limited number of tickets sold, which means fewer people. As you walked down Main Street, you could hear Christmas music playing while snow was coming down. Well, it wasn't really snow, it was foam, but it was still cool. Cinderella's Castle was decorated like an ice castle. Most of the characters were dressed in Santa hats. One thing that was really fun was the DJ at *Cosmic Ray's Starlight Café*. He was dressed as an elf and he was playing fun music you could dance to. Best of all, Chip and Dale were there and then Goofy and Pluto came in. We were all dancing together. The highlight of "Mickey's Very Merry Christmas" was the arrival of Santa in the parade.

If you want to see something amazing that puts you in the Christmas spirit, go to Disney's Hollywood Studio (formerly MGM Studios) at the New York City back lot and see the Osborne Family Light Show. Jennings Osborne was a man who created the largest Christmas light show at his home in Little Rock, AK, for his daughter. His neighbors complained about the traffic caused by people coming to see the lights, and the Supreme Court ordered him to shut it down. Shortly after the lights were turned off, Disney contacted him to bring his light show to Orlando. When you turn the corner at the back lot, all you see are lights surrounding you and there is Christmas music playing. Suddenly, the lights go down for a few seconds and then they start to "dance" to a Christmas song. The lights were synchronized to flash to the beat of the song. It was like nothing I'd ever seen before. This happened every 10 minutes.

In Epcot, at the World Showcase, each country shows how they celebrate Christmas in their own culture through decorations and storytelling. We weren't able to see the nightly Candlelight Processional, but it is supposed to be great. It's the retelling of the Christmas story by a celebrity narrator accompanied by a 50 piece orchestra and mass choir. In another part of the park, each night Mickey has a tree lighting ceremony.

If you ever have the chance to go to Disney at Christmas time, go. It will definitely put you in the Christmas spirit.

### *Did you know...?*

The Osborne Family Light Show uses 3 million lights!!
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