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## Deck The Palms: A So-Cal Christmas

### Why A So-Cal Christmas Is So Special

Editor-In-Chief,

Alessandra Sandoval

Southern California, often called SoCal, is famous for its beautiful sunsets that span the sky over its beaches and mountains. With its own uniqueness, the area offers a variety of special Christmas events during the holiday season, including light shows, amusement parks, snow play and more. Many of these activities are unique to SoCal and are not available in other states, partly due to the constant cold winter weather.

To embrace the Christmas spirit, many people watch mesmerizing light shows, and SoCal has a variety of light shows for everyone in the family to enjoy. According to the [onlyinyourstate.com](https://www.onlyinyourstate.com)'s online article, "9 Christmas Light Displays In Southern California That Are Pure Holiday Magic," by Jasmine Vieau, the L.A. Zoo Lights, Holiday Lights Train Ride, Descanso's Enchant-

ed Forest of Light, Festival of Lights, Lightscape, Newport Beach Christmas Boat Parade, Holiday Road, Winter Fest OC, and Santa's Speedway Christmas Lights Experience are all about spreading the holiday cheer. The Newport Beach Christmas Boat



Parade is unique and truly takes advantage of SoCal's stunning beaches, with over 100 yachts, boats, kayaks and

canoes, beautifully decorated according to the season, and can be viewed from both land and sea.

Universal Studios Hollywood has countless unique attractions, such as Mario Kart™: Bowser's Challenge, The World-Famous Studio Tour, Jurassic World - The Ride, and The Secret Life of Pets: Off the Leash. Junior, David Lynch said, "My favorite ride is either Jurassic World because it's so thrilling with the drop ride after being faced with a dinosaur." According to the Universal Studios Hollywood website, from November 24th to January 1st, Grinchmas is celebrated with a tree lighting ceremony, alongside residents of Whoville, Max, and the Grinch, himself. Lynch said, "I've been going to Universal Grinchmas for about four years... my favorite part is meeting the Grinch and getting to take a picture with him."



Artwork by: Senior, Siena Yenjai



Artwork by: Junior, Danya Gonzales

When people think of SoCal, beaches and surfers immediately come to mind. However, there are plenty of places to go skiing, sledding, or just throwing some snowballs. According to the [almi.com](https://www.almi.com) online's article, "8 Places You Can Find Snow in Southern

California," by Jason Ernst, the best places are Big Bear Lake, Frazier Mountain, Idyllwild, Green Valley Lake, Lake Arrowhead, Mount Baldy, Palm Spring Aerial Tramway, and Running Springs. Junior, Isaiah Bravo said, "Me and my family go to Big Bear every year to experience the snow... the cold weather can get to me as someone used to warmth." Big Bear Lake, a favorite destination for residents of Los Angeles and San Bernardino counties, is a 90-mile drive from AMLI Uptown Orange and receives 67 inches of annual snowfall.

"The Most Magical Place on Earth" Disneyland, known by most and loved by many,

Anaheim, California has one of the six parks around the world. According to the Disney Tourist Blog.com's online article, "Disneyland Christmas 2023 Ultimate Guide," by Tom Bricker, from November 10th to January 7th Disneyland celebrates Christmas



with everything from Haunted Mansion Holiday, "It's a small world" holiday, A Christmas Fantasy Parade, Fireworks, Christmas in Cars Land, Viva Navidad, and more. Seasonal food and drink can also be found throughout Disneyland, Disney California Adventure Park, the Downtown Disney District, Disney's Grand Californian Hotel, and Disneyland Hotel.

Whether you spend your Christmas season making a snowman or a sandman, SoCal has something for everyone in the family to enjoy, making memories to last a lifetime.



# The Effects Of The Actors' And Screenwriters' Strike

Editor-In-Chief,  
Sofia Erskine

On July 14, 2023, the American Labor Union SAG-AFTRA began a workers' strike in protest of unsatisfactory residuals in alliance with major Hollywood studios. According to Time.com's online article, "What Happened the Last Time When SAG and the WGA Went on Strike Together," by Megan McCluskey, the strike, which consisted of actors, screenwriters and scriptwriters was carried out through work stoppage, picketing and unfair labor practice charges against several studios until November 9th, 2023 when SAG-AFTRA and AMPTP, the entertainment industry's official bargaining representative, reached a provisional agreement. In total, the strike lasted 118 days, temporarily halting or even permanently terminating projects both in and outside of the U.S.

Viewers are now asking after the provisional strike termination what will happen to the output rate of TV and film? Film and video production teacher, Chris Hauk said, "[From the proposal of a film] to the release date is at least two years, sometimes up to four." The lengthy nature of the 118-day strike has set projects back by as many days, confirming that an output lull will be seen in the near future.

Matthew Skurow, the chief executive officer of Miraculi Entertainment, who has worked as a producer on projects such as Society of Camera Operators Lifetime Achievement Awards (2020), PwC Oscar Red Carpet Live Stream (2017) and more has experienced the strike first-hand. "It is possible for the highest of profile shows to resume only to be rushed to completion," said Skurow. "The studios/streamers will spend considerable money to make this happen or risk losing subscribers."

Skurow detailed other effects of the strike, such as shortened seasons and entire cancellations, as there is no place for some projects in the upcoming production cycle. "But, there will undoubtedly be a gap in quali-

ty and quantity for the next year or two," said Skurow.

Apart from expected output decrease, the evident economic repercussions over this time have been a pitfall to the event. According to a Milken Institute estimate, the disruption of the strike cost California more than \$6 billion dollars, some of which included losses in wages, as well as losses in ancillary businesses that have formed partnerships with these major Hollywood studios to provide various services. Economics teacher, Darryl Thomas said, "It's not just those film industries that are directly affected. It's the surrounding industries."

The element of work stoppage during the strike has led to direct losses in the film studios, but local businesses must be accounted for as well. As employees stayed home from work, economic transactions decreased and businesses temporarily lost customers. Companies affiliated with the studios, such as catering, makeup, and costume services also lost money. A method to bring in satisfactory salaries long-term resulted in the short-term sacrifice of income and spending deprivation.

Inwardly, the actors, themselves, have taken a large hit in their normal working processes. SAG-AFTRA actress, Maya Del-

Ghost Writer (Apple TV+), and various commercials for Walmart,

The recurrence of actors' and writers' strikes can be expected. The

place that AI holds in film is still approached with uncertainty, as it threatens the jobs of writers and actors, with its capability of technological replication and creation. "The



Whole Foods, Toyota, and more. In response to her personal experiences, Delgado said, "Throughout the strike, I couldn't talk about acting projects or go on auditions.

This affects all actors' abilities to be able to get different opportunities on set and even in future projects because of the relationships formed on set."

Delgado acknowledged those individuals

whose solitary income is made from acting or screenwriting, when she said, "The strike put many people out of work. Some people didn't have jobs for a long time and that was devastating for people who solely relied on the industry to make money."

Other than unsatisfactory residuals, artificial intelligence taking over the roles of screen and scriptwriters in many settings played a part in the initiation of the strike. As Delgado expressed her concern over the matter, she said, "AI poses a threat to actors with new technology to replicate the body, face, and voice of an actor."

As AI becomes more prevalent, the stability projection for screenwriting positions has changed as well. "It's gonna be a slow decline because of the strike," said Hauk. Because the settlement between SAG-AFTRA and AMPTP is contingent.



gado has been involved in projects such as All American (CW),

unions are going to have to really fight this," said Hauk. "It's going to be a battle, because AI can just churn out scripts in ten minutes."

Contrastingly, Skurow's perception of the developments of AI is geared toward opportunity, rather than threat. "AI is the most significant development in our lifetime," said Skurow. "Fear has gotten the best of people's judgments and has sparked some irrational claims. AI in the film industry is not an alternative but an advanced tool that can speed up the entire process in all areas." Skurow's belief is that humans have control over AI, as well as the power to determine the integrity and ethicality of its implementation.

With endless possibilities in the effects of AI or threats in the eyes of some, a deal was made between the WGA and the Alliance of Motion Picture. The deal encompasses the terms that it is prohibited to use AI to create or recreate scripts. The prior disclosure of AI-generated materials given to writers is enforced, and the writers' ownership of their scripts when considering training AI with man-made materials, will be protected.

There remains, still, the possibility for the spawning of new careers after AI's implementation. "AI will revolutionize how we make films and how we digest them," said Skurow. "It is the most exciting time to be a filmmaker because AI will bring new tools and greater efficiency, unlock financial and creative opportunities, and bring new platforms we have yet to conceive of."

Just as the appearance of digital cameras, VHS, and eventually DVD's in the early 2000's, the proliferation of AI is inevitable. However, it is unknown yet what a future interlaced with artificial intelligence holds.



# Staff And Students Giving Back

Staff Writer,  
Jacob De Leon

With the advent of the Holiday season, many people turn their focus to how they can best give back to their community and help others who may be experiencing difficulties at this time of year. It really is no surprise that several staff members and students have done their part to leave a positive impact on the lives of people in our school community.

AP Environmental Science teacher Ms. Christensen has been teaching for fourteen years, and throughout those years she has become more involved with her community through her support of her students. She offers a great opportunity for students to have a safe space called, “Free cloth Thrift shop.” Ms. Christensen has created an environment that she’s always wanted and has been successful.

She also likes to be involved in student life by showing up to

school and sporting events. She believes that her efforts do help and have created a calm environment in her classroom. She hopes to continue to positively impact students, as she continues in her teaching career. Being the Environmental Club advisor, Ms. Christensen has been able to help impact her community and nature on a different level. She loves nature and feels good whenever she is able to clean it up. She has presented the opportunity for students to clean up the environment as well.

Girls’ Basketball Coach and School Proctor, Rodney Yearby gives back to his

community by coaching the Frosh Girls' basketball team, apart from his job. Yearby has always had a deep love and passion for the game of basketball. Playing basketball since a young age, he was about to play at the college level, when he was soon presented with the opportunity to play in Tokyo. He was in the semi-pro in Basketball.

After his basketball career, he soon became a father. Next, he became the Boys’ Assistant Varsity Basketball coach two years ago and he has now transitioned to teaching new freshman basketball players who haven't played the sport at a competitive level. With this transition, Yearby has been able to adjust his coaching style to what best fits the team. He really enjoys this

new style of coaching, where he is teaching these new players and he is setting up his players with a good foundation.

Yearby is hopeful that his efforts will positively impact players' dedication to the game as much as the game has done to him.

Senior, Brandon Vinluan, gives back to his community by taking full advantage of activities, both in and out of school, such as participating in school clubs, like CSF and Key Cub. Through these clubs, Vinluan has been given the opportunity to help set up events at

local schools that help run events for kids. At a young age, Brandon Vinluan saw firsthand the impact a high school student could make on a young kid. Seeing the kindness and effort high school students put in just to help run an event motivated him to want to do the same.

Apart from clubs, Vinluan is one of this year's team captains for Boys’ Varsity Wrestling. With great power comes great responsibility and Vinluan helps coach and guide new wrestlers to help them build a good foundation. He believes that he makes a difference in these wrestlers' lives and makes them reach their highest potential in the sport. Vinluan said he is, “Blessed for the opportunity to serve the community, the people that surround me and the amount of support I receive from people that I work along with. Having this type of bond is what makes a community stronger.”



## Downtown Upland’s “Switch On”

Assistant Editor,  
Kaylie Berry

Every year, the city council hosts a light “Switch-On” ceremony for downtown Upland. Many city residents attend the special event to see the magic of downtown truly coming to life for the holidays.

According to uplandca.gov, an online source, the ceremony was held on November 27 this year, at the Upland City Hall Courtyard at 6:15 pm. A store owner in downtown Upland, Maria, said that this has been a tradition of Upland's for around the past fifteen years now. Upland is a smaller city that doesn't host many events, however, this one has been happening for some time now and seems to be one of the more popular events.

People throughout the city love going to this affair and seeing the streets of downtown light up to start off the holiday season. There are some vendors who attend, usually consisting of a hot cocoa stand and a churro stand. It makes the event even more enjoyable

when people are able to have a cup of hot chocolate and a snack, while watching the lights turn on down the street.

Many of the stores in downtown Upland decorate for the event to be a part of the holiday magic. A lot goes into making this night special for the residents who go to see it. Maria said, “It takes me a while to set up my store for the event. Honestly, I would say altogether, it takes me about a week to put up all the lights and get ready for the night.”

Many of the other store owners were also extremely busy during this time trying to run their stores and be ready for the “Switch-On.” However, it seems as though they even enjoy this time. Maria said, “I think it is something nice that we

do to kick off this year, I do enjoy seeing the lights come on at the end of the day.”

Some of the students on campus go to the annual “Switch-On” every

days.” Many people who love this time of year always find the time to go. Tejada said, “We are always busy this time of year, but I think we always find time to go because

it reminds us that this time of year is special and we need to find the time to enjoy it with the people we love.”

The season is about giving and spending time with loved ones, the Upland “Switch-On” is a great event to display the holiday spirit. It helps bring people together and it brings joy to the residents of Upland. Keeping this tradition is important since it

starts off the holiday season for Upland in a great way. So many people look forward to it every year and are always excited to celebrate the holidays in this manner. Here's to another great Holiday season.







# Features



## How Different Cultures Celebrate Christmas

Staff Writer,  
Nikolas Segovia

Out of millions of people around the world, many cultures celebrate Christmas in their own special way. It can be from how they set up their house, to what they do before or on Christmas day, to even the specific role each family member plays. Even though cultures celebrate Christmas differently, they all share a special something, the same joyous spirit that Christmas brings.



Our first cultural Christmas involves junior, Raul Cabian with his ties to his Mexican heritage. Cabian's Christmas starts off with his whole family going to his Grandma's house for Christmas. They then all put up pictures and ornaments of living and both dead family members on the Christmas tree. Cabian said, "We do this so we can always remember them, even if they aren't here with us anymore."

While waiting for the food to be cooked, they all go play soccer in the backyard. After, they go inside to play a Christmas game, white elephant. Cabian said, "In white elephant, everyone brings gifts. Then, each person can take one gift in number order and lastly, during each round, one gift can be stolen only one time."

Cabian's Grandma and Tia do the cooking, while his aunt hands out the gifts to everyone. At the end of

opening up of presents, everyone sits at the table and prays for their food and family. Cabian said, "We always eat tamales and Pozole after opening up presents and praying; it is a tradition."

The second cultural Christmas involves U.S. History teacher, Mrs. Martinez, with her ties to her Filipino heritage. Martinez said, "We celebrate Christmas the way we do because of our faith that Jesus was born and we celebrate his birth." Martinez also said, "Our culture started these

traditions many many years ago."

Martinez's Christmas tree is set up with things that hold a lot of memories. Martinez said, "These memories are from my kids, people around me, and from my travels in many countries around the world." For the games, Martinez's family does a gift exchange where each person can exchange gifts with one another. In addition, Martinez's family visits the many scenes around a city nearby to Upland during the holiday season. Martinez said, "The other cultures that believe in Jesus do similar things to our culture."

During the opening of presents Martinez said, "We pray to God during this because the presents are our blessing and we also pray before we eat." For their food they eat beans, salsa, tamales, pan dulce, lachone, eggrolls, noodles and many other dishes.

Our last culture involves junior, Aiden Sevilla, with his ties to his Native American heritage. Sevilla said,



"I spend Christmas at my house with my family." Sevilla also said, "My culture started these traditions around the 1900's."

Sevilla sets his house up with different types of feathers for ornaments on his Christmas trees. Sevilla said, "Each feather represents different things; it can symbolize high honor, power, wisdom, and freedom." Sevilla visits his different family members for Christmas, as Sevilla said, "Respect is a big part of my culture and in order to show that, we visit our relatives and give each other gifts." Before eating, Sevilla's family says their thanks for the food and what they are thankful for in their lives. For their Christmas feast, they eat tamales, rice, beans, and many other dishes.

Christmas is celebrated by many different people but involves the same elements. There is the bond between family and friends as well as the desire to give thanks for what they have.



## Fusion Of Foods For Traditional Celebrations



Staff Writer,  
Chloe Arroyo

Combining together ingredients and recipes of foods from various cultures and traditions is fusion foods and mixing it up for the Holidays is a delight for some families and chefs. Some unique dishes to bring savory to the table are Korean BBQ turkey, Maui Wowee pork chive dumpings, and spiced roast potatoes with coriander, cumin and black pepper. There are many choices of combinations when it comes to fusion foods. During the holidays, many families look forward to the delicious food to eat, while still other families look forward to embracing and recognizing their heritage by creating a traditional meal. Some dishes have been passed down through the generations in order to keep the celebration going.

The history of fusion foods can be surprising to some. According to Auguste Escoffier School of Culinary Arts' online article, "What is Fusion Cuisine," by Escoffier Culinary Arts Graduate, Cooper Weber, it said, "Spaghetti was perfected by Chinese chefs before it ever made its way to Italy."



The inclusive cuisine has been around for centuries, even in times where trading took place. As time progressed, it only made sense that cultures merged with each other, sharing recipes and ethnic dishes. A few examples of historical plates that have been around for centuries are the Mexican staple of tamales, sausage, in which according to Weber's article it said, "Originated from Mesopotamia; in modern day age sausage derived from Iraq, Kuwait, and some of Saudi Arabia," and lastly curry, a dish of flavorful spices that stemmed from modern-day Pakistan. Fusion foods are one of a kind and open up opportunities to experience a taste of different cultures. Some people that have never tried a dish with mixed origins may be surprised by the rich outcomes that fusion foods contain.

The key for a delicious holiday food fusion is finding ingredients and flavors that will complement each other and balance is essential. Nutritional value and culinary techniques are also crucial to cooking up something

delicious and nutritious. Creating an abstract art concept to the presentation of these food mixes is enjoyable for some chefs. During the holidays, color schemes can be included in foods, bringing the holiday spirit to life. The popularity of fusion foods has grown exponentially in interest of the novel flavors and experience. Many restaurants are presenting fusion foods in their menus, and according to the online article, "Eternal Fusion of Taste: What is Fusion Cuisine," by Sesamo, "These dishes originate from Italian, European, Middle Eastern, and Asian cuisines." Eden Garden Fusion Food is a restaurant located in Upland, which offers Mediterranean and Lebanese cuisines, soups, salads, sandwiches, seafood, pasta, and kabobs. The menu presents different preferences and flavors!

Junior, Maikolo Brown said, "My ideal holiday dish would have to be toasted sweet yams." Sweet yams can be paired with many different add-ons, such as marshmallows and pecans to bring fluff and more sweetness to the nourishing dish itself. Brown's holiday delights are crab salad, turkey, and yams. Brown said, "I like combining foods from different cultures into one dish to embrace the diversity of one another."

Junior, Maria Curiel Alaniz expressed how the technique of mixing

foods is creative and when asked her ideal holiday dish, Alaniz said, "It would have to be mashed potatoes." According to The Mental Floss online article, "The History of Mashed Potatoes," by Michele Debczak, it said, "Mashed potatoes most likely

domesticated in the Andes mountains of Peru and northwest Bolivia." The dish is yet another holiday necessity, as it can be topped with creamy gravy and can go with almost any meal, especially turkey. Alaniz said, "My family is Mexican and we always enjoy eating tamales. My favorite holiday dessert has to be flan." Alaniz savors warm cozy spices like cinnamon and these flavors come handy in beverages such as pumpkin spice lattes and sweet treats, such as cinnamon buns and French toasts.

Fusion foods that are out there propose new experiences and flavors. As the holidays approach, some traditional recipes will be made, and some foods with mixed origins will be produced as well. Creativity is all around.





Staff Writer,  
Sophia Roa

It's easy to be caught up in the holiday spirit and the pressure to buy the perfect gift for the perfect person. However, the thrill of the nicest gifts can come with the biggest regrets—the amount of money spent. Whether you only have to get one gift or six, the holiday season can burn a hole in your pocket. However, thanks to various sources, they've come to save the day, as well as your wallet.



Freshman, Hazel Espinosa, said, "Since I don't have a lot of money, antique or thrift stores are the way for me to go. You can always find inexpensive items or clothing in good condition. Usually, I spend around five to ten dollars on a gift

for someone, depending on the holiday." Espinosa prefers the thrift or antique stores, since the prices are relatively low for the number of items you can purchase.

In a similar response, junior, Dwayne Ly said, "When I have to get people gifts for their Birthday or Christmas, I usually just go to Goodwill or Raglord in Downtown Upland. You can never go wrong with buying people clothes or shoes. At Goodwill, you can find pretty much anything from clothes, shoes, books, movies, and many more depending on which one you go to."

However, Senior, Ralph Lindamood prefers a chain store that has new items not previously owned. Lindamood said, "Five Below will always be my go-to store. There is an assortment of items there, from clothes, toys and such, and utility items. As well as the variety of goods, all prices are within a five-dollar range. I would

definitely recommend shopping there to anyone this season, because even though I have a job, it means I can buy more gifts, instead



of only a couple."

Five Below is known for their low prices for their variety of products. Their products range from snacks, art supplies, clothing, makeup, electronics, books, and toys which can fit anyone's preference.

In nymag.com's online article, "34 Cheap Gift Ideas Under \$5 (That You Can Buy on Amazon)," by Erin Schwartz, it said, "Sometimes \$5 is all you need to spend to

make someone's day. Whether it's a small token for a birthday, a component of a multipart gift, or just something to show your appreciation, cheap doesn't have to mean low quality or impersonal." As a result, even if you don't choose to shop in stores, you can order for cheap online and have it delivered to you, such as on Amazon.

Many sources, whether online or through family members, can help with the budgets and spending through this holiday season. Whether your budget is five dollars or thirty, there are always more ways to save, while buying items of good quality. No matter what, there is always an alternative.



## New Year's Superstitions

Staff Writer,  
Madison Vencill

As the clock strikes midnight and the world welcomes in another year, diverse cultures around the world practice New Year's superstitions to ensure that their upcoming year will be particularly lucky. Each tradition is steeped in culture and folklore, giving a fascinating look into the variety of global beliefs on beginning the new year.

In kiro7.com's online article, "New Year's Superstitions," By Debbie Lord it said, "By definition, superstitions are irrational -- avoiding ladders, black cats and the wrong side of the bed, for instance -- that doesn't stop us from dragging them out January 1st. From shattering dishes in Denmark, to jumping off chairs in Spain, these practices not only give an amusing touch to the holiday, but they also represent a deep-rooted human desire for success, growth, and a



better new year."

In the mix of New Year's customs, people will find anything from basic to unique traditions. Take Riley Tarczon, a sophomore, who said, "Because I'm Polish, we eat a silver fish on a cracker at midnight for good luck." The silver fish is a currency symbol, bringing in fortune for the coming year. Diana Villanueva, a sophomore, said, "My parents swear by the superstition of not sweeping on New Year's because they think it sweeps away good luck."

Emily Deering, a junior, said, "My family always watches the ball drop in New York for good luck." The iconic ball drops in Times Square, New York City, has been a cherished New Year's Eve tradition since 1907, symbolizing the countdown to midnight and the beginning of a new year. Deering also said, "My family insists we all stay until midnight." It is a traditional



superstition, which many people participate in, rooted in the belief that people celebrate the new year

exactly when it begins, for good fortune.

Something more traditional, a prayer on New Year's Eve is also considered a superstition. People perform this religious act in hope of receiving good fortune from a higher power for a prosperous year. Supporting this statement, sophomore Julian Zaldivar said, "Not only do I pray but I hold my head up high for the new year. I always look



forward to it." While that appears to be an optimistic view, it also points out the idea of a mindset as a personal superstition—the belief that having a positive attitude sets a stage for a successful and rewarding year ahead. Believing this superstition takes faith in the ability of a positive mind to impact events in the new year.

As we say goodbye to the old and hello to the new, these traditions serve as reminders of the human desire for good beginnings. The customs, which range from eating symbolic foods to observing superstitions, collectively point out the effect of tradition and the universal belief that connects people during the holidays. Essentially, they act as proof of long-term impact left by culture, tradition, and the human spirit, resulting in a tale. By embracing these traditional rites, we not only recognize the diversity of earlier times, but also express our shared desire for a prosperous, good-willing, and joyful year.



# Deck The Palms:

## Sugar Cookie Recipe Poll

Assistant Editor,  
Lianna Smith

During this time of the year, there are many distinct food items that individuals look forward to eating, such as hot cocoa, ham, and gingerbread cookies. But arguably the most prominent item would have to be the desire for sugar cookies. The basic sugar cookie is a fun and easy way to light up the holidays and have delicious treats at everyone’s disposal.

Even though many can agree that sugar cookies are a staple of the holidays, there are several

people who don’t truly know what is the best recipe to use. Using the recipes from Betty Crocker, All-Recipes, and Cooking with Karli, which all claim to be the best sugar cookie recipe, I made the three different sugar cookie recipes that can be found online, to see what the most desirable ones would be.

Right from the start, the recipes are vastly different from each other, with them using different kinds of sugar, different amounts of butter, and even different flavoring and oven temperatures. Of course, I, myself, am not enough to determine which recipe is the best. So,

by gathering several of the staff and students for a taste test, I had them try each cookie from the different recipes to see what they would pick.

To help keep the test unbiased with the participants, I decided to make the cookies different shapes and colors, so they would identify them by such.

As a result, the green ornament cookie was the Betty Crocker recipe. The pink heart cookie was the Allrecipes’ recipe and lastly, the yellow star was the Cooking with Karli recipe. Going around having people try the recipes was interesting, since there were a lot of different reviews and likes from people. The Algebra II teacher Lynn Sato said, “I like the green one the best. It was softer, had a good amount of rise to it, and the flavor was sweet but not too sweet.”

Junior, Cambria Tatosian said, “I liked the star more because of its soft texture and how it had the right amount of sweetness.”

After organizing and talking up all of the votes, the results from the

cookie poll were in vast favor for one specific recipe. The Allrecipes’ cookie won the hearts of many of the participants with several of

the participants claiming that the cookie was a lot softer than the others, being sweet but not overpowering, and overall, just the best cookie.

Junior, Perla Vargas Guzman said, “The heart cookie had a subtle sweet-

ness and a soft texture, making it the best cookie.” The All Recipe cookie may have been the winner but that doesn’t take away from the others who had their strengths as well and if anyone still wants to try these cookies out for themselves they can be found at [bettycrocker.com](http://bettycrocker.com) and [cookingwithKarli.com](http://cookingwithKarli.com)

Now, for those individuals who might have been struggling to find the perfect sugar cookie recipe to use over the holidays, the wait is over. The Allrecipes’ recipe can be found at [allrecipes.com](http://allrecipes.com), with full step-by- step directions and a guide to follow to make sure the holiday cookies turn out the best this year.



Artwork By: Freshman, Katherine Garcia

## So-Cal Winter Activities

Staff Writers,  
Zoe Panos & Molly Rhodes

If you have never experienced a So-Cal Winter before, then now is your chance! Southern California is known for its hotter Christmases, which means people can participate in cold and warm weather activities. There are so many different ways of celebrating the holidays and enjoying the festive surroundings. But here are a few possible hints on how to spend that winter break and take in the festivities of the season.

A place to visit this winter could be Palm Springs, which is known for its old Hollywood glamor set astride a desert background. It is a perfect destination for Christmas in Southern California. During this time of year, they have festive, lively parades.

Biology teacher, Mr. Garcia said, “I like going to Palm Springs during winter because they have

a yearly festival, where they have a parade with floats and everyone decorates their car with lights. I’ve been going there for years, since I was a kid. It’s called the Palm Springs Festival of Lights.” The website [psfestivaloflights.com](http://psfestivaloflights.com) has all the information you might need

to know about the parades, such as frequently asked questions, dates and times.

Another warm weather place to go

during winter is Glamis, which is a popular destination for all sorts of off-road activities. When summer ends, Glamis season begins. RVs, sand rails, quads, trophy trucks, and dirt bikes take over the expansive sand dunes, located just a few miles north of the Mexico border. Families enjoy celebrating Thanksgiving and Christmas days in the dunes, hauling with them turkeys in deep fryers and later, even Christmas trees. Freshman, Jessie

Pitts said, “It’s nice going to Glamis when it’s not too hot outside and I am able to bring my friends.”

On the other hand, some like to travel to the colder places to enjoy the chilly weather. Going to Lake Tahoe, Mount Baldy, Big bear and Mammoth are just a few places to visit to experience the cold weather version of California’s winter. Freshman, Kenzie Morris said, “I like to go to the mountains in the winter because I like the snow.” Some places in California get snow and some do not, which means that most people may not have experienced a real snow storm.

Still, others like English teacher, Mrs. Edmundson said, “I like relaxing by the fire with my slippers on and hot chocolate by my side. I just like being cozy.” Snuggling up with your favorite blanket and watching an old Christmas movie is always a way to show your festive nature.

According to

the website, “From ‘Elf’ to ‘Home Alone’, these are the 10 highest grossing Christmas movies ever-and where to watch them,” by Nicolas Vega, the top 10 most favorite movies are “The Santa Clause,” “The Holiday,” “Elf2,” “The Polar Express,” “A Christmas Carol,” “How The Grinch Stole Christmas,” “Home Alone,” “Home Alone 2,” “Love Actually” and “The Grinch.”

There are so many different ways to celebrate and show your love for the holidays and winter time. Students and teachers alike can agree that winter in California is one of the best and most festive times of the year.





# A SoCal Christmas

## Winter Date Ideas For Couples

Staff Writers,  
Yarelia Mata & Aileth Caceres

Dating in the winter is a bit of a challenge. The days are shorter and the urge to remain in bed is strong. Yet, it is the best time of the year for cuddling up with your partner. Winters in California are especially unique, as some days are warm and others are cold. In which case, date options are limited and others must be changed in an instant. Here are some suggestions on how to spend a cozy evening with your significant other.

Senior, Farah Badahah explained her idea of the perfect dream date when she said, “A perfect winter date would be going during Christmas time to see the lights. I think it’s super cute when you and your partner are walking around and seeing all these cute lights and taking pictures with them. I feel like it’s a really surreal experience.”



Considering that Christmas is the main time everyone decorates, this seems to be the most festive way to spend the day, and with it being winter, it is a prime factor for it to be cold. As a result, it allows you and the person you adore to cuddle up and stay warm.

Hopping in the car to look at Christmas lights could be on the to-do list as well. Senior, Judy Alghamdi gave great ideas for an outside date. Alghamdi said, “I like going outside. I like skiing and doing a lot of things outside. The house is boring.” For those couples who are up to adventure and being out in the cold, this is a great option. Alghamdi even gave recommendations on good places to visit for a winter date, which included,

as Alghamdi said, “Santa Monica first and the Holiday Ice Rink in Irvine and Big Bear skiing.”

In comparison to the female perspective, senior, Aiden Fisher

had a different idea, thinking of doing more things at home. For Fisher, a winter date consisted of baking, cuddling and watching



movies. Fisher’s favorite movie is, as he said, “The Nightmare Before Christmas, because it’s so good. It’s a mix between the two best holidays: Halloween and Christmas. I like Jack Skellington and Sally.”

With a good blanket and renting this movie out, and perhaps some snacks as well, one can well plan a date for less than \$20. Staying home and watching a movie can allow couples to stay warm during the chilly season. For a perfect way of battling the colder weather Fisher said, “The campfire on, windows closed, blankets, and matching onesies.”

As Eric Lopez, sophomore, said, “A winter date can be stress-

ful if you didn’t plan it out well. If you planned it well, it’s relaxing. It can be really good and a success.” Options like going figure skating, visiting the mall and watching a holiday movie, like the Grinch are all good options. Most are unaware of the unnecessary expenses when brainstorming date ideas. To some, drinks and food, like hot chocolate and cookies, are all that is needed to further that cozy vibe.

Recently married Science teacher, Francesca Hall shared her interesting ideas when she said, “With \$20 dollars for a date, I would say a cooking-at-home-type of date is ideal. I would cook and I would make an out of the ordinary meal. With unlimited options to choose from, an at-home date is just special. Dates can either be expensive or not. All that matters are the thought and effort that is put into it.”

There are many options to make these wintery nights magical. With the holidays approaching, most people are on a budget in preparation for Holiday gift spending. However, as long as you have the right person, everything can be perfect.

## What Makes Christmas Feel Like Christmas?

Copy Editor,  
Evelyn Cruz

During the Holiday season, there are strong feelings associated with Christmas. Some would say the feelings are indescribable, while many say otherwise and know exactly what and why these feelings are evoked. Is it the hot cocoa and Christmas films that make us feel this way? Is it the music and family time or the decorations?

The actual science behind these nostalgic feelings that are evoked at this time of the year can easily be explained. It is because, “Your brain recognizes the previous joy of family time and the excitement of gifting as per the feelings you had as a child,” said Justin James Kennedy, in PsychologyToday.com online article, “The Neuroscience of Feeling Christmassy.”

Christmas time is filled with joy, smiles, family time, and there

are so many factors that contribute to the feeling Christmas produces. There is being united with family, enjoying the day, doing activities, catching up, sharing a nice meal, the gifts, the cold weather, a beautiful decorated tree, and the list continues. One of the best aspects about the holidays, which contributes to this feeling is the family traditions.

Senior, Rosanna Carmona said, “A tradition my family has is matching Christmas pajamas. Every year we have a different theme.” Fellow senior, Luis Cisneros said, “We go to my Grandma’s every year on Christmas Eve and stay up till 12 to open presents.”



Obviously spending time with loved ones is important. Carmona said, “My family prepares for

the season by decorating my mother’s house. For instance, putting up the Christmas tree, decorating



Artwork By: Sophomore, Ariel Hovav

the inside of the house and in my mom’s front yard to be festive.”

Food is also oftentimes associated with memories and traditional family foods serve to cement that added nostalgia. Carmona said, “Tamales and Champurrado definitely are an essential part of my family’s preparation. That’s what gets me into the holiday spirit.”

In addition, there is the fun involved in the holiday season, which is oftentimes associated with

the gift giving people choose to do. Cisneros said, “I prepared by buying gifts on Black Friday, since they’re cheaper.”

Carmona said, “The cold weather, aka the best weather, is what reminds me of Christmas. Also knowing how my mother goes all out to see my sisters and me happy makes me feel like Christmas.” Cisneros said, “The tree sitting in my living room makes me feel the Christmas spirit.”



# Health and Fashion

## 5 Daily Habits To Start In Janurary

Staff Writer,  
Aneeka Clark

Starting off the new year means new beginnings. But what people need to understand is that new beginnings can start any day and not just on the first day of January. There are no rules when it comes to understanding yourself or life better. Anyone can choose a random day and just automatically want to make change for the better. Prioritizing yourself and your own needs should never be an option, because you, as a person, should come first at times. Health and daily habits motivate a person, benefit the future, and create a platform of stability.

When searching for peace of mind, it takes a long thought process of what is currently benefiting you and what is not. Letting certain situations or people go might make specific attributes in your life better. You just have to be willing to take a leap of faith. In the article by Leon Ho, "74 Healthy Habits That Will Improve Every Aspect

Of Your Life," from lifehack.org, it said, "Habits dictate how we live, how we perform, and the results we achieve in life." It means it's always important to have positive habits that mean well, otherwise you will only be holding yourself back.

The subconscious mind usually takes over when it comes to personal habits. The Subconscious is the part of the mind that is not currently the point of focal awareness, but it still influences one's actions and feelings. Becoming

so used to something, whether it's good or bad, means it's always bound to happen again, unless you are willing to train your mind to do something else. For example, learning to eat better, exercise more often, and going to bed 30 minutes earlier than usual could be more useful towards beneficial physical habits. Ho also said, "Positive habits are the basis of your success, while healthy habits improve your overall wellbeing and make you feel

good." There should always be a balance between health and positivity. Even just learning to enjoy your own company, while sitting in nature could do so much. Ho said, "Being outside has been found to have a profound effect on your mental well-being, mainly due to exposure to sunshine increasing your serotonin levels. Research has also found that spending even a short amount of time around nature boosts your mood."

Although being selfish for your own sanity could be nice at times, it's always nice to do something for others as well. As Ho said, "Giving compliments with pure intentions, holding a door open, or offering to pay for a stranger's coffee will keep you feeling good for the rest of the day. According to science, receiving a compliment lights the same part of your brain the same way if you would get paid a monetary award. Do this on a regular basis and you'll keep your positive mindset topped up as

well as create happiness for someone else."

Anatomy teacher, Elizabeth Salazar likes to start her day in a positive way, Salazar said, "Prayer, every day, it's prayer. Definitely not positive if I don't pray in the morning." Salazar also lives in the moment and with any stress that comes over her, she reduces it by exercising and using prayer.

Senior, Andy Moreno, explained how he likes to start his day when he said, "I can either start my day in a good way by getting Starbucks before school or just listening to good songs on the way to school."

Life can always be changed within seconds, depending on if you are ready to take a step in a different direction.

There is no rush when it comes to healing or changing, because everything has its specific time and place. We live in a world where

anything is possible, so why not take risks and be flexible. Afterall, nothing is ever permanent.



## New Year, New Me

Staff Writer,  
Alexandria Franklin

Resolutions are a great idea to promote self-improvement, especially to begin the new year. In webmd.com's digital article, "Psychology Tips for New Year's Resolutions," by Michelle Konstantinsky, it said, "People love to set goals, and setting objectives can lead to meaningful change..."

There are many resolutions that can be thought of, such as putting more money into savings, eating healthier, using the car less, saving on an electric bill, and performing better at work, to name a few.

Government and Economics teacher, Daniel Carrasco said, "The most common resolution I have heard of is to lose weight. Losing weight is, in fact, my goal for this year." Carrasco has plenty of resolutions in mind, however, he admitted to not quite following through with his ideas, as life usually gets away from him, when watching two little kids.

Freshman, Charlotte Flores and senior, Belen Siu also agreed that weight loss and having a healthier lifestyle were the most common resolutions that they have heard. Flores and Siu don't make resolutions, nor have they really in the

past. But Siu said, "People often set unrealistic goals and get discouraged before eventually giving up entirely. I also tend to fall into the

ual overall. Siu said that in general, having those goals help with good discipline and to make sure people hold themselves accountable

seen. Most people only grew lazy and gave up on their goals. Carrasco agreed that he usually becomes defeated but tries to keep a promise of completion for the next year.

Siu said, "My resolutions are long-term, as I want to work to be healthier and have a healthier mindset about my body." Carrasco also believed that long-term goals were more his choice when it came to his resolutions. Flores, however, believed that short-term goals were better because they were more likely to be completed than the long-term goals that people usually given up trying.

For the future, Siu said she wanted to make more reasonable goals, so she could make sure she improved. She knew from previous experiences that she gave up when the goal was too overwhelming. She realized she needed to give herself something more manageable.

For Carrasco's future, he said he needed to try a bit harder and stay committed but guilty pleasures have become a weak spot. After a long day of grading that piece of cake seemed well-deserved. As for Flores, she said she still needed to decide if she wanted to bring resolutions into her life or not.



Artwork By: Senior, Alexandria Franklin

category of people who set unrealistic goals."

Although Flores and Siu don't use resolutions, they both agreed that resolutions are a good idea. Flores said that depending on the type of person, resolutions can help that person to be a better individ-

for becoming better day by day. Siu also said that people are more optimistic about learning new ways in life.

The one fact that Siu hated the most about resolutions was that it appeared as if no one really ever completed them, from what she has





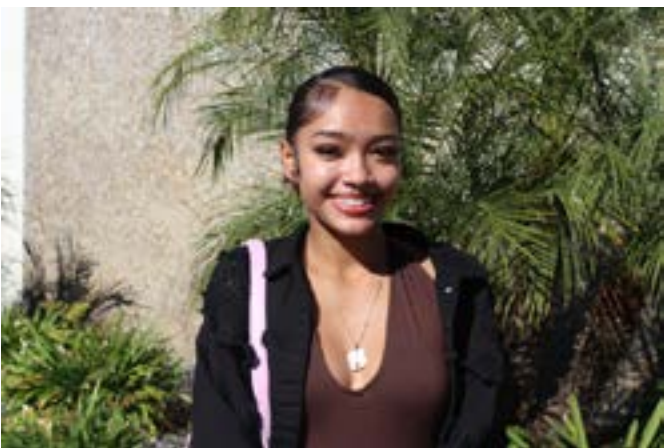
## Winter Essentials You'll Want In Your Closet



Staff Writer,  
Dianeicus West

Kicking off the winter season with a comfortable and warm outfit is essential. Though many individuals struggle with creating fashionable outfits, as they once did in the other seasons. One may feel overwhelmed with the variety of options available from the different manufacturers. Luckily, there are a few ideas that will serve as a guide for one's winter wardrobe must-haves.

Senior, Kaitlynne Romero said, "I plan on wearing a lot of tights and Uggs, specifically the boots paired with leg warmers." In glamour.com's online article, "24 Winter Capsule Wardrobe Essentials That'll keep You Warm (And Stylish)," by Talia Abbas, it said, "It's entirely



possible to look warm and stylish, which is where a reliable winter Capsule comes in."

With that being said, it is important to find stores that offer a mass selection of options. Romero said, "I like going to vintage stores. One of my favorites is in the village of Claremont and it's called Deluxe. I find a lot of my pieces there." Having cute and affordable options is always a great steal.

Romero said, "Everyone needs a good pair of under layers, an oversized hoodie, a durable pair of jeans, like Levi's and a good flannel is essential to me." As an additional perspective Senior, Keira Schwendiman said, "I plan on going to

the mall. But I really like online shopping. Everything that I wear is from online, my shoes, accessories, like

glasses and clothes." To Schwendiman, accessories are what make the outfit. Schwendiman said, "I love accessories in the winter because

you can get ear muffs. There's so much you can add to your wardrobe, even scarfs. When people say, 'just scarfs,' it

sounds like what are you going to do with a scarf? But I'm telling you can do so much with it."

To emphasize on Schwendiman and Romero's grasp of a winter capsule, Social media apps, like Instagram are an additional source to seek inspiration. In 2023, the Tasman Uggs will be dominating the shoe world. In hellomagazine.com's online article, "This is how all the fashion girls are wearing the Tasman Ugg slipper," by Orion Scott, it said "According to Google's annual



shopping holiday 100 list the search for the Tasman Ugg slipper soared 900% percent this year." It proves the point that this fashion trend is

staying for the winter season, making it essential for girls to consider purchasing

ing a pair. Girls like Selena Gomez and Gigi Hadid have been captured by paparazzi wearing Tasman slippers. Hadid paired the slippers with blue jeans, which proves that casual can still be stylish.

Ultimately, to prepare for the upcoming winter season one should wear warm and comfortable clothing options. With that being said, it doesn't necessarily have to be a dramatic nor expensive outfit. Accessories can serve to help one make the outfit individualized.

## How To Avoid The Winter Slump

Staff Writers,  
Ace Davila & Jasmine Perez

With Winter coming, so are the chilly winds and the shorter days, bringing some individuals senses of melancholy. According to Sherri Melrose's article, "Seasonal Affective Disorder: An Overview of Assessment and Treatment Approaches," from ncbi.nlm.nih.gov, it said, "'Winter blues,' also referred to as Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD), often impacts mood, energy levels, and overall well-being. However, when using mindful strategies, one could power through the gloom and embrace the light, both figuratively and literally."

One seemingly small, but detrimental component of preserving one's mental health during the typical season for people with SAD to be affected, is to keep busy with hobbies, work, or spending time with family and friends, according to Melrose.

Junior, Sarah Alvarado described what she does in order to prevent being deeply affected by the winter blues when she said, "I try to stay out of bed in order to stay motivated, and at least once a day I do something I enjoy." As Alvarado mentioned, doing enjoyable activities and making sure to be active in

the day can be highly beneficial.

In Susan Biali Haas' psychologytoday.com article, "Working With Your Hands Does Wonders For Your Brain," Haas explains how hands-on physical activities



can increase dopamine, and in turn stimulates the person to feel an emotional sense of completion and accomplishment. Furthermore, doing already established hobbies throughout a hard time of year can provide an immediate sense of comfort and familiarity. Although it may be difficult to have the initial motivation, many will find it is effective in contributing to an improved mental state during the winter.

Once the seasonal depression has taken effect, it can become difficult to carry on self-care tasks. Though this can be difficult, it is crucial to continue to partake in self-care activities, such as implementing a sleep schedule and routine, prioritizing hygiene, going outside in nature, and eating a bal-

anced diet. Sarah Barkley's article, "Self-Care Strategies for Seasonal Affective Disorder," from psychsentral.com said, "Seasonal affective disorder looks different in each person, so not every strategy will work for everyone...Try not to give up if one strategy doesn't work. It may take some trial and error to find the self-care strategy that works best for you and your unique needs."

While doing already established hobbies and doing self-care can be helpful, trying new hobbies can be particularly beneficial. For one, doing new activities can be stimulating for the brain and provide a boost in dopamine levels because of the new stimulation received. As Barkley explained, it can



cause a boost in motivation, due to the feelings it provides and the natural need to continue learning that people feel. It can apply to a variety of new hobbies like crochet, knitting, making art, journaling, or gardening. With gardening, it can also help create a sense of structure in a time where it may be easy

to feel disoriented because of the shorter days. In addition, reading can be significantly beneficial due to it being able to improve sleep, increase empathy, and can increase feelings of positivity or happiness.

Taking part in the previously mentioned activities may prove helpful to many. However, it is also important that people with SAD seek professional guidance. It's important this is done to have the right options for each specific individual explained and so that extra help, through therapy, medication, or light therapy, can be made accessible.

Alvarado said, "Something people should do to help is make sure not to isolate them-

selves from people and go to someone if help is needed." Prioritizing one's mental health and well-being is always important, but it is good to pay extra care to it during the time of year where many struggle.





# New Year's Horoscope

Staff Writer,  
Qimora Atkins Beason

It's almost 2024 and people are booming with excitement. They want to know what the new year will have in store for them and often turn to their zodiac sign. With help from the online website, bejan-daruwalla.com and predictions made by Chirag Daruwalla, the son of Astrologer Bejan Daruwalla, here are a few tips to help make 2024 the best year yet.

Aquarius: ♒

Aquarius luck is beyond normal during the month of January. During this time, you can expect Aquarius to earn money, solve problems, and make good relationships. Also, Aquarius will start to see their other personalities come out during the new year too.

Capricorn: ♑

Not only will Capricorns be good planners this year, but they will also bring much joy to their families. Capricorns will also have a great school year and they will be especially good when it comes to studying. Families with a Capricorn in the new year will be sweet with them. Capricorns have a great year ahead of them.

Pisces: ♓

During the year 2024, Pisces will get along well with their siblings. But they will only be at their

peak at the first part of the year and they will have to face many problems, lack focus, and will be tense about many things in life. If Pisces study and listen to their teacher, they will be able to pass their exams with flying colors.

Aries: ♈

For Aries, 2024 will be a very positive period in their life. Challenges will help provide new lessons and maturity to help shape their plans into the right direction for success. It will also help with growth in all realms of life. For school life, Arises will have to work hard and overcome many obstacles with studying but in the end, with much hard work along the way, they will pass all exams with good scores. Aries who are trying to get into fields of engineering and medicine will have a very special year, so study hard.

Taurus: ♉

Taurus will be the luckiest zodiac sign this year. Study-wise Taurus will do excellent and will ace exams easily. Still Taurus, when you don't understand the subject you will get help, classmates and teachers will be willing to help you.

Gemini: ♊

Gemini, during the new year you will experience a normal time during 2024. You work hard and, on the way, you will receive amazing gifts. But you will

then encounter problems during the later days. But a normal year will come to you. During your career field, you have to work very hard but after August, it's smooth sailing.

Cancer: ♋

The time of 2024 for you Cancer is going to be good for money and job-wise. During the second part of the year, you will get good news, so other all Cancer will have good year.

Leo: ♌

The year for you Leo is the most extravagant of all. You may have to help a kid here and their and during your education journey will have a downfall. You will have a weak state of mind but when studying, you will slowly lose interest and fall out of line sometimes with your family. You will have an amazing time with them.

Virgo: ♍

Virgo just like every year, you will still have a good relationship with your father and for any single Virgos out there, during the new year you will find a lover and be committed. Your education will be hard if you keep getting distracted and due to the health problems, you have a harder time concentrating.

Libra: ♎

Libra your luck is

high with your education, you have a good relationship with your family but due to troubled times with the property of the house you live in, the relationship will get rocky. Any Libras out there that have any siblings will have a bitterness between them.

Scorpio: ♏

Scorpio your progress in your job or career will help you climb to the top. In your family, you will be the happiest one and your relationship with your siblings will be the same. Family life for you Scorpio is the main focus and you will receive tons of love from your relatives and your relationship is the same throughout the year.

Sagittarius: ♐

Sagittarius 2023 has been ruffing for you, so during the time of 2024 you will have the most relaxing year. You will be busy from time to time but other than that, you have the most relaxing year of all.

December Playlist







Staff Writers,  
Hannah Chavez & Malachi Garcia

Christmas movies can play a major role in helping people to embrace the holiday spirit. The activity is as popular and effective in inciting holiday cheer as playing Christmas music, baking Christmas cookies, or putting up Christmas lights and decorations. It is a winter tradition for many to watch stop-motion Christmas features from throughout the 1960's and the early 1970's.

It is during this time of year that specifically the production company Rankin/Bass' Christmas television specials begin to air on television. According to the vox.com's online article, "The makers of Rudolph also created some of the most off-the-wall Christmas specials ever," by Emily St. James, "Just in the Christmas special subgenre alone, Rankin/Bass made 18 specials, of varying length and ambition, between 1964 and 1985. Nearly all of these films revolve around the performance of some

Christmas song or another. Nearly all of them deal with the crippling scars of childhood shame."

St. James also said, "Founded by Arthur Rankin, Jr., and Jules Bass, the studio did a fair amount of hand-drawn animation but was best known for its stop-motion animation, featuring tiny, doll-like figures that moved through hand-crafted wonderlands. Rankin and Bass directed most of the studio's output, and they worked with many of the same collaborators over and over again,

including writer Romeo Muller and musical director Maury Laws."

The movies often call forth fond childhood memories to people's minds and instantly spark a warm, fuzzy, Christmas feeling in their hearts.

English teacher, Richard Villanueva, science teacher, Matt Benedict, and ceramics teacher, Sean Bruce are examples of some of the many people who grew up watching these movies. When asked what their favorite Rankin/Bass

feature was, Villanueva and Benedict said that "Rudolph The Red-Nosed Reindeer" were their favorite, whereas Bruce said, "Frosty the Snowman" was his favorite.

When asked if he would consider these movies as part of his yearly Christmas tradition, Mr. Bruce said he definitely considers these movies as being part of his Christmas tradition and said, "They bring you back to a different day when dad controlled the t.v., but when these were on, it was time to watch the things that you wanted to watch. Watching them now brings back those fond memories and you try and pass that feeling onto your kids and hope they pass it down as well."

When asked why he considers Rudolph The Red-Nosed Reindeer to be special to him, Villanueva said that he remembers when he was a kid and, "Being the only Asian kid in the whole school" and that "It felt good to watch other people that were different or things that were different that people wanted or were important. It was a

huge message for me as a kid that being different was okay because I think we're so programmed to think that we should be like everybody else." Villanueva recalled these thoughts when he saw the Isle of Misfit Toys scene in the film.

The movies have continued to make a lasting impression on people throughout the generations. When asked why he thought there was such an impact, Bruce said, "It brings people back to a day when things were simple and with so much going on in the world, it's nice to just sit back and lose yourself to a simple cartoon."

Even though Bruce was the only one who could remember the movies when they first came out, all of them do remember watching these movies growing up during the holidays. Villanueva shared that his kids are scared of the movies now, so he can't watch them. However, Bruce and Benedict both plan on watching them this holiday season.



## Binge-Worthy Shows For Cold Winter Nights

Staff Writer,  
Mayte Pompa Guerrero

Movies and Music are the best way to put someone into a certain mood or to reminisce on a certain feeling. But experiencing that Christmas spirit may vary depending on people's habits and the traditions of their households. Television shows are also an intriguing way to reminisce over that bit of Christmas nostalgia. People all tend to have their favorite television and films to binge but here are a few recommendations.

The New York Times recommended shows like "The Last Of Us" and "Velma" to watch this winter season. However, students and staff also pitched their favorite shows to watch. Video Production and Broadcasting teacher, James Miura said, "Me and my family

enjoy watching the Peanuts' Charlie Brown Specials. I think it's a cute film that kids can relate to. Me and my wife feel Charlie Brown is significant for us because of childhood nostalgia." Miura also mentioned Christmas Specials from shows like Happy Days and The Office.

English teacher Mr. Jazyk said, "Marvel has a new TV show coming out for the holidays so that's gonna be great. Also, the Hawkeye show is Christmas themed, so I am going to rewatch that." He

also said, "Old episodes of Friends, The Office and Parks and Recreation are great to watch for that Christmas spirit. It's happy. It's fun and it feels like Christmas."

Although most TV shows are not completely set and surrounded during winter, mostly every show will have a Christmas Special.

Gilmore Girls, a series based on the relationship between a single mom, Lorelai Gilmore and her teen daughter, Rory Gilmore, is set in a town called Stars Hollow, known for its Christmas and fall spirit.

Another interesting show is Daisy Jones and The Six, a miniseries based on a band, the conditions that made them so popular and the conflicts that drove the band apart. If in the mood for something seasonal, try Dash & Lily, a comedy series about two teenagers living in New York City, who catch feelings for each other and confess their feelings through written messages.

Junior, David Lynch said, "I like the show Dash & Lily because that's my favorite winter time show. It gets you in the spirit and makes you feel warm on the inside. I recommend it. It's a 10/10 and I like how at first, they were dis-

tant and came together at the end. They came together in such a good way at the end. "

In people.com's online



article, "17 of the Best Shows to Cozy Up to This Winter," by Andrea Wurzbarger, she recommended The Crown. Wurzbarger described the show when she said, "Nothing says cozy quite like a British accent and



the many triumphs and pitfalls of the Royal Family. Perfect for snuggling up with a spot of tea. "





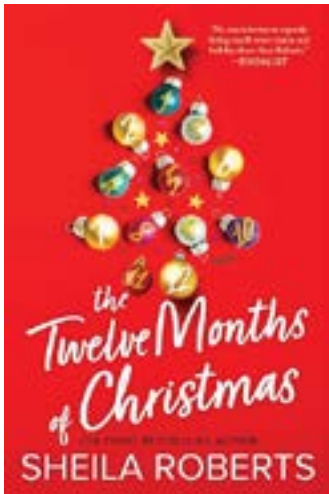
# Arts And Entertainment

## Best Winter Books To Curl Up With

Staff Writers,  
Taylor Jones & Sylvana Mendoza

For all the avid readers out there, this year has brought in many binge-worthy books to snuggle up with this cold season. Bestselling author, Sheila Roberts, along with many other great authors. have published Christmas books just in time for the upcoming holiday season. Fortunately, books from all genres can capture the holiday spirit but in case you are not sure where to look, here are some worthy recommendations.

Christmas is the holiday that fosters togetherness so it is no surprise that feel-good romance is



the most read genre this season. One great book to read for all the romance lovers would be “The Twelve Months of Christmas,” by Sheila Roberts. In the online review given by storybookreviews.com, it said, “This novel has all the feels - from joy to anger to sadness and love. This band of friends is there through thick and thin, the ups

and downs, which is what all true friends do. That isn't to say they don't have their disagreements or misunderstandings, but this trio represents what friendship should look like.”

English teacher, Stacy Little, attested to this note-worthy book when she said, “It’s the message that even though we have major



Artwork By: Freshman, Angelica Felix

problems, everyone has problems, and these women get together and they try to solve their problems together and support each other.”

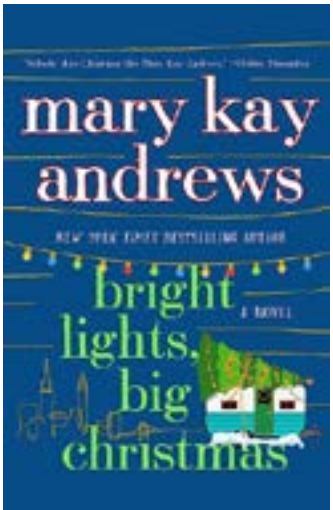
Christmas is the time to feel nostalgic and it makes everyone

feel like a kid again, no matter the age. English teacher, Marc Alzamora, read the romantic mystery “Bright Lights, Big Christmas,” written by Mary Kay Andrews. While Alzamora was reading this book he said, “This book makes me feel nostalgic because I was born and raised on the East Coast in Philadelphia. There were some

things I could kind of relate to when they were talking about New York City. For instance, the city, the vibe, the weather, that's what I grew up with in Philadelphia.”

The book reminded Alzamora of Christmas because of the time it took place in the book, which was December and how the weather was. Alzamora said, “When you talk about the weather back east, it’s very different from the weather here. The weather back east, you've got 20’s; you've got 30’s, 40’s; you've got the snow and the high wind and that's just not something you experience here.”

During this season, books are one of the best ways to put yourself into the Christmas spirit. So many genres represent Christmas that it is hard to choose just one. Some honorable mentions of all genres of Christmas books include: “The Ex-Mas Holidays,” by Zoe Allison, “You Make it Feel Like Christmas,” by Tony Shiloh, and “Wreck the Halls,” by Tessa Bailey. Now that these recommendations have been given, go grab one of these great books to make this Christmas feel just a little bit cozier.



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Mayte Pompa Guerrero

Taylor Jones

Yareli Mata

Sylvana Mendoza

Zoe Panos

Jasmine Perez

Molly Rhodes

Sophia Roa

Nikolas Segovia

Madison Vencill

Dianeicus West