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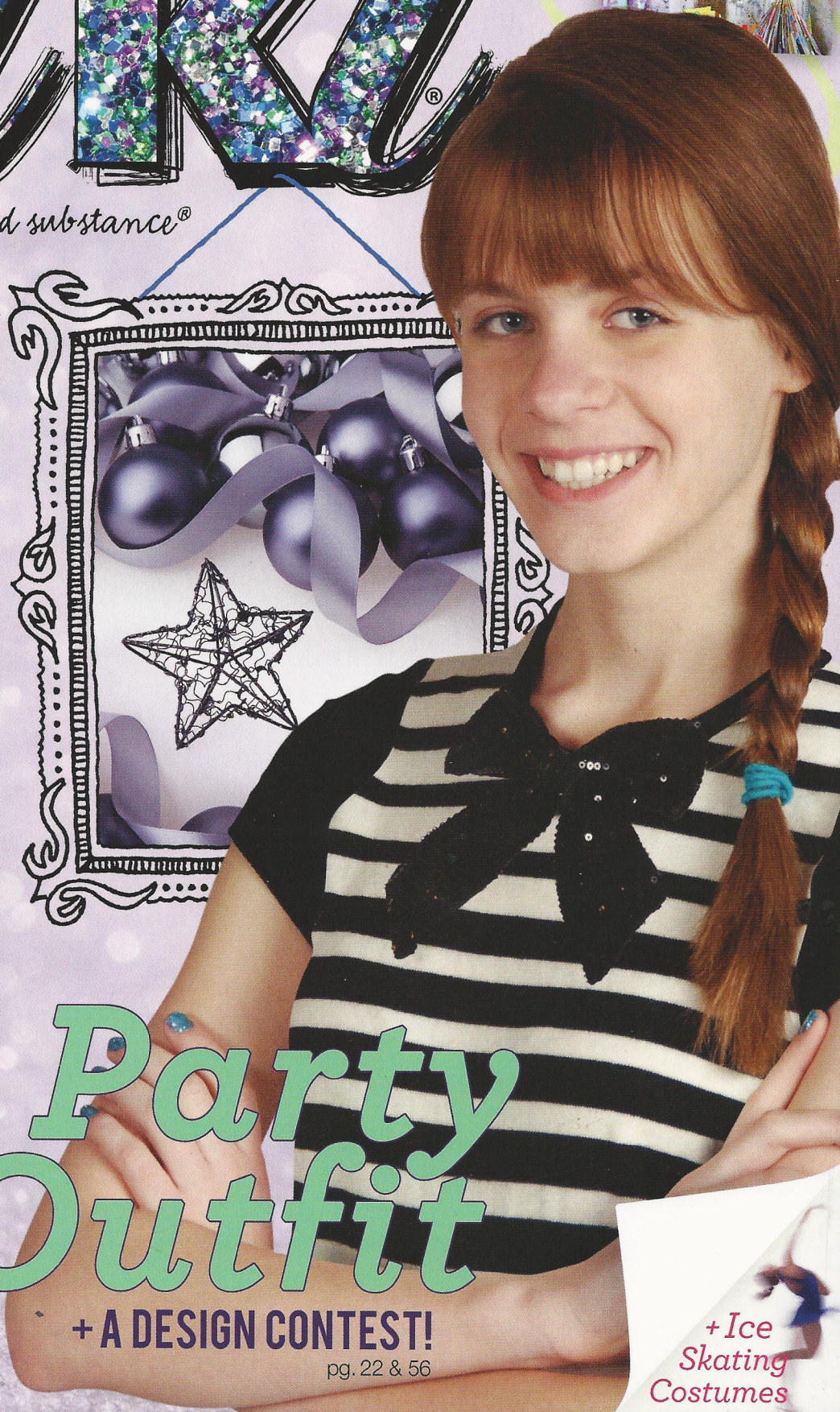
DISPLAY UNTIL JANUARY 22, 2013



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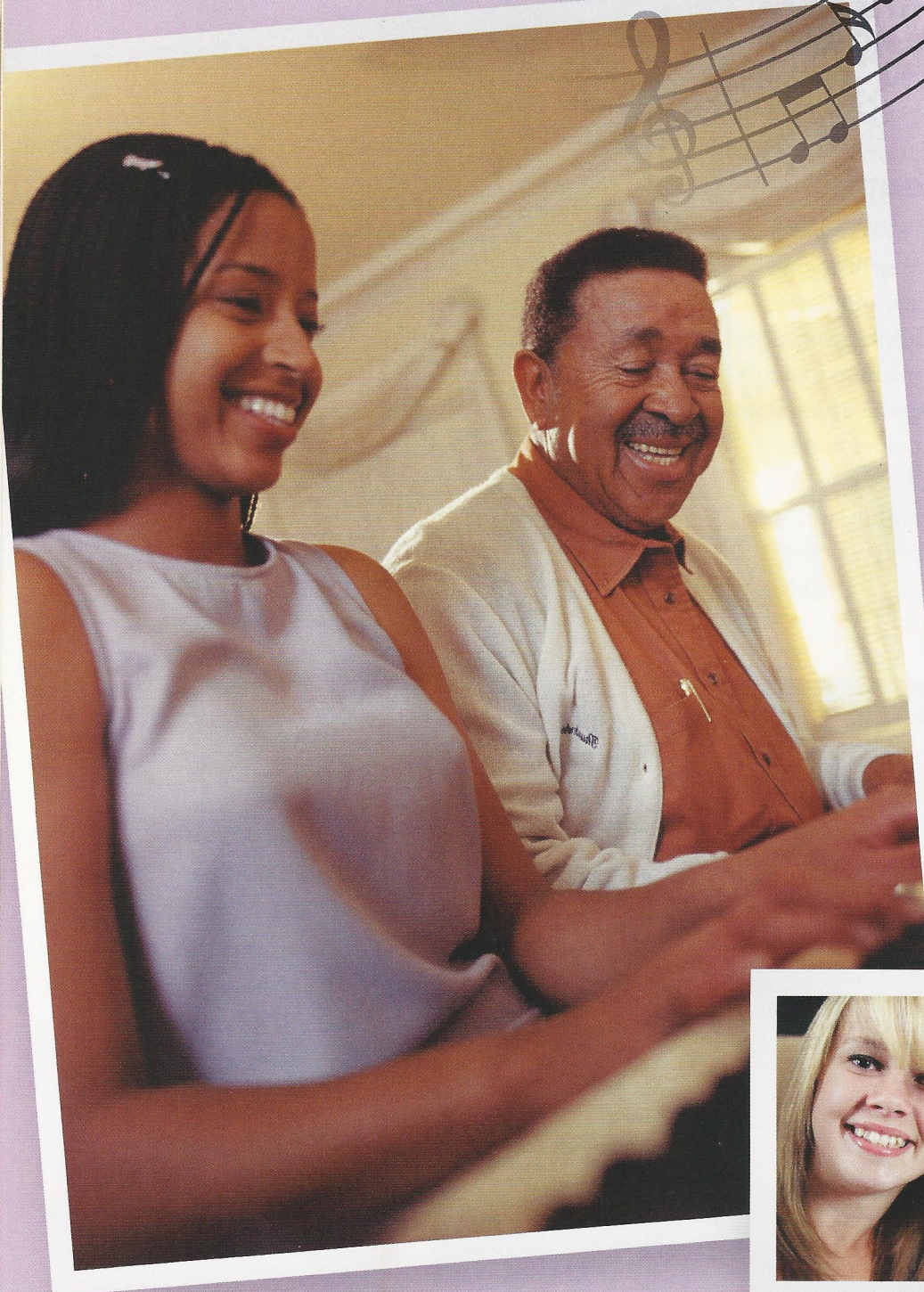


Grandparents Rock!

BY GAIL E. HEDRICK

Do you know someone who grew up through three wars, marched for civil rights, or remembers where they were when a U.S. president was assassinated? Someone who wore poodle skirts, remembers when gas cost 30 cents a gallon, and knew life before color TV, Elvis Presley, or calculators? This amazing person is related to you. Meet your grandparent!

The holidays provide a perennial opportunity to connect with grandparents. We collected ideas from two classes of 7th graders (one at Archer Lodge Middle School in North Carolina and one at Harlee Middle School in Florida) on how to make the most of your time together.



Swap Skills

Lucy loved to eat grandma's cookies, but found mixing, measuring, and decorating them together was actually more fun. And she learned how to bake in the process. Cooking ranks high with Jon and Blake as well. They've learned to make Cuban food and spaghetti from their grandparents. In exchange, they loaded pictures on grandpa's computer and downloaded music to grandma's MP3 player.

Masha was adopted from a Russian orphanage. After arriving in the States, her American grandma helped her learn English by cutting alphabet letters from Play-Doh with special cookie cutters. Masha taught Gran words and songs in Russian.

Ask your grandpa to teach you how to throw a football, then teach him how to text. Show grandma duct tape crafts, and she may teach you how to hula hoop.



Rethink the Art of Hanging Out

Going hunting or fishing? Ryan and Bailey each take a grandparent along. None of your friends like animated movies? Invite a grandparent instead. Madison helps her grandma plan a summer midnight picnic to watch the Persids Meteor Shower.


Playing games is a great way to spend silly time with grandparents. Cranium, Scrabble, or card games like Phase 10 are old school, but definitely fun. Rose challenges her grandparents to intense rounds of Monopoly.



Keep in Touch

Life is busy. Sending an email or text or making a quick call during the month helps you stay connected. Play social games like 'Words with Friends' on the phone or computer. Casey surprises her grandmother with new jokes every month. Write your grandparents an actual letter and mail it—in an envelope with a stamp.

Are you are hooked on *X Factor* or *Warehouse 13* or *Leverage*? Invite your grandparents to watch your shows with you. If you don't live in the same neighborhood or town, get on a cell phone and 'watch' while you talk!

Your grandparents are unique to you. They are your family's living, breathing history. This holiday season, get to know them over a late-night snack of popcorn or stretched out in the grass watching clouds. Discover your own special way to connect with them. When you do, you'll get it—grandparents rock! 

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