

Monday,

Dec. 6,

2021

# Purple and Gold

Issue #9

## Christmas Duh

By: Jayde Waibel '23

The season of costumes, and candy has come to a close. Halloween is over, which means that we have entered a controversial time of year: November 1<sup>st</sup> through November 25<sup>th</sup>. I know you are thinking, *What is so problematic about the month of November?* November itself is not the issue here. It is the question of celebrating Christmas or Thanksgiving that makes people's blood boil.

Recently, I have witnessed this very argument in my classes here at Prep. Some of my peers seem to think that in the days immediately after Halloween it is "too early" or "inappropriate" to partake in holiday celebrations; however, I disagree. Celebrating Christmas throughout the month of November helps people cope with the fact that Halloween is over and completes all holiday activities.

Beginning to celebrate Christmas after Halloween is not too early. Without a holiday to celebrate, coming off the

rush of Halloween weekend, fueled by sugar and festivities, can lead to a tragic crash. Going back into school, with an entire month of classes ahead of you before Thanksgiving break can be a daunting task. A simple way to remedy this issue is to start getting in the holiday spirit. Turning on Christmas



music on your drive to school can brighten your spirits and make you feel less overwhelmed that Thanksgiving is so far away. There are no popular songs that celebrate Thanksgiving, which is why we must jump ahead and look toward Christmas.

It is no secret that there are hundreds of traditions celebrated during the Christmas season.

Whether the tradition is small, like listening to holiday music and baking cookies, or substantial, like decorating the tree, there are almost too many activities to get done before Christmas than we have time for. . . or are there? Starting Christmas celebrations in November means that there is more time for Christmas related activities. More Hallmark movies can be watched, more cookies can be baked, and more Mariah Carey songs can be sung. As a lover of Christmas, that all sounds quite lovely to me.

Some may argue that starting to celebrate Christmas in November is wrong because we are "skipping over Thanksgiving." To that I must inquire: Are there any Thanksgiving songs? Are there any Thanksgiving Hallmark movies that I can watch curled up with my hot chocolate? No, there are not. It is impossible to skip over a holiday that can only be celebrated the day of by eating turkey. It is impossible to get into the Thanksgiving spirit unless one were to eat turkey for dinner every day leading up to November 25<sup>th</sup>. Thus,

because there are no Thanksgiving activities to take part in (besides the day of Thanksgiving of course), technically we are not skipping over it by celebrating Christmas early.

So, Deck the Halls this November and defend your right to celebrate Christmas!

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### **Best Things to do in Winter**

**By: Zoe Galko '25**

To many people, winter is considered the worst season of the year. It's cold, dark, and besides Christmas and school breaks, there's nothing much to do. It can get boring. What many people do not understand is that winter is a season full of fun activities and seasonal opportunities to do while hanging out with friends or spending time at home. Here is a list of some of the best winter pastimes:

1. Everyone's favorite- sledding! Sledding is an activity which can be done safely and conveniently by nearly everyone. All you need is

some snow, a hill, and something to slide down on. It can be done at home or at places like McDade Park.

2. Ice skating. There are numerous ice skating rinks in our area to skate at regardless of skill level. It can be a fun activity to try with friends, family, or by yourself.

3. Skiing. Much like ice skating, there are many places near Scranton where experienced or new coming skiers can go to have fun such as Montage Mountain Ski resort or Elk Mountain Ski Resort. Be sure to grab some gear and skis and head over to the slopes.

4. Baking cookies. Near the holidays, one great activity to try is baking cookies. Whether it's with you family or with your friends, it's sure to be a fun, mess filled pastime to try. There are many

recipes to find on the internet that are beginner friendly and easy to follow.

5. Write a letter to a loved one or a friend. It's important to reach out to those who you care about, especially around the holidays. It could be to a friend you saw yesterday or to a loved one you haven't seen in a while. Either way, it's sure to put a smile on their face and let them know how much you care.

Although winter can seem gloomy at first, it's fun to try seasonal activities and enjoy winter while it lasts. Who knows, maybe you'll discover a new favorite hobby or a new favorite season.



## America Needs More Historians

By: Silence Dogood

Recent news stories indicate that the pandemic generated a bounce in medical school applications. That is a good thing. Health care professionals provide a valuable service to our communities locally, regionally, nationally, and internationally. Those stories did not mention a rise in the number of historians, however. That is not a good thing. America needs more historians now in particular.

Historians are needed to more fully understand the pandemic. Beyond the basic science of the of the virus, context is needed. History provides that context. Consider the 1918 flu epidemic and the impact of 50,000,000 dead worldwide. A student of history might draw inspiration from the response to that epidemic and the ways in which citizens rallied to help others at a time when medicine was far less sophisticated than today. History provides further context around vaccines. A historian will tell of the

Chinese in the fifteenth century snorting the scabs of smallpox victims who had survived. The story may include the immediate distribution of early vaccines to the royal families after testing on orphans. Terrible and telling tales reveal much more than just the science and delve into the culture, values, and politics of the time.

Current politics could benefit from the historian's lens as well. America's political parties are divided, some might say "as never before." A historian may offer a quiet interjection of "Well...not so fast." Yale historian Joanne Freeman wrote a book *Field of Blood* detailing the decline into violence of the American congress in the years leading to the Civil War. The caning of Charles Sumner by Preston Brooks in 1856 is best known but Freeman relates hundreds of other incidents, more or less violent, among a congress growing further apart over the issue of slavery. A careful reader of this careful text spies the links to today. Brooks was performing for a constituency who cheered

his actions. Consider too what fueled this kind of constituent-prodded behavior: the advent of the telegraph and news traveling quickly. Americans might be prompted by a historian to identify the parallels to today.

Historians question their own lens and bias. Increasingly, historians ask the question "On whom does history focus and how does that frame the understanding of events?" Is the history of American slaves recorded in the same detail as others? How about the history of women? Or the history of Catholics? Notre Dame history professor Kathleen Sprows Cummings, a University of Scranton graduate, noticed in her research that the perspective of women was overlooked. When she found historians focused on women, they overlooked Catholic women. Her research found a target. Her lens of history revealed the untold story and perspective of Catholic women, some of whom ventured beyond the walls of their convents to fight the 1918 flu epidemic by the way.

Historians clarify our present with the perspective of the past. They teach all to understand the lens through which we view information and challenge us to broaden it. American needs more citizens trained like that. America needs more historians.

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**It's hard to pick a college; Make it easier**  
**By: B. Fenwick**

High school students worry about where to go to college. Who could blame them? Schools bombard them with teasers of all kinds to lure the average fourteen to eighteen year old in the direction of this small college or that large university.

Making the choice of a college amid this noise is challenging. Some students question how to compare seemingly different places. Rankings provide one perspective. US News simplifies to one ranking system a list of schools in varying categories. At first blush, it appears that it offers the apples-to-apples comparison needed, and it might. To find out, ask what factors does US

News, or other rankings, consider. For example, some rate schools on the percentage of alumni who give to the school, the faculty to student ratio, the size of the endowment, or the average starting salary of recent graduates. Ask if these are the ways you would rate a school.

One way to make this confusing process easier is to make your own ranking system. It does not have to be complicated. Pause for a minute and consider what is important to you. You might want to be a certain distance from home. You might prefer a warm over a cold climate. Does being in a city matter? Is it Jesuit? Does the school offer robust financial aid? What if you are not sure what your major might be, does it give you time to declare? Be honest with yourself. Make this list for you and not based on the categories that others think are important. If the school colors are important to you, list it.

Once you have a list of your important factors, weigh them. The most important factors may get a value of four while lesser items rank a two or one. Don't fail to include items that are hard to measure but remain important. For

example, did the students seem happy on a visit or did the campus feel like a place where you could spend four years. List and weigh these items too.

With your list and the weights in place across the top of the page, list down the side of the page the schools that interest you or spark some curiosity. The list itself could be complicated but remember that it doesn't have to be perfect. It could grow or shrink as your search progresses. Then plot the graph. Give weighted scores in each category and tally the total.

Like any ranking, it is just a tool. You may find that all the data in the world are trumped by a wonderful visit and a feeling of attachment. If nothing else, the chart will help you process that great feeling with the reality that the classes might be larger, the climate not your favorite, and the campus surrounded by farms for miles. Or use the tool to decide which campuses to spend the time and money to visit. Whether you use this tool or not, you will have spent time thinking about your future and what matters to you. That is time well spent.

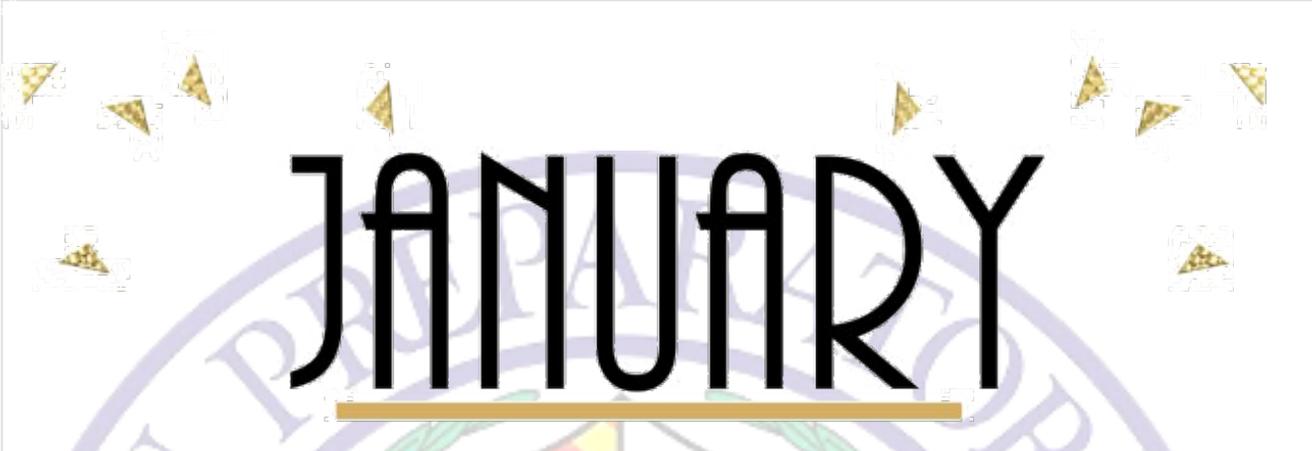
## Two Perspectives on the Ignatian Year

### **Ignatian Year Background By Clare Hann '23**

From May 20, 2021, to July 31, 2022, the Jesuit community will be celebrating the Ignatian Year. Although they do not make an exact year, the dates were chosen because of their historical significance to Saint Ignatius. May 20 marked the 500-year anniversary of the day Ignatius was injured in battle. This began the fateful conversion that would lead him to create the Jesuits, and July 31 will be the feast day of St. Ignatius. The Ignatian Year is an opportunity to learn and teach others about the history of the Jesuits, and a reminder to reflect on our lives the way Ignatius did. When Ignatius' leg was shattered by a cannonball on May 20, 1521, his life was changed forever, and that story is a lesson to us even hundreds of years later. It took a terrible injury to get Ignatius to reflect on his life, what does it take for us? The Ignatian Year should inspire us to better ourselves and reflect on the ways we can improve the world around us, just like Ignatius did.

### **Ignatian Year summary of the 500- year anniversary By: Antonio Ingargiola '25**

From May 2021 until July 2022, the Society of Jesus celebrates an Ignatian Year. What is an Ignatian Year? May 20th, 2021, marked the 500th year of St. Ignatius' conversion, which was the day when Ignatius, a soldier at the time, was struck by a cannonball. After many weeks in recovery, he came to realize that his deepest desire was to live a life of radical availability to God, and a life of service for others. The vain soldier had become "Ignatius the Pilgrim". During the Ignatian year we as a community should consider how the story of St. Ignatius might lead us into deeper reflection about who we are as a community and individuals. "As we remember how Ignatius laid down his sword and picked up his pilgrims cloak we might ask ourselves. What are we being invited to lay down? And what we are being invited to pick up?" Fr. Arturo Sosa S.J.



# JANUARY

## Frequently Overlooked January Holidays

January 1 - World Day of Peace  
 January 2 – International Stop Spam Day  
 January 3 – Humiliation Day  
 January 4 – National Spaghetti Day  
 January 5 – National Bird Day  
 January 6 – Bean Day  
 January 7 – Old Rock Day  
 January 8 – Bubble Bath Day  
 January 9 – National Apricot Day  
 January 10 – Houseplant Appreciation Day  
 January 11 – Learn Your Name in Morse Code Day  
 January 12 – National Take the Stairs Day  
 January 13 – National Rubber Duckie Day

January 14 – Dress up Your Pet Day  
 January 15 – National Bagel Day  
 January 16 – Appreciate a Dragon Day  
 January 17 – Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday  
 January 18 – Winnie the Pooh Day  
 January 19 – National Popcorn Day  
 January 20 – Penguin Awareness Day  
 January 21 – National Hugging Day  
 January 22 – National Blondie Day  
 January 23 – National Pie Day  
 January 24 – Global Belly Laugh Day  
 January 25 – Opposite Day  
 January 26 – Australia Day  
 January 27 – Chocolate Cake Day  
 January 28 – National Kazoo Day  
 January 29 – National Puzzle Day  
 January 30 – Yodel for Your Neighbors Day  
 January 31 – Backwards Day

## Recipe of the Month!

By: The Cupcake Club

### Peppermint Bark – Delish Presented By: Marin Purcell '25

Source: <https://www.delish.com/holiday-recipes/christmas/a24882732/homemade-peppermint-bark-recipe/>

#### Ingredients:

- 12 oz. Semisweet chocolate, chopped
- 12 oz. White chocolate, chopped
- ½ tsp peppermint extract
- 8 candy canes, crushed

#### Directions:

1. Line baking sheet with parchment paper. Fill bottom of large pot with 3” water and bring to simmer over medium heat. Reduce heat to low, then place a large heatproof bowl on top. Add semi-sweet chocolate and stir occasionally until chocolate has melted. Stir in extract. Pour into prepared baking sheet and spread into an even layer with an offset spatula. Refrigerate until set, about 20 minutes.
2. Over the same pot of barely simmering water, place another large heatproof bowl. Add white chocolate

and stir until melted. Pour over set semi-sweet chocolate then top immediately with candy canes. Refrigerate until set, about 20 minutes.

3. Break into desired pieces and enjoy!



### History of Gingerbread By: Grace Osborne '23

Gingerbread, in its many forms, is a popular representative of the holidays in America. It has also historically been used for medicinal properties. The first known recipe for

the treat was found in Greece and written in 2400 BC. Other cultures in Asia and Europe had their own adaptations of the recipe, with the decorated cookies being most popular in Europe. Queen Elizabeth is credited with the

decoration of cookies as people, when she had cookies made into her royal court for a medieval fair. These festivals became known as Gingerbread Fairs. Gingerbread houses were made famous in Germany during the 16<sup>th</sup>

century, rising in popularity with the story of Hansel and Gretel. Gingerbread became prominent in America with English colonization. Here is a recipe for soft gingerbread baked in loaves, featured in the first American cookbook, *American*

*Cookery*, by Amelia Simmons:

***Soft gingerbread to be baked in pans***

*No. 2. Rub three pounds of sugar, two pounds of butter, into four pounds of flour, add 20 eggs, 4 ounces*

*ginger, 4 spoons rosewater, bake as No.1.*

Please let us know if you try this recipe and how it turns out! I hope you learned something new about the history of gingerbread.

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Traditions

## Purple and Gold

Part 5

### Favorite Christmas

#### Tradition:

#### Baking Christmas Cookies

By: Nicole Scochin '23

My favorite Christmas tradition is baking Christmas cookies. This is my favorite tradition for many reasons. One reason is that I get to spend time with my mom. Another reason that I

enjoy baking Christmas cookies is that baking all these cookies gets me really excited for Christmas, and I get to eat them when we are done baking.



When we are baking the Christmas cookies, we put Christmas music on. When my mom and I are done baking, we make a couple different cookie platters to pass out to our family members. We also make platters to take to Christmas Eve dinner, to eat before and after Christmas, and to eat after Christmas dinner.

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Clubs Column

## Purple and Gold

Part 6

### Clubs Column – The Cupcake Club

By: Eleanor Farrell '23

Do you love to bake? The Prep Cupcake Club is the perfect place for you! The Cupcake Club is open to all Prep students. It is a great way to get involved in an extracurricular activity without increasing stress levels. For the past year, the club has been baking for the healthcare workers and sending the baked goods to local hospitals in

the community. During December, the club bakes cookies for the annual senior Christmas cookie day! To get involved, contact Grace Osborne, or Eleanor Farrell at their prep emails. ([osborneg23@scrprep.org](mailto:osborneg23@scrprep.org) [farrelle23@scrprep.org](mailto:farrelle23@scrprep.org) ). Moderated by Mrs. Walsh, the club is hoping to have bake sales soon, so make sure to be in contact if you are interested!

**Should Christmas songs be played before Thanksgiving?****By: Skye Williamson '23 and Liz Donovan '23****YAY**

Skye Williamson '23

Should Christmas songs be played before thanksgiving? YES. If you aren't playing Christmas music in November, what are you doing? Michael Bublé and Mariah Carey are the voices of my radio all season. As soon as November came, my mother has had Holiday Traditions at full volume every single day. Now you may be saying, "Skye, you're crazy, how is this even okay?". My reasoning behind the matter is that one can only listen to Christmas music for this short time of the year. If I play it at any other time, it just does not feel right. Beginning the magic a little bit earlier in November never hurt anyone. Thanksgiving is a one-day holiday. In my eyes, it is just a part of the Christmas season. So, in conclusion, play all the Christmas music your heart can handle before Thanksgiving!

**NAY**

Liz Donovan '23

No. Holidays always are rushed nowadays. Trees are up the second after Halloween, Black Friday sales start earlier in the November, and Mariah Carry creeps out of her cave the second the Sanderson sisters are done with their spells. Playing Christmas music is always the first step to starting the Christmas season. Therefore, we should wait to start playing Christmas music. Thanksgiving is the kickoff to the Christmas season. So, it makes no sense to rush Christmas when the season truly hasn't started.

## Purple and Gold

Moderator: Mr. Yasinkas

Editors: Jayde Waibel '23

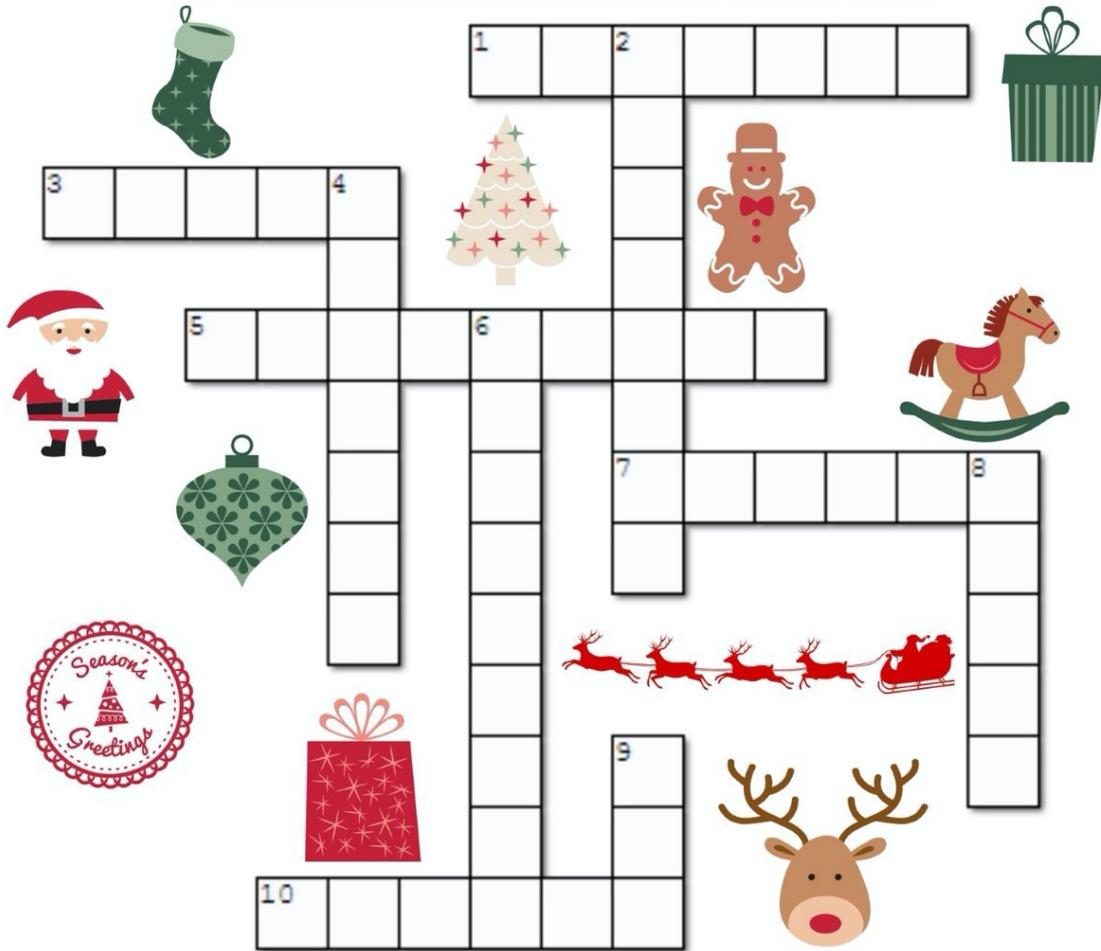
Eleanor Farrell '23

Format Editor: Holly  
Burke '24Photographer: Matthew  
Budiman '23

December Crossword  
Acquired By: Nicole Scohcin '23

# CHRISTMAS CROSSWORD PUZZLE

USE THE CLUES TO COMPLETE THE CROSSWORD PUZZLE.



**Across**

1. One of Santa's Reindeer
3. Santa's Helpers
5. December 25th is \_\_\_\_\_.
7. Christmas Drink
10. The name of a popular snowman.

**Down**

2. Christmas Month
4. He hates Christmas!
6. You hang them by the chimney.
8. On Christmas morning we unwrap our \_\_\_\_\_.
9. \_\_\_ to the world!

