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Special to The Roanoke Times

On top of all the other stressors of this year, we adults are now trying to navigate celebrating Thanksgiving safely during the middle of a pandemic. Do we do a Zoom dinner with the West Virginia cousins? Break bread with the other family in our bubble on a picnic table in the backyard? Order a pizza and call it a day?

Kids, luckily, aren't sweating the details. Mostly, they're looking forward to that first bite of a glorious gobbler.

To help us grown-ups lower our collective blood pressure, a reporter recently visited students at Monterey Elementary School in Roanoke to gather their youthful impressions of the holiday. Some talked a lot. Some talked a little. Some provided culinary tips.

Grayson Bradney, age 6

What is Thanksgiving?

You get to eat. **What's your favorite thing to eat on Thanksgiving?**

Turkey. **What are you thankful for this Thanksgiving?**

Playing tic-tac-toe with my dad.



Grayson Bradney

You mix all that stuff together?

I think so.

Do you cook it?

I think you have to cook it or you just eat it. I would go with cooking it.

How long should you cook it?

Probably like an hour.

What temperature would be good for stuffing?

14.

Do you help out at home with meal prep?

I usually do the desserts.

What do you do to them?

I add the chocolate chips.

What kind of desserts do you like on Thanksgiving?

Cookies.

What kind?

Chocolate chip.

What does your family like to do on Thanksgiving?

Eat.

Do you get a full tummy?

I eat a lot. I can eat a whole turkey. I can eat 16 cookies.

What are you thankful for this Thanksgiving?

Kindness. My dog Luna. She's grumpy, but she's nice.



Dylan Guilliams

Karson Walker, age 5

Who will you be with on Thanksgiving?

My cousins. **How many cousins do you have?**

I got lots.

Will you have dinner together?

Yes.

What kind of dessert do you like on Thanksgiving?

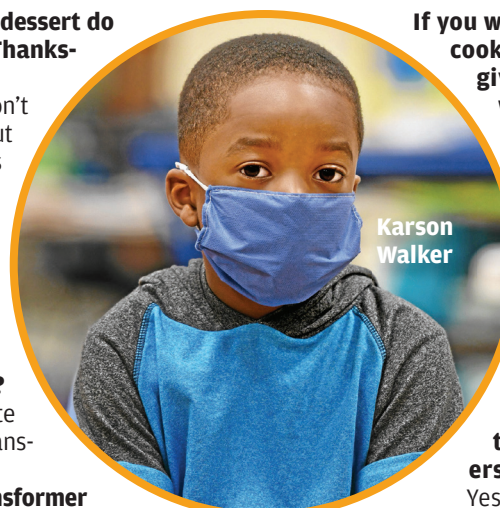
Sugar. Don't tell my dad, but I like all kinds of sugar.

Can you think of anything you're especially thankful for this Thanksgiving?

My favorite thing is Transformers.

Is there a Transformer you like the most?

Optimus Prime.



Karson Walker

If you were in charge of cooking the Thanksgiving turkey, what would you do first?

Catch it.

Seems like an important first step. Then what would happen?

You eat it. **Do you think you should take the feathers off?**

Yes.

Should you cook it?

Yes.

How long should you cook it?

Until it's good.

How do you know when it going to be good?

When it's burnt.

What about mashed potatoes and gravy. How many potatoes do you need for Thanksgiving dinner?

I think you need 100.

What do you do to them to get them mashed up?

You peel the thing off and then you smash them.

What do you smash them with?

I will smash them with a knife. I just smash them with anything.

What do you have for dessert for Thanksgiving?

The turkey.

You have it again? Do you have turkey a different way or do you eat it the same?

You just eat more and more.

What are you thankful for this Thanksgiving?

Turkey.



Ava Mullins

Ava Mullins, age 6

What is Thanksgiving?

It's where you give stuff to people and we have turkeys.

Do you like Thanksgiving?

Yeah, because I get to eat turkeys. I read a book about turkeys and it was funny.

What happened in the book?

They were having Thanksgiving, but two of the animals didn't get to have Thanksgiving and then all of the animals were waiting to have it at their house. They were bears and the mom wanted to get a turkey, but they had to have a paper turkey because they never had a turkey. But then the dad, he went and bought the turkey. And all the mama did was let him sit down. They didn't eat him.

What's your favorite thing to eat at Thanksgiving?

Turkey. [Pause]. I haven't even tasted turkey. **So you don't know if you like it?**

Uh-uh. I just like it.

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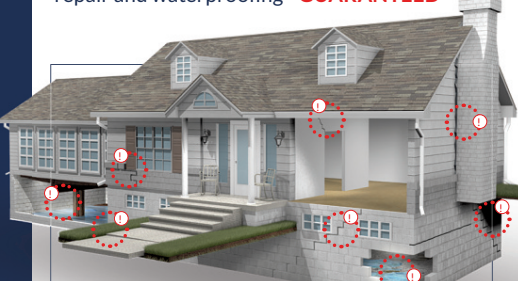
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