
MOUNTAIN VIEW

PRESS

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MOUNTAIN VIEW
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Happy holidays, Mountain View! We hope that your upcoming holiday break is enjoyable and relaxing! Thank you for reading 2022's final issue of the *Mountain View Journal*. Don't miss us too much, though! We'll be back in January for our very first 2023 edition!! If you have any suggestions for something you'd really like to read about, email the senior editors:

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Happy reading!

-The editorial staff



Zodiac of the Month

Written by Dishita Rastogi

Each month of the year has a different zodiac. Read this article to find yours potentially! This month's zodiac signs are Sagittarius and Capricorn.

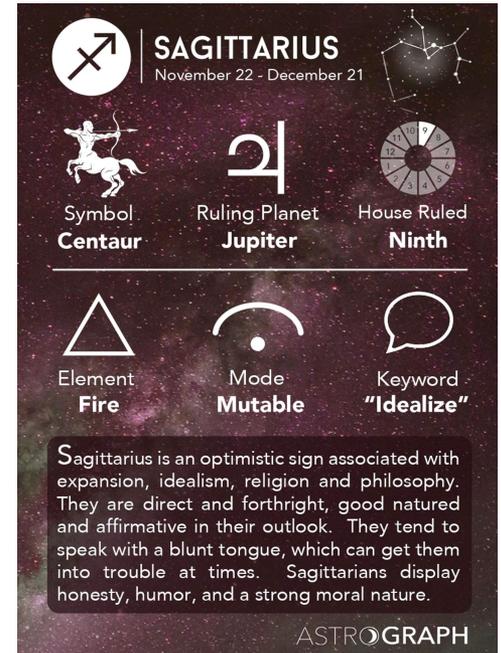
Sagittarius November 22 - December 21

Sagittarius is the 9th sign of all the zodiac signs. Sagittarius are said to be lovers of freedom, optimistic, honest, and intellectual. Are you any of these? Some lucky things for Sagittarius are:

Lucky numbers: 6, 5, 3, 8, 7, 11, 27, 34, 63, 65

Lucky days of the week: Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays

Lucky letters: A, M, L, and Y



December Holidays

by Ava Butler, Hannah Blocher and Nora Limann

There are so many different holidays in December! Hanukkah for example is a Jewish holiday celebrated from December 18 to December 26. During Hanukkah, there are many traditions including lighting the menorah, which is Hebrew for “lamp.” The menorah also symbolizes the creation of the Earth in seven days, with the center light representing the Sabbath day, which is Sunday. Just like Christmas, during Hanukkah you can give gifts and listen to music, specifically Hanukkah music. Eating fried food is also a tradition for Hanukkah.

Kwanzaa is a holiday celebrated from December 26 - January 1. Kwanzaa is a weeklong celebration held in the United States that honors African heritage in African-American culture. Lighting candles in the kinara in recognition of the principles is one of the most popular Kwanzaa traditions. Kwanzaa is not a religious holiday like Hanukkah, it's more of a cultural holiday. Kwanzaa is mostly celebrated by African-Americans, but you can still talk about it and or celebrate it no matter what heritage you are from.

On December 31, we celebrate New Year's. New Year is a holiday to celebrate the coming of a new year. On the night before a new year, new years eve, people get ready for the celebration with their friends and family. On New years eve, people will eat snacks and meals to grant good luck for the coming year.

There are so many more holidays in December other than these! All of these holidays that are celebrated are very special!

Greek Mythology

By Nichole Butterfield

It's December, the most wonderful time of the year! The Greek God this month has got to be a really good one, right? Well, sorry to disappoint you, but I guess we're ending the year with a villain in Greek Mythology. I mean, there aren't that many bad characters in the myths, so who could I be talking about? Every one of the gods has done something bad. From kidnapping your niece to framing one of your daughter's hunters, what could be worse? Well, to that question, I have one word: Kronos.

Kronos, son of Uranus (Heaven/Sky) and Gaea (Earth) is the youngest titan child of the two, and probably the worst. You see, Kronos's father was not the best father if that's what you would call him. He and Gaea had many children before the titans, but these children were ugly monsters, and Uranus felt ashamed of them. He hated all his children and locked most of them away in Tartarus, a ghastly prison deep in the underworld. It's said that Tartarus is actually the living body of a fiery Greek demon. And I'll have you know, all this happened before the gods, so Hades was not around to stop him. Gaea, desperate to save her children, called upon her titan children to try and kill their father. Most of the titans refused, but not Kronos. With a harpē, Kronos castrated his father, separating him from the sky, thus making him defeatable. He slayed his father, overthrowing his legacy and tossing his remains into the sea. But, this story isn't over. In his final moments, Uranus said something that would scar the young titan. He prophesied that the same thing would happen to him. His children were going to destroy him as well.

So, Uranus was gone, his brethren were free, and Kronos was paranoid. He ended up having children with his sister, Rhea. (I know—Greek Mythology is very weird). Kronos wanted to keep his rule over the world, so what is the best thing to do? Simple. Eat your children. Despite Rhea's sadness, every time a child was born, Kronos just ate them. Rhea got so tired of this that when the youngest child was born, she had a plan. Rhea dressed a rock in baby clothes and fed it to her husband. She sent Zeus to live on the island of Crete, to be raised away from Kronos's rage.

Zeus grew up on the island and trained to defeat his father. When he was old enough, he came back to Athens. Rhea had a plan. Zeus pretended to be the wine-bearer for Kronos, but he poisoned the wine that he served. This managed to make Kronos throw up the rest of children! Zeus and his brothers waged war on his father and were ultimately victorious. After he was defeated by Zeus, Kronos either went to two places, depending on what stories you read. Either he went to the dark depths of Tartarus as a prisoner, or he became the great king of Elysium.

Kronos had gone from a vengeful son to a cruel father. The king of time faced much in his life until he was defeated by his son. A cruel twist, being he did similar things to his own father. Kronos may have been killed, but when he ruled it was a wonderful place for humans to be. If only he hadn't eaten his children.

BOY SCOUTS, BSA

By: Chase Rollie

Scouting is one of the best extracurricular activities there is. From firebuilding to camping, from hiking to flying, from summer camps with shooting, kayaking, and cooking to winter camps with skiing, sledding, and building igloos. From learning about citizenship to serving the community, scouting is an amazing opportunity that is not only insanely fun, but is also a very admirable thing to have on a college application. With different ranks, leadership opportunities, great team building skills, nice uniforms, various survival and first aid skills, what's not to like? Despite the *previous* name of Boy Scouts, Scouts, BSA now accepts girls as well.

Ranks

There are seven ranks in Scouts. The first rank is Scout. It has very few requirements, and is done very quickly. The next rank is Tenderfoot. It has twice the requirements as Scout, but is comparatively small compared to other ranks. Then, you earn 2nd Class. This rank has a good amount of requirements, and takes a good scout a couple of months. Then, you earn 1st Class. It has plenty of requirements, and it takes a large amount of time to do. Star rank requires you to be in a position of leadership for at least 4 months, in addition to six merit badges, 2 other requirements, and 6 service hours. Life Scout requires 5 merit badges, 6 service hours, 6 months of leadership, and 2 other requirements. Eagle Scout is the highest rank a scout can earn. It requires 21 total merit badges, 6 months of leadership, and you have to run a community service project, where the other scouts in the troop participate.



Merit badges

In scouting, there many different activities. Each activity in scouting has a badge, called a merit badge. Each merit badge has their own requirements. Some examples are:

Rifle shooting	Shotgun shooting
Kayaking	Hiking
Canoeing	Camping
Cycling	Swimming
Archery	Business
Citizenship in Society	
Citizenship in the Community	
Citizenship in the Nation	
Citizenship in the World	
Aviation	Chess
Fishing	Engineering
Space Exploration	First Aid
Life saving	Wilderness
Survival	

And this list barely scratches surface. Find the full list at:
<https://www.scouting.org/skills/merit-badges/all/>.

Christmas Activities

By Shreesti Bhattarai

This festive Christmas season is a great time to be active and do as many activities as possible! Read more to find some fun ideas to do over the break.

Christmas is one of the most festive holidays all year round, so there are lots of fun things to do with this holiday. To begin with, you could always do the classic elf on the shelf! It's not only fun for your little siblings (if you have any), but you can have fun coming up with ideas for the elf, whether it's naughty or nice. They can even bring fun gifts!

Another idea is making gingerbread houses. It's easy and artistic, but not too artistic. As long as you're patient with yourself, you'll probably enjoy making the houses! You can be as creative as possible and use your imagination. You could even bake items to put on the gingerbread house! Make the houses as cool as you want for the chilly season! Icing and candy, what could go wrong?

Speaking of baking, you could also bake cookies. Cookies will never do you wrong! Get frosting and bake some plain sugar cookies (or whatever type of cookie you'd like, but sugar cookies are a classic). You can decorate your cookies as you wish, but some ideas are a snowman or a Christmas tree. If you're feeling artistic, you could even make the most well-known, meanest person from Whoville: The Grinch! The movie is great and the character is even better! You could bake enough cookies to last enough the whole Christmas season. It would be a great way to spend time with your friends and family and have sweets to enjoy throughout the holiday season!

And of course, you could binge-watch Christmas movies! Just like what you might do during the Halloween season. I have so many Christmas movies that I would recommend you watch like these: *The Grinch*, *Home Alone*, *The Nightmare Before Christmas*, *The Christmas Chronicles*, *The Polar Express*, and so many more! Whether you watch with your friends/family or sit down alone with a big bowl of popcorn, having a Christmas movie marathon is a very relaxing way to spend the merriest time of the year without exactly having to be patient with yourself or even moving a lot. It's also kind of an excuse to eat as much candy as possible! So, get a pile of comfortable blankets and watch those Christmas movies until your head hurts! (Don't actually...it's the worst feeling ever). Either way, it's a very cozy way to spend the cozy season!

Last but not least, you could make Christmas tree ornaments! I mean, seriously, what's Christmas without a tree?! I mean, where would you sit and open all the presents you got?! And a Christmas tree isn't a Christmas tree without all the ornaments. Then, it would just be a tree. So, you should make ornaments that you can put on the tree every Christmas, like a tradition! You could make paper or cardboard ornaments, or you can even find ornaments at Dollar Tree or Walmart. Not only will you possibly start a tradition, but it will be a great way to spend time with your family or friends this wonderful, spiritual season!

The most cheery time of the year is here and there are so many activities you could do, but I hope you found these activities fun and amusing and maybe even try to consider doing some of these!

HOLIDAYS AROUND

THE WORLD

BY: BRYNN HIPP AND CHARLOTTE CHANG

When you think of December what comes to your mind? You might think of presents or Santa. Some people might think of a menorah or fireworks or latkes. Everybody celebrates their December differently. Even though you might not celebrate what other people are celebrating, it's still important to know about other holidays.

One of the most popular holidays that many families are aware of is Christmas. Many people overlook the story behind this famous holiday. It all started when the early Europeans began celebrating the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem. Another reason they started celebrating Christmas was to look forward to this day on the dark, snowy days of December. But how did this form into the holiday we very well know? Well, over time people started giving gifts in celebration of Jesus's birthday similarly to the wise men in the traditional Christian story of Christmas. Today, people usually get together with their families, make gingerbread houses, bake cookies, eat traditional dinners, and give gifts. This is commercialized Christmas, but many families still hold the traditions of Christian faith Christmas. All families have their own traditions that they celebrate Christmas with too!

Another well-known holiday is Hanukkah (Ha-Na-Kah). Hanukkah is celebrated for 8 days, from December 18th to December 26th. To celebrate Hanukkah, Jewish people light nine candles and place them on a menorah. Hanukkah, which means "dedication," commemorates the miracle of light that occurred when Judah rededicated the Temple to the Hebrew God. People light candles to symbolize the number of days the Temple Lanturn blazed. The Temple Lanturn blazed for 8 days and 8 nights. This was considered a miracle of God because there was only enough oil for one day. So Jews celebrate by lighting one candle a night. People also might play dreidel and eat certain foods like sufganiyot (similar to jelly donuts) and latkes (fried potato pancakes).

Traditionally gift giving wasn't a part of Hanukkah. Many people will give small presents like small amounts of money and chocolate coins.

Another known holiday is Kwanzaa (Kwan-zah). Kwanzaa starts on the 26th of December and ends on January 1st. Kwanzaa is celebrated for 7 days. Each day of Kwanzaa means something different. The days are Umoja, Kujichagulia, Ujima, Ujamaa, Nia, Kuumba and Imani. People celebrate Kwanzaa by singing, dancing, storytelling, poetry reading, African drumming, and feasting. When celebrating Kwanzaa food is very important, and people will often make rice, candied yams, buttermilk biscuits, spoonbread (a soft buttery bread that you eat with your spoon), fritters (a combination of meat, seafood, and vegetables), and plantains (dried and cooked bananas). After eating, families will come together to light one candle on the kinara (candle holder) and then one of the seven principles is discussed.

The last holiday people typically celebrate in December is New Year's Eve. New Year's Eve is celebrated on the 31st of December and the 1st of January. People celebrate this holiday because it marks the end of the year and the beginning of the new year. To celebrate the start of a new year people dance, sing, eat, drink, and watch or light fireworks. People will often watch the ball drop in New York City or their own town's version. It is also a tradition to stay up till midnight. Some people will go out to restaurants to spend quality time with their families. People will eat pizzas and fries and other junk foods, and some people will eat what is considered "Good Luck" food. People think noodles will give you the ability to live longer. People also eat rice for fertility and wealth in the new year. Many people also will make new year's resolutions. A New Year's resolution is when a person writes what they could improve on in the coming year as they try to become a better person.

In conclusion, the December holidays are about spending time with family and friends. It's not just about the presents you receive. Even if you celebrate a different holiday than someone else, you should still make it a priority to learn about others.

American English vs. British English Language

By Nichole Butterfield

There are many English-speaking countries in the world. Besides the US, there's the UK, Australia, The Bahamas, Canada, Dominica Island, Grenada, Belize, Barbados, Antigua, and Barbuda. And that's just a few! The English language spreads to a total of 94 countries, and 39 have English as a primary language with 55 use it as a second language. With all these countries, pronunciation has to change, right? So let's just take the two biggest English-speaking countries, the US and the UK, and compare them.

Although lots of words are said the same, grammar and spelling can be different in the two countries. The British tend to use more formal speech such as 'shall,' while Americans favor the more informal speech using words like 'will' or 'should' and would consider such language as "old English." Of course, accents will also depend on the country. In Great Britain, words that are normally just spelled with **-e-** are instead spelled **-ae-**. For example, esthetic is **aesthetic**, and anemia is **anaemia**. Many nouns that end in **-ence** in the UK are **-ense** in American English. **Defense** is **defence**, **offense** is **offence**, and **pretense** is **pretence**. Lastly, some British words that end in **-e** don't have the ending letter in our spelling. A popular example is **grill**, which is **grille** in the UK.

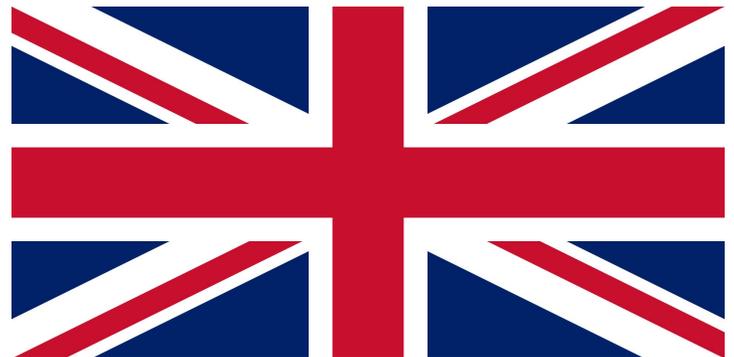
Pronunciation is most likely the biggest difference. Americans will also pronounce every 'r' in a word, while British speakers don't pronounce 'r' if it comes after a vowel in the same syllable. This is seen in words such as **car**, **marker**, and **hard**. "Car" in the US would be pronounced Cah-r, but in the UK it would simply be Cah. And I'm sure some people know about the amen pronunciation differences. There are others, such as **bald** and **missile**, which are pronounced 'bor-ld' and 'MIS-eye-ul' there while it's 'bold' and 'MIS-uhl' here, but if we were to name all of them this would be pages long.

Of course, all languages will have different words for something. In Britain, they do call many things different. Apartments are flats, colleges are universities, and vacations are holidays. In American English, 'purse' is a term used to describe a woman's handbag. In England, however, you'd typically find a purse in a woman's handbag, as it refers to a wallet. And we all know of the all-popular fish and chips, correct? Well, chips in the UK are actually the same as our American fries! Of course, our chips do still exist there, just under the name of 'crisps.' And guess what "bangers and mash are?" Sausage and mashed potatoes!

It may sound quite weird, all these differences that we're just so used to, but it isn't. If we were to ask for chips, they wouldn't give us ordinary potato chips. Their words are normal to them as ours are normal to us. Try not to criticize someone for pronouncing something differently, because, in some places, they are completely right!



VS



Holiday Traditions

By: Ellen Blayney

Christmas, Hanukkah, and Kwanza, are some of the building blocks of the excitement of the winter holidays. But there are more holidays and many other traditions, too. Mountain View students have some of the best holidays and traditions around!

The Islam faith has two winter holidays. Ramadan is when Muslims fast for 30 days and after that, they have a traditional party called Eid. Eid ul Fitr is a holiday where some Muslims go to a mosque. A mosque is a Muslim place of worship. Then they feast with friends and relatives. Food like Naan, dal, or halva puri is eaten.

Over 4,200 religions worldwide celebrate Christmas, so it was hard to interview people about the best holiday traditions. Instead, here are some classics. On Christmas Eve people hang up their stockings and try to fall asleep and wait for Santa to come and give them presents! Many religions use advent calendars, which are used to count down the days of Advent to the coming of Jesus there are 4 candles. Many people put out milk and cookies for Santa to eat when he drops off the presents by the tree. Some people even put food out for Santa's reindeer! Many Christians go to church on Christmas morning.

In the Jewish faith, the Jewish people light a menorah which is like an Advent calendar but it has 8 candles celebrating the 8 days of the Jewish holiday of Hanukkah. During Hanukkah, Jewish people give gifts and eat traditional food. According to a legend, a temple in Jerusalem had risen up to their Greek-Syrian oppressor in the Maccabean Revolt. They fought back and the Greeks desecrated their temple. To rededicate the temple they needed oil to light the menorah. The menorah always has to be lit. They soon found that they only had about one day of oil, but it stayed lit for eight days. Hanukkah means dedication in Hebrew. Hanukkah is usually celebrated in November or December.

Kwanzaa is celebrated mostly by African Americans and celebrates their culture. They then enjoy a family feast called Karamu.

In France, people celebrate Christmas by making *Bûche de Noël* which is a fancy swiss cake roll. Germans put up and decorate their tree on Christmas Eve then they get to open their presents. In Italy, they eat cakes and eat festive meals called 'Cerone'.

In Japan, they meet up and try to have meals together as much as they can. In Puerto, Rico Christmas begins at Thanksgiving and goes through 8 days after the Epiphany. In Puerto Rico, people who go caroling gather in groups and go outside there are very festive songs and it is a surprise. When they are done singing they have to invite them in and they feed the carolers and give them drinks. In Iceland, they have very different holiday traditions. They like to give gifts of warm clothing to each member of their family! In Mexico, the *posadas* are every night from December 16th to 24th. Every night someone is the host, they stand outside with a candle asking for lodging and they respond by singing the song back as an invitation to come in.

Northern Ireland families and friends gather together for Midnight church services on Christmas Eve filled with carols and candlelight. On Christmas Day, the center of attention turns to food! Families gather around their tables for a meal. Every place at the table will have a Christmas cracker, which is a festive table decoration that makes a snapping sound when pulled open, and often contains a small gift, a paper crown, and a joke.

In many place, December 26th is known as Boxing Day, which got its name when Queen Victoria held the throne in the 1800s and is borne out of the tradition of wealthy families boxing up gifts to give to the poor. Today Boxing Day is mostly known as a shopping holiday, much like Black Friday.

Some people do not even celebrate any holidays because of their religion, family, or culture. No matter what holiday you celebrate, Happy Holidays!



CHRISTMAS SPECIAL IN GERMANY: ROTHENBURG OB DER TAUBER

By: Nadia Abel

For the month of December, I will be taking you to Germany. I was 7 years old when my parents took me to the Christmas market in Rothenburg, Germany. It was just a short trip, because we were living in Germany at the time. Rothenburg is known for being the “textbook” fairy-tale, medieval walled city, but once Thanksgiving is over, the town transfers into a Christmas wonderland. In Rothenburg, I took a picture with my good friend Annina in front of a street called Plönlien. If you type “Rothenburg” into Google’s search bar, a street (Untere Schmiedgasse) from Plönlein would be one of the first images you would see. It is one of the most famous photo subjects in Rothenburg because it captures cobblestone streets passing through arches under towers and colorful houses. Why are Plönlien’s houses so iconic? Well, even though the 1940 Disney movie “Pinocchio” is about an Italian puppet maker, the artists of Pinocchio copied the architecture and medieval setting from Plönlien Gasse (or “street” in English). This iconic background is also copied in video games (Tekken Tag Tournament 2) and Japanese mangas (Little Snow Fairy Sugar). Rothenburg is also one of the settings in the movie Chitty Chitty Bang Bang, 1968. One of the most magical things you can experience in Rothenburg is Kathe Wohlfahrt’s Christmas Village which is open 365 days a year with a variety of

christmas ornaments by Kathe Wohlfahrt (Germany’s grandest Christmas store). They don’t just sell ornaments, they also sell Christmas pyramids and nutcrackers in a setting of different themed snow-covered stalls.

There is also a Christmas Museum that promotes learning about German traditions through postcards, cardboard nativity scenes, and Christmas tree exhibits. At the Christmas Market (500 years old) you’ll find choirs singing in period clothing, beautiful lights, world-famous “Sneeballs” (powder sugar pastry shaped like a snowball), and you will smell roasted chestnuts that are *to die for*. So, although I would recommend going to Rothenburg any time you have the opportunity, if you can, schedule the trip during the Christmas Holiday. It will be an unforgettable experience and provide memories for a lifetime.



Photo: <https://schmidtchristmasmarket.com/blogs/news/travel-why-rothenburg-ob-der-tauber-makes-an-excellent-christmas-destination>

Descendants: The Musical

By Alyssa Wenger

Last year, the Mountain View Players performed *Beauty and the Beast Jr.* This year, the group is performing *Descendants: The Musical*. This show is a continuation of last year's story (which according to the directors, was very deliberate). In our presentation, we follow sixteen-year-old Prince Ben, son of the Beast and Belle. However, some new characters are also brought in. These four are known as the evils. In the Descendants movies, these four teens are called the VKs. They are Mal (Maleficent's daughter), Evie (Evil Queen Grimhilde's daughter), Carlos (Cruella de Vil's son), and Jay (Jafar's son). Prince Ben is about to be crowned King, and his first official proclamation is to open the portal between the Isle of the Lost (a secluded island where Belle and the Beast secured all of the villains) and Auradon (the united fairy tale Kingdom). He chooses four initial prospects to test his theory: the Evils. However, they make plans with their parents to steal the Fairy Godmother's magic wand and wreak havoc among the Auradonians, all in a stereotypical villain plot to take over the world.

However, it wouldn't be a Disney show if there weren't a little bit of romance. Throughout the story, there are many little love stories. It starts with Evie. She crushes on Chad, Prince Charming's son. She plays dumb so that he will like her, and even does his homework for him. But then, of course, there are complications. The grand plan for stealing Fairy Godmother's wand was to spell Prince Ben to fall in love with Mal, so that she can sit near the wand during Prince Ben's coronation. The Evils put Prince Ben under a love spell, but it goes a little farther than expected. When his current girlfriend, Audrey (Sleeping Beauty's daughter), hears that her "Bennyboo" is in love with Mal, she immediately gravitates to Chad. Evie is heartbroken, Mal is overwhelmed, and Audrey is now with Chad. Eventually, Evie realizes that she is falling for a new boy. Doug (Dopey's son). Ben's love spell wears off, and Mal realizes that she wants to love him too.

Congratulations to the entire cast! For Mountain View specifically, our cast is relatively large. With a full cast of 65, our stage will be plenty full. There are 16 named characters; Mal, Ben, Evie, Jay, and Carlos are the 5 lead roles. They are played by Alyssa Wenger, Josh Huntington, Natalie Deschane, Atticus Piscioneri, and Greyson Mayberry (respectively). However, there are no small roles in a theater! Support your peers by watching *Descendants: The Musical* on one of the three nights; March 17th at 7:00 pm, March 18th at 7:00 pm, or March 19th at 2:00 pm.

Break-a-leg, actors!

WORD SEARCH



December Word Search



December	Christmas	New Years Eve
Winter	Hanukkah	Decorate
Cold	Kwanzaa	Celebrate
Pearl Harbor Day	Solstice	Presents

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Christmas in July

Written by Brenna Forti

Many people have heard of the strange tradition of Christmas in July. It is still considered Christmas, it just occurs in July, but not many people know how it started. It does truly have an unexpected origin.

Imagine this: It's 1933 and a girl just got dropped off at the all-girl summer camp called the Keystone Camp. This year is one that made history, and it all started with one of the camp leader's ideas.

Fannie Holt was a founder of the camp and created fun things for the kids using her creativity. One of the examples of her wacky creativity was how their camp didn't just have typical names for age groups like juniors or seniors. They had magical creatures in place of normal names such as elves, pixies, and dryads.

Well, this year—1933—Fannie created Christmas in July. How this worked was that one kid would pull another's name out of a box and would make a gift for them. While everyone is making their gifts for the person they got they give hints about their identity through letters.

Ever since that day, Christmas in July has been celebrated as a holiday and it soon became so popular that there was a movie made about it. If you want to celebrate Christmas in July this year, make sure to mark your calendar for July 25th.

Be sure
to
look out
for our
next
issue!

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