PHOENIX, ARIZONA

IMS NEWS

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DECEMBER 2026

CREATED BY STUDENTS FOR STUDENTS

Written by INN students under the direction of Dr. Slamowitz



FROM THE DESK OF YOUR IMS ADMIN TEAM: DR. MICHAEL AND MS. MASTROPOLO

Welcome back, Trojans!

We hope everyone had a restful Thanksgiving break and enjoyed some quality time with family and friends.

Now that we are recharged, it is time to gear up for the home stretch. With just 15 school days left until winter break, now is the time to stay focused, maintain your great habits, or put in that extra push to boost your grades before the semester ends.

As we head into December, remember that showing up every single day makes all the difference. Attendance often dips around the holidays, but being in class and ready to learn is the biggest key to your success.

We are proud of all you have accomplished so far. Let's keep the momentum going, lead with kindness, and finish the semester strong!

Ingleside Administration

ATTENDANCE MATTERS AT IMS

Attendance matters here at Ingleside Middle School and is important to the learning process. Firstly, being at school daily ensures access to a structured and comprehensive education. Regular attendance ensures you can benefit from Ingleside's unique & diverse curriculum, giving students the knowledge and skills necessary for personal and professional development.

Did you know that if you attend school regularly you are more likely to do better on reading and math assessments than someone who does not attend school regularly.



NURSE PARDO

TTis the Season to be Nauseous — Fa, La, La, La, Ughhhhh

The holidays bring joy — and often unwanted gastrointestinal troubles like viral gastroenteritis (the "stomach bug") and food poisoning. Both cause inflammation of the stomach and intestines, but they differ in origin and transmission. Viral gastroenteritis is usually caused by viruses such as norovirus and spreads easily through contaminated surfaces and person-to-person contact. Foodborne illness results from bacteria, viruses or parasites by consuming contaminated food or drink due to poor hygiene, improper food handling, or incorrect storage temperatures; common culprits include poultry, eggs, dairy, seafood, and unwashed produce.

Symptoms from either condition typically improve with time as the body clears the infection or irritant. The most important supportive measures are staying hydrated and eating bland, easy-to-digest foods — for example, applesauce, crackers, and broth — to provide gentle nutrition without upsetting the stomach. Over-the-counter medicines can relieve some symptoms, but they do not eliminate the underlying cause; recovery can take from a few days to a week depending on the illness and amount consumed.

Prevention is crucial, especially during holiday gatherings. Practice thorough handwashing, avoid sharing utensils or personal items when someone is ill, ensure produce and hands are washed, and keep perishable foods at safe temperatures. Also, give sick family members some space to reduce spread.

These simple steps — proper hygiene, food safety, and staying home or apart when ill — help protect you and loved ones, making holiday celebrations healthier and m enjoyable.



HAVE A GREAT DAY TROJANS, AND REMEMBER UR-IT!

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NP4H ELITE

When you think of December you think of the holidays, presents, hot chocolate, and spending time with family. School is still in session with three weeks left. That means there is a monthly theme. The No Place 4 Hate theme for December is friendship. What does friendship really mean? Friendship is central to the No Place 4 Hate because it promotes respect, empathy, and inclusion among students. Yes all of those things are great but the most important thing about this season is hanging out with friends and family. Friendship is a very important thing to have in life and can look different in many different ways. You do not want to let anyone never feel lonely and want to make sure that people have someone to talk to and people to hang out with. Everyone has somebody who can be their friend. All you have to do is talk about hobbies, what you like to do, or what you like to eat. Try making a new friend this month here at Ingleside.

During December friendship and families are very important. The whole point of the holiday season is to help others and spend time together. It is always nice to have a friend to help. The best thing about this December is not just holidays, presents, or hot chocolate, it is the power of a good friendship.





OFFICER SHANE TO THE RESCUE



Happy Holidays Ingleside!

As we begin to wrap up the semester and start thinking about the upcoming time off, I would like share SRO Shane's words of wisdom. Time off can be both exciting and challenging. During the school year, our lives are more structured. We have school, clubs, sports, and other recreational activities. There is a set schedule, and we all stay busy. SO… what happens when this structure is replaced with free time?

Do not catch the Boredom bug. This bug may make you susceptible to doing something you are not supposed to do and get you into trouble. This bug could just be waiting for you to be vulnerable… just like peer pressure.Don't give in! And be aware, it is contagious. While hanging out with friends, be wary of doing something you are not supposed to do.Ask yourself, would SRO Shane approve of this, would my parents, and what are the potential consequences?!

I encourage everyone to relax, re-charge, hang out with family, and enjoy the winter Holidays! Some may travel, some may stay home, while others may not know yet. My best advice is try to keep some structure; be intentional, be deliberate, stay busy, and be constructive with your time. Try starting a project, hanging out with family and friends, catch a movie, read a book, go shopping, make ornaments, test your culinary skills, etc…

Equally important is managing your sleep schedule, don't stay up too late knowing how hard it is to adjust when school starts back up. Those early mornings can be tough! The more structure we have on school breaks, the easier it is to return when school begins. Lastly, remember how much you have already accomplished in the first semester and try to keep up on the progress and the momentum for the next semester.

Enjoy you time off and have a great Holiday!

PEARL HARBOR DAY

Every year on December 7, Americans observe national Pearl Harbor day. On this date in 1941, Japanese forces launched a suprise attack on the U.S. naval base at pearl harbor, Hawaii. during the 2 hour attack, 21 U.S. ships and more than 300 aircraft were damaged or destroyed and More than 2,400 Americans lost their lives. The next day,congress declared war, officially bringing the united states into World War 2. Today, Americans honor the bravery and sacrifice of the service members and civillans who were there by flying flags at half staff and visiting memorials like the USS Arizona in Hawaii. President Franklin D. Roosevelt famously called December 7 "a date which will live in infamy." Taking a moment to remeber this day reminds us of the courage and unity shown by the nation during a dificult time. Even though it is not a federal holiday where schools and businesses close, communities across the country hold special ceremonies and moments of silence at 7:55 a.m, The exact time the attack began. Pearl Harbor Day teaches us to never forget the heroes who helped protect our freedom.



DID YOU KNOW:

Christmas:

- The biggest gift ever was the Statue of Liberty from France to the United States on Christmas Day.
- The largest gingerbread house used over 3000 pounds of sugar.
- In Japan over 3.5 million people eat KFC..1.76 billion candy canes are made each year.
- Santa's suit originally was blue, green, and purple. Not red!

Hanuukah:

- The menorah symbolizes the miracle of the oil lasting eight days.
- Gift giving is a common tradition.
- Hanukkah is synonymous with latkes and fried potato pancakes.
- Gelt, chocolate coins & sufganiyot, jelly-filled dougnuts are the popular treat.

Winter:

- The largest snowman was 122 feet tall
- The Chinese Plum Tree blooms in winter
- The 1st winter olympics was in 1924
- Snowflakes have six sides
- North Pole has a day of 24 hour darkness
- Monarch butterflies migrate each winter.

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AWAY FOR THE DAY

Students please make sure to have your phones off during the whole school day and in your backpacks and it away from gate to gate meaning you don't bring it out before the end of the day.

IMS consequences for violation of Away for the Day Policy:

First will be a verbal warning
Second will be taking your phone down to the office.
Third will be the phone will be in the office and your parents/guardians will be contacted.

CELEBRATIONS AROUND THE WORLD

Christmas: Christmas is a holiday that is celebrated on December 25th, and celebrates the birth of Jesus Christ. Many people around the World celebrate this holiday. Common traditions are decorating a Christmas tree, exchanging gifts, spending time with loved ones, singing carols, and finally stories about Santa Claus. Santa Clause is a old, and big guy that wears a red suit, santa hat, and delivers gifts to all the good children on the nice list.

Hanukkah: Hanukkah is an eight day Jewish holiday known as the festival of lights. It celebrates the rededication of the Second Temple in Jerusalem and the miracle of a small amount of oil lasting eight days. Families celebrate by lighting a menorah, playing Dreidel, eating traditional foods, and exchanging gifts.

Kwanzaa: Kwanzaa is a seven day African American holiday celebrated from December 26th to January 1st. It honors African heritage, culture, and traditions. Each day focuses on one of seven principles, including unity, self determination, creativity, and faith. Families celebrate by lighting candles, sharing meals, exchanging gifts, and spending time together.

IMS USES IXL FOR ELA AND MATH

As you know IMS uses IXL for Math and ELA. IXL is a computer based program that provides individual learning for students. During advisory you are assigned a grade level skill on Tuesday it is Math and Thursday it is ELA. You should be scoring a smart score of 80 on these lessons. Throughout the week your arena needs to be entered and worked in as well as completing recommended lessons from your teachers. There should be NO I am done with all my IXL lessons as there are many skills in the software to work on.

TARDY POLICY

DON'T BE LATE!

Getting to classes on time is important. Here at Ingleside we have a tardy policy. Each class period teachers will track your tardies. When you reach 4 tardies per class period, lunch detention will be assigned to be served in the cafeteria. If you continue to be tardy to a certain class and it is a pattern, adminstration will be speaking to you as well as a parent conference. You can not learn if you are late to class.

FESTIVE WINTER DRINKS

The Famous Grinch Punch
Ingredients:
- 1 gallon Hawaiian Punch Lemon-Lime Splash
- 1 bottle (2-liter) lemon-lime soda (chilled)
- 1 quart lime sherbet
- Red sanding sugar (for the rim)

Sparkling Cranberry Pineapple Punch
Ingredients:
- 4 cups cranberry pomegranate juice
- 2 cups pineapple juice
- 2 cups ginger ale or sparkling cider
- Fresh cranberries and orange slices for garnish

Cozy and Warm hot cocoa
Ingredients:
- 1.5 cups heavy whipping cream
- 1 can (14 oz) sweetened condensed milk
- 6 cups whole milk
- 2 cups semi-sweet chocolate chips (or white chocolate for a "Snowman" cocoa)
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract

Warm Caramel Apple Cider
Ingredients:
- 1/2 gallon apple cider
- 1/4 cup brown sugar
- 2 cinnamon sticks
- 1/2 cup caramel sauce

Cherry "Shirley Temple"
Ingredients:
- Ginger ale
- Grenadine or maraschino cherry juice
- Maraschino cherries
- Lime wedges

Christmas Peppermint Italian Soda
Ingredients:
- Club soda or sparkling water
- Peppermint syrup (non-alcoholic)
- Heavy cream
- Crushed candy canes

Hot Cocoa Eggnog
Ingriedents:
- Hot cocoa mix
- Eggnog
- Crushed pepermint
- whipped cream

A fun family activity which one is your favorite.

DECEMBER SCHOOL CALENDAR

December 2: Sports Against Cheyenne
Away: Boys soccer and Boys Basketball
Home: Girls soccer and Softball
December 3: CMAS at Lunch /Spelling Bee
December 7: Sports Against Mohave
Away: Girls soccer and Softball
Home: Boys soccer and Boys Basketball
December 8: Advanced Band Concert at Arcadia
December 11: Winter Dance
December 15: Winter Choir Concert
December 16: NJHS Meeting and Community Service Logs Due
December 17: Band and Orchestra Concert
December 18: NP4H Friendship Lunch Event
December 18: End of Second Quarter (Full Day of School)

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TOY HALL OF FAME FINALISTS



HOLIDAY JOKES

- What do you get if you cross a snowman and a dog? Frost-bite.
- Why did the tree go to the barber? It needed a trim.
- What's an elf's favorite musical genre? Wrap music.
- Why are Christmas trees bad at knitting? They always drop their needles.
- What do you give a snowman with a fever? A chill pill.
- Why did the reindeer take up boxing? He wanted to be a heavy sleigh-weight.
- What did one snowman say to the other who was complaining? "Don't worry — you'll melt under pressure."

SCHOOL DANCE

What is a better way to spend your evening than going to an Ingleside school dance hosted by student council. The winter dance theme will be **Winter in Paris**. It will be amazing with everything you could imagine like food, drinks, and fun.

When: December 11, 2026
Where: Ingleside Cafertia
Time 5:00 to 7:00 pm
Cost: $10.00 (If you dress formal $8.00)
bring money for refreshments and snacks



DECEMBER ACT OF KINDNESS COUNTDOWN

Spread kindness all month long with our December Kindness Countdown! Complete one act of kindness each school day and help make our school a happier place.

December 1 Hold a door open for someone today
December 2 Give someone a sincere compliment
December 3 Thank a teacher or staff member
December 4 Invite someone new to join your group
December 7 Pick up litter around campus
December 8 Smile and greet people you pass
December 9 Share school supplies with someone in need
December 10 Write a thank you card to a school employee
December 11 Than your bus driver or parent that took you to school
December 14 Cheer on a classmate's success
December 15 Practice patience and kindness all day
December 16 Encourage a friend who is having a bad day
December 17 Offer to help a teacher clean up
December 18 Tell a family member why you appreciate them

Remember: Even the smallest act of kindness can make a big difference!

GOODBYE 2026, HELLO 2027

Goodbye 2026, Hello 2027!

As we turn the page to a brand-new year, our school community looks back on the amazing memories, achievements, and friendships that made 2026 special. From exciting classroom projects and school events to athletic victories and creative performances, this year was filled with moments that helped us learn, grow, and shine.

Now, we welcome 2027 with enthusiasm and optimism. A new year brings new opportunities to set goals, try new things, and make a positive impact in our school. Whether you're aiming for better grades, joining a club, making new friends, or simply bringing your best effort each day, this is your chance to make 2027 your best year yet.

Let's celebrate the lessons we've learned, cherish the memories we've made, and look forward to all the adventures ahead.

Goodbye, 2026. Hello, 2027. Let's make it an amazing year together!

WOULD YOU RATHER WINTER EDITION

Would you rather
Build a snowman or make snow angels?
Would you rather
Drink hot chocolate or eat warm cookies?
Would you rather
Wear a funny winter hat or cozy mittens?
Would you rather
Slide down a snowy hill or ice skate on a pond?
Would you rather
See a polar bear or a penguin?
Would you rather
Have a snowball fight or go sledding?
Would you rather
Read a book by the fireplace or watch a winter movie?
Would you rather
Bake cookies or make a gingerbread house?
Would you rather
Feed birds in winter or watch squirrels play?
Would you rather
Ride in a sleigh pulled by a horse or ride in a snow truck?

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DECEMBER FUN FACTS

- December was the original 10th month of the year!
- The Wright brothers had their first flight in December of 1903!
- Apollo 8 orbited the moon in December of 1968!
- Decembers birthstone is tanzanite
- On some of the first Christmas tree decorations were edible
- December 12th is Poinsettia Day
- The tradition of giving Hannukah gelt (money) comes from 17th-century Poland
- The December full moon known as the Cold Moon will start on the 31st
- The name December comes from the Latin decem for "ten", as it was the 10th month in the Roman Calendar
- The winter solstice, usually on December 21 or 22, marks the shortest day and longest night of the year in the Northern Hemisphere.
- December is one of only a few months that always begins on the same day of the week as September.
- Reindeer can run up to 50 miles per hour and are excellent swimmers.
- The largest snowflake ever recorded reportedly measured 15 inches wide in Montana in 1887.
- Candy canes were first made as a straight white sticks before the familiar curved shape was added.
- December's birth flowers are the narcissus and holly.
- Polar bears have block skin underneath their white fur, which helps absorb heat from the sun.

RECIPES

A cozy December recipe is

HOT CHOCOLATE MUG CAKE! This gooey chocolate goodness is delicious but also extremely easy to make!

- To start whisk together 1/4 cup flour, 2 Tbsp granulated sugar, 1/4 cup hot cocoa mix, 1/4 tsp baking powder, and a pinch of salt in a small bowl.
- Add in 1/4 cup hot water, 2 Tbsp vegetable oil, and 1/4 tsp vanilla. Stir together with a whisk until no clumps of flour remain.
- Pour into a 12 oz or larger microwave-safe mug and sprinkle 1 Tbsp of chocolate chips over the top of the batter. (if you want a more chocolaty flavor!)
- Finally, heat for 60 seconds, then check to see if it is fully baked by inserting a toothpick into the center of the cake. If the tooth picks come out clean, the mug cake is ready!

CHILL DECEMBER TRAIL MIX. This hardy trail mix is healthy, mouthwatering, and easy to make!

- yogurt/chocolate covered raisins/cranberries/nuts
- chocolate/peanut butter/white chocolate chips
- M&M's (use seasonal colors if you want to be festive)
- gummy bears
- fruit snacks
- Peppermint (for december)
- marshmallows (add these in right before serving)
- dried fruit

WINTER SCENTS

Winter is known for its warm, cozy, and refreshing scents that makes this season special. Some popular winter smells include cinnamon, peppermint, vanilla, fresh pine trees, and gingerbread cookies. In Bath & Body Works, some of its popular seasonal fragrances include Winter Candy Apple, Vanilla Bean Noel, and Twisted Peppermint. These scents combine fruity, sweet, and fresh smells that remind people of the holidays. Candles, soaps, and lotions also help bring these winter fragrances into people's homes, creating a cozy holiday atmosphere. Here are some links to these products:

https://www.bathandbodyworks.com/p/snowflakes-and-cashmere-fine-fragrance-mist-028034058

https://www.bathandbodyworks.com/p/winter-candy-apple-3-wick-candle-028033153

https://www.bathandbodyworks.com/p/frosted-cranberry-concentrated-room-spray-028036205



HOLIDAY LIGHTS IN PHOENIX

Phoenix Zoo comes alive with the glow of ZooLights, one of Arizona's most popular holiday traditions. Millions of colorful LED lights transform the zoo into a magical nighttime experience filled with illuminated animal displays, light tunnels, and festive attractions. Families can stroll through dazzling exhibits, enjoy seasonal treats, and create lasting holiday memories together. ZooLights continues to be a Valley favorite, bringing holiday cheer to visitors of all ages while supporting one of Phoenix's most beloved attractions.

Scottsdale Princess has millions of twinkling lights illuminate the resort, creating spectacular displays that attract visitors from across Arizona. Families can enjoy festive attractions, holiday-themed entertainment, seasonal treats, and an enchanting atmosphere filled with holiday cheer. The sparkling lights and festive décor makes the holidays at the Princess one of the Valley's most beloved holiday traditions and a must-see destination during the holiday season. ✨

Scottsdazzle & Old Town Scottsdale transforms into a festive holiday destination filled with sparkling lights, seasonal decorations, and family-friendly events. Visitors can stroll through beautifully decorated streets, enjoy live entertainment, shop for unique gifts, and take part in holiday activities throughout the season. The annual celebration brings the community together and adds extra holiday cheer to the heart of Scottsdale, making it a favorite tradition for Valley residents and visitors alike

Train enthusiasts can enjoy Holiday Lights at **McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park**, where twinkling displays line the park and visitors can ride the festive train through a colorful holiday landscape.

Las Noches de las Luminarias at Desert Botanical Garden lights the pathways with thousands of glowing luminarias. Guests can walk among beautiful desert plants while enjoying music and the peaceful glow of candlelit paths.

Fun Fact: More than 8 million lights are used each year at some of Arizona's largest holiday displays, creating magical experiences for visitors from around the world! ✨🎄🌵

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STARBUCKS HOLIDAY DRINKS

Starbucks, one of the most popular places to get drinks, has an amazing assortment of holiday drinks such as refreshers, lattes, mochas, matchas, and hot chocolates. Here are a few examples and explanations of some of their most popular holiday drinks worldwide.

- Peppermint Mocha- A rich mix of coffee, chocolate, and mint topped with whipped cream and chocolate curls.
- Caramel Brulee Latte- A sweet, creamy coffee flavored with caramelized sugar sauce and topped with crunchy caramel bits.
- Gingerbread Latte/ Iced Gingerbread Chai- A cozy drink made with coffee or spiced tea and sweet gingerbread flavor.
- Toffee Nut Latte- A smooth coffee or spiced tea and sweet gingerbread flavor.
- Sugar Cookie Latte- A sweet drink made with coffee or green tea that tastes like buttery sugar cookies, topped with festive sprinkles.

These are all delicious drinks that you can enjoy at all hours of the day, just make sure to not bring them on campus, that are guaranteed to get you in the holiday spirit!

NEW YEARS CELEBRATIONS AROUND THE WORLD

December is a time of celebration around the globe, but New Year's traditions can look very different depending on where you live. While many people decorate, count down to midnight, and watch fireworks, cultures around the world have developed unique customs to welcome the year ahead.

The most well know was is the NYC ball drop in the United States of America. It is where the famous Waterford Crystal ball drops in Time Square at midnight (eastern time).

In Sydney Australia they have one of the biggest fireworks shows in the world that's over the harbor bridge and Opera House.

In Dubai the famous Burj Khalifa lights up along with a gigantic laser and firework show. Lastly in Taipei Taiwan fireworks shoot from different levels of the Taipei 101 skyscraper!

In Spain at midnight, many people eat 12 grapes, one for each stroke of the clock. Each grape is supposed to bring good luck for one month of the new year.

I.D. AND SUSD POLICY

Did you know that the need to wear your student I.D. is not a school rule? In fact, your I.D. is actually part of the SUSD dress code. District policy or refuses to comply with wearing student I.D. card can lead to lunch detention, purchasing a new I.D. for $5.00, or even invention from adminstration. The expectation is that all students and staff will wear their SUSD issued I.D. each day. The Governing Board approved a $5 replacement fee. All student IDs have a barcode that is used to scan for meals in the cafeteria and to check out books in the library. Safety is a top priority for the Scottsdale Unified School District. The district is committed to putting children first. You do not forget your phone at home so do not forget your I.D.



FESTIVE MOVIES

With the holidays coming up, it's the perfect time to watch some holiday movies! Whether you're watching with family, friends, or just relaxing at home, holiday movies are a great way to get into the spirit! Some favorites are Home Alone, Elf, The Grich, and The Polar Express. There is nothing better thanks getting cozy with a blanket making some hot chocolate, and putting on a good movie!

No matter how many times you've seen them, these movies never seem to get old and are always a fun part of the holiday season!

In December, several new holidy movies will be released, including Christmas, Hanukah, Commedies, Horror Movies and Major block bustors on December 18,23, and 25. Some of the movies are a romantic Holiday comedy with a time-loop twist, and the sequal to the action-comedy features a though Santa taking on Christmas.

PROFESSIONAL SPORTS



For the NBA the Suns schedule is

- Dec. 1 they play the LA Clippers
- Dec. 2 –hey play the Sacramento Kings
- Dec. 12 they play the Minnesota Timbewolves
- Dec. 14 they play the Atlanta Hawks
- Dec. 23 they play the Indiana Pacers



The NFL schedule for the Cardinals is

- Dec. 6 – Eagles (home)
- Dec. 13 – Bye week
- Dec. 20 – Jets (home)
- Dec. 27 – Cardinals at Saints (away)



Lastly the Christmas Eve game is the Houston Texans vs. Philadelphia Eagles, and the Christmas Day games are the Packers vs. Bears, the Bills vs. Broncos, and the Rams vs. Seahawks. Who are you rooting for.

AVID CORNER

Why Thinking About Your Future Starts Now

Success begins with preparation, exploration, and setting goals. Thinking about the future now helps students discover their interests, recognize their strengths, explore possibilities, and make informed decisions about the paths they want to pursue. By introducing students to a variety of career and college opportunities early on, we empower them to envision what is possible and begin creating a plan to achieve their dreams.

Did you know here at Ingleside we utilize advisory time, classroom learning, elective classes, college & career day speakers, field trips, and other hands-on experiences, to give students valuable exposure to different careers, educational pathways, and opportunities beyond the classroom. These experiences help students understand what it takes to reach their goals, including the education or training required, financial costs, time commitments, and skills needed to be successful.

The earlier students begin exploring and planning, the more prepared and confident they will be when making important decisions about their future. Our goal is to help every student connect what they are learning today to the opportunities of tomorrow, build a clear sense of direction, and develop the tools and confidence needed to turn their goals into reality.

The future doesn't just happen—it is built through the choices, experiences, and preparation we make today.