



NEWSLETTER
Volume #2-
December 21

INTERNATIONAL TIMES

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MONTHLY SCHEDULE

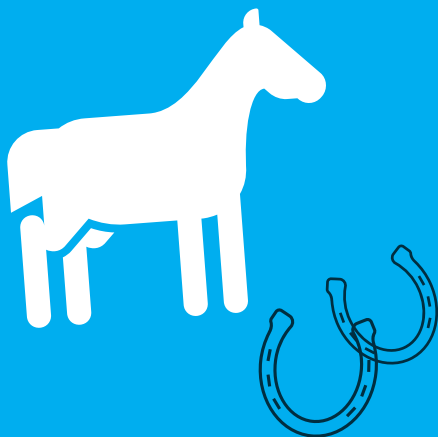
December				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
		1 1PM PT: Social Hour	2	3 9AM PT: Spanish & French Tutoring
6 7AM PT: Science Tutoring 5PM PT: Math Tutoring 3PM PT: Middle School Math Meetup	7 12PM PT: English Tutoring 2PM PT: NEW! Student Newsletter Team 10AM PT: NEW: Art Club	8 6AM PT: Social Hour 2PM PT: Science Tutoring 7AM PT: Middle School Homeroom 9 AM PT: Middle School Math Meetup	9 9AM PT: Math Tutoring 2PM PT: Math Tutoring 2PM PT: Science Tutoring	10
13 1:30PM PT: Math Tutoring	14 12PM PT - Math Tutoring 12PM PT - English Tutoring 3PM PT: Social Studies Tutoring	15	16 10AM PT: Middle School Homeroom	17
20	21 14 cont: 2PM PT: Middle School Homeroom 3PM PT: Middle School Math Meetup	22 6	23	24 OFFICES CLOSED
27 OFFICES CLOSED	28 OFFICES CLOSED	29 OFFICES CLOSED	30 OFFICES CLOSED	31 OFFICES CLOSED

HOBBY HIGHLIGHT: HORSEBACK RIDING

by Angel Khoo

One of IVLA 9th grader Sarah B.'s favorite hobbies is horseback riding! Her love for this particular sport started when her previous school took students on field trips to horse stables where they would take turns riding the horses and bathing them. A couple of years later, Sarah and her best friend decided to start visiting the stables regularly to pursue the sport seriously. Being around the horses regularly led her to develop a special bond with the ones she rode, which in turn had a positive effect on her mental health. She says, "It's safe to say I feel happy, carefree, and balanced all at once!"

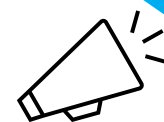
- IVLA will be closed for winter break the week of December 27 and will reopen January 3.
- IVLA is excited to announce that they have created a student government! Applications will be open from January 5-31, 2022.
- The Middle School Book Club met last week to discuss the November novel "Fish in a Tree," and we'll meet again on Tuesday, January 25th at 4 p.m. Pacific/7 p.m. Eastern to discuss it further.
- Official Art Club meetings are now beginning on the first Tuesday of each month!
- The High School Book Club is currently reading "One Of Us Is Lying." If you'd like to join us, check out the book club ad!
- The IVLA apparel shop is not open! Check it out:
- Congratulations to the winners of the Middle School History Fair!
- Congratualtions to the nine new inductees of the IVLA NHS chapter



IVLA Book Club

Join the newly founded IVLA bookclub! Exclusive only to high schoolers. The Book Club will pick one book to read and discuss each month. Meetings for discussion are held on 2nd and 4th Monday of the month, starting January 10th. We hope to see you there

Sponsored by: Emily Conz
Message Sydney(sgfisher1304@gmail.com) or
Alessandra(alerosa809@gmail.com) for more
details



HISTORIC LUNAR ECLIPSE

by Megan Schoenherr

Did you know that you recently lived through a historic lunar eclipse? In the early morning hours of Friday, November 19, the moon passed through Earth's shadow and created what is known as the Beaver Moon Lunar Eclipse. This eclipse stands as the longest partial lunar eclipse in 580 years. According to Space.com, the eclipse was visible in the U.S., Canada, Central and South America, West Africa, and parts of Australia, Europe, and Asia.

The Beaver Moon Lunar Eclipse occurred as a partial eclipse because only 97% of the moon was bathed in Earth's shadow. During the peak time of the eclipse, the moon took on a red hue. The photos included here are of the various stages of the eclipse as viewed in the Midwest in the United States.



Photography by Megan Schoenherr

MEET THE TEAM

Writers:

Maria Dominga Jimenez: Grade 8, Panama

Megan Schoenherr: Grade 8, USA

Alessandra Nungaray: Grade 9, Mexico

Angel Khoo: Grade 10, Myanmar

Sydney Fisher: Grade 12, USA

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Sydney Fisher: Grade 12, USA

TALKING WITH TEACHERS

Featuring IVLA History teacher

Mrs. Nicole Hedden from

Charlotte, North Carolina.

by Sydney Fisher



What is your favorite memory from highschool?

My favorite memory from high school is when our theater class won the NCTC regional competition and moved on to the state competition for our play "I Never Saw Another Butterfly".

What is your favorite book or movie?

My favorite book is The Book Thief. It's narrated by death. It's a phenomenal book! My favorite movie is Cinderella Man. Who doesn't love a real-life rags to riches story?

What is your least favorite food?

Brussel sprouts!

Do you have a special talent?

I sewed over 500 masks during the pandemic!

What do you like best about being a teacher?

I love sharing my passion of history with students around the world!

Thanks for reading this month's newsletter!

Continue to the next page for our special Holiday Section!

-The Newsletter Team



Join the Newsletter Team!

Would you like to be a part of the newsletter team?

Join us the first and third Tuesdays of the month on GoToMeet, or join the IVLA High School Students Discord (ask your success coach!) and send a message asking to be added to the Newsletter chat!

Interested in being featured in the next edition of the International Times Newsletter? Fill out this form:

[Newsletter Feature Submissions.](#)



HOLIDAYS AROUND THE WORLD

By Sydney Fisher, Angel Khoo, & Alessandra Nugaray

Happy Holidays! As 2021 is coming to an end, we would like to wish you a happy new year to come. Wherever you are in the world, we hope you are having a wonderful time. Check out how people around the world are celebrating their holidays in this section of our December newsletter!

HANUKKAH

Hanukkah is an eight-day Jewish holiday that begins on the 25th day of Kislev in the Hebrew calendar, commonly taking place in November and December. It celebrates the victory of the Maccabees over the Syrian army and the recovery by the Jewish community that followed. This holiday, also known as the Festival of Lights, honors the “miracle” that happened during those times: a day’s supplies of oil allowed the Menorah to stay lit for 8 days in the Temple of Jerusalem.

CHRISTMAS

Christmas is one of the most known and widely celebrated holidays in December. It is a religious and cultural celebration that takes place all around the world. The holiday is on December 25th, honoring the birth of Jesus Christ, who is believed by Christians to be the Son of God, over two thousand years ago. Christmas is celebrated by many religions, praising the spirit of joy and merry-making, and the nativity of the Christian messiah.

YULE

Yule is an ancient festival holiday celebrated by the Germanic peoples at the winter solstice. Its origins can be connected to the Wild Hunt, the god Odin, and Mōdraniht, a pagan, but the holiday has over time departed from its pagan roots and become Christianised. Celebrations often include bonfires, holly decorations, ritual sacrifices, feasts, mistletoe, evergreen trees, and gift-giving. Many of these practices have been adopted by other December holidays, but they have roots in old Yule traditions.

KWANZAA

Kwanzaa, held from Dec. 26 to Jan. 1, is a celebration of African-American culture. Created in 1966, it aims to construct a community amongst African Americans through celebrations of dances, storytelling, playing of African drums, and traditional meals. The name is derived from “matunda ya kwanza,” meaning first fruits in the Swahili language. Kwanza has seven principles, with a different principle discussed each night during the lighting of each of the candles on the Kinara. The celebration culminates in the African feast of Karumu on Dec. 31.

ŌMISOKA

Ōmisoka is one of the most important days in Japanese tradition when people combine traditional and modern customs to make a smooth transition into the new year. Families gather for the final time in the old year to have a bowl of toshikoshi-soba or toshikoshi-udon, traditional long noodles that symbolizes the crossing from one year to the next. Upon midnight, people visit shrines or temples for Hatsumōde (first prayer for the new year), and Shinto shrines provide amazake (sweet drink made from fermented rice). Most people listen to the Joya no Kane (the 108 rings of the bell at a Buddhist temple, representing each of the earthly sins) before going to bed.

HOLIDAY QUESTIONNAIRE

By Alessandra Nugaray

Would you rather . . .

get **one big gift** or many little gifts?

give up **one family tradition** or **make a new one**?

know your gifts or be surprised?

experience holidays in **1700** or **2100**?

vacation somewhere **cold** or **hot**?

get a **useful gift** or a **fun gift**?

travel or **stay home** for the holidays?

star in a popular holiday music single or a **popular holiday movie**?

eat only **holiday food** or watch only holiday movies?

only eat fruit cake or **not have any dessert** at all?

THE BEST HOLIDAY SONGS

By Alessandra Nugaray

1. All I Want For Christmas Is

You



2. Last Christmas

3. It's Beginning To Look A Lot

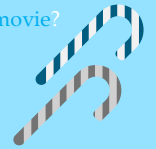
Like Christmas



4. Jingle Bells

5. Let It Snow! Let It Snow!

Let It Snow!



GINGERBREAD COOKIES

By Maria Dominga Jimenez

INGREDIENTS

- ½ cup unsalted butter, (1 stick), at room temperature
- ¾ cup packed dark brown sugar
- 2 large eggs
- ¼ cup molasses
- 3 ¼ cups all-purpose flour, plus extra for workspace
- 2 tsp ground ginger
- ¼ tsp ground cinnamon
- ¼ tsp ground cloves
- ¼ tsp of freshly ground nutmeg
- 1 ¼ tsp baking soda
- ¼ tsp salt

ICING

- 1 cup confectioner's sugar, sifted
- 1 tbsp pure lemon juice
- Food coloring

PREP TIME: 30 MIN

COOK TIME: 10 MIN

CHILL TIME: 1 HOUR

TOTAL TIME: 1 HOUR 40 MIN

DIRECTIONS

1. Using an electric mixer at low speed, cream together the butter until thoroughly combined. Add the eggs and molasses and mix until incorporated. Sift together the flour, ginger, cinnamon, nutmeg, baking soda, add salt. Add the dry ingredients to the butter mixture and combine.

2. Wrap dough in plastic wrap and chill in the refrigerator for 1 hour

3. Preheat oven to 350°F. Line cookie sheets or trays with parchment paper.

4. Allow dough to sit at room temperature until pliable, about 15 min. Take about ½ cup of dough at the time and roll out on a floured surface until about ⅛-inch of thickness. Cut out the shapes with cookie cutters. Transfer the cookies to the sheets, or trays.

5. Bake for 10 min. Take them out of the oven and let them cool.

For the Icing

Combine confectioners sugar and pure lemon juice. Divide in separate bowls if using several food colorings. Spoon icing into an icing bag, and enjoy decorating.

Done!

