

WINTER EDITION



# The Orator



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# SEASON OF SNOW

## NEWS TO WARM YOUR HEART



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# EXECUTIVE EDITOR'S LETTER

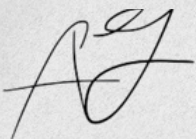
Dear Readers,

As we welcome the holiday season, the Orator excitedly presents the Winter Edition, our early Christmas gift to you. Flip through this issue to find exclusive content from movie recommendations (p.6) and recipes (p.20) to sports coverage (p.13) and brain games (p.22).

This edition also marks the first of many to be published in print, and we're beyond thrilled to share our work with you in this long-awaited and classic way.

We hope you enjoy this edition as much as we enjoyed creating it.

Merry Christmas and happy reading!



Abigail Joseph





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# THE CHRISTMAS AESTHETIC

Written by: Rebecca Varghese

Edited by: Ashna Cherian

Christmas is universally known as one of the most celebrated holidays and one of the happiest times of the year. Several elements make this holiday enjoyable, ranging from the food, festivities, decorations, family gatherings, and the main reason for the season- Jesus' birth. Behind this special celebration's warmth and cheer lies a fundamental Christmas aesthetic and sensory experience.

When we think of Christmas colors, deep red, velvety green, snowy whites, and shimmering golds. Such colors dominate decorations, from garlands and ornaments to knit stockings hung by the fireplace. Twinkling fairy lights and glowing advent candles add a gentle warmth, symbolizing hope and light in the darker days of winter. Arguably the most recognizable symbol of Christmas, is the giant Christmas tree that beams in every room with its stars and garlands, while gifts lay underneath causing excitement and anticipation to all who see it.

Common symbols and decorations such as snowflakes, reindeer, elves, and Santa Claus add a touch of fantasy, especially catering to children; while nativity scenes and advent wreaths remind us of the spiritual element of Christmas. Movies such as "Home Alone", "A Charlie Brown Christmas" and "How



the Grinch Stole Christmas" add a touch of magic, humor, and timelessness to the season. Of course, it wouldn't be Christmas without Christmas music. This genre has its own fragrant aroma. Food connects people, especially during Christmas. Each family has their recipes, traditions, and treats, loaded with hearty meats, and nourishing foods, leading to a great feast on Christmas day.

Textures play an important role in creating the Christmas feel. Soft, fuzzy materials like plaid blankets, chunky knit sweaters, and velvet ribbons invite comfort into the frigid season. While lustrous ornaments and metallic accents, add elegance and glam for an added extravagance. Scents



such as pine, cinnamon, cloves, and freshly baked gingerbread cookies further enhance the ambiance, wrapping the senses in a fanbase, with artists dedicating entire albums to their Christmas songs. Such songs create a merry and cheery atmosphere for everyone to enjoy throughout the season.

Ultimately, the Christmas aesthetic celebrates the joy of knowing our savior was born and encapsulates the warmth and love of the one who gave it all for us. This Christmas, let us not only embrace the materialistic elements of the holiday but carry in our hearts the true meaning of Christmas and remind ourselves of the love and redemption that was brought into the world on that holy night.





# 3 CHRISTMAS MOVIES YOU DIDN'T KNOW YOU NEEDED TO WATCH

Written By: Isabella Vignando | Edited By: Elyse Mogle & Darius Vassos-Martino

As an avid lover of the Christmas Movie Classics, I often find myself watching the same holiday movies year after year. After all, what better way to fill your days with holiday cheer if not with movies that completely embody the spirit of Christmas? This year, I've ventured to find new movies to add onto my seasonal rotation.

If you're anything like me and you want to broaden your movie watching horizons, you should definitely consider adding these three Christmas movies to your watch list this season to get into the holiday spirit.

## Holiday Affair (1996)

A young widow (Cynthia Gibb) strives to maintain her small, simple life, but fate has other plans when her world is unexpectedly turned upside down by an unassuming



store clerk.

Cinematography → 6/10

While nothing really stands out as very compelling or even experimental, the first shot of the film immediately immerses you into the whimsical spirit of the holiday season, then slowly eases you into the charming ambiance of a 90s shopping mall at Christmas. I also thought the opening sequence was a very clever way of implementing a recurring symbol through the film.

Acting → 7/10

Overall, pretty decent dramatic performances from the entire cast all around, but not much to write home about. Cynthia Gibb, as Jodi

Ennis, plays the independent (if slightly frazzled) single mother and the flustered and blushing love interest in the same scenes with ease. David Elliott, as James, also had his fair share of impassioned monologues that really drove the drama of the story. Together, they make a fairly compelling couple.

Writing → 8/10

This plot was driven by the drama created by having two very different men competing for Jodie's attention in very different ways. It wasn't written as intentionally funny or witty—elements that typically captivate me—, the almost mundanity of the situation made the dramatic circumstances more effective. I do, however, believe that the absurdness of the shock value and melodrama is the only thing that kept me invested in the character's



lives. Though, I must say, they truly deliver on drama; if you love a jaw-dropping, gasp-inducing, scandal filled slice of life. While this might not be winning any Oscars, it's definitely entertaining.

Pacing → 6/I0

To delve a bit deeper into my previous statement; though I believe the dramatic writing conveyed the tone they were trying to portray, I simply couldn't get past the fact that their love story starts and ends in a matter of days. I understand that Steve was trying to teach Jodie how to learn to move on, how to let go of the past, how to reach for the future she wants, but it all happened too fast and the characters made such rash decisions that I felt were unrealistic, and that really took me out of the movie. I suppose it might take a little more than a little Christmas magic to make me believe in love at first sight.

Theme → 8/I0

The ultimate "lesson" that Jodie learned was the

importance of taking a chance. She tried for so long to hold onto the past that she didn't realise it was holding her back from experiencing the future. Meeting wild, carefree Steve teaches her that in order to get the life you love and deserve, you have to take a leap of faith and let go of the things that tie you to the past. While it's a beautiful lesson, I feel as though the pacing made it feel unbelievable. If, however, you can suspend enough belief to convince yourself that "when you know, you know", the theme still translates beautifully.

Overall → 7/I0



Meet Me in St. Louis (1944)

In this dazzling story of the trials of life and love, the Smith sisters navigate a period of personal growth, mirrored by the anticipated growth of their little town

as the 1904 St. Louis Fair approaches.

Cinematography → 8/I0

I really like the postcard-like shots of the transitions between seasons, offering little glimpses into the lives of the Smith family through this year of change. It not only sets the scenes to look even more glamorous, but it allows the audience to stay invested in their lives without having to rely on "filler scenes" to act out the full year; it acts almost like a highlight reel of their lives. Something else I also took note of was the way the camera moves through a room or follows a subject, allowing the viewer to feel the intimacy and intensity of the scene, creating a fully immersive experience.

Acting → 8/I0

As soon as she's on screen, Judy Garland dazzles -as always- as a brilliant leading lady and a stunning vocalist, which is showcased at every opportunity. While I can't say much about the acting chops of her love interest, played by Tom



Drake, I cannot deny their chemistry. The entire cast as a whole was truly captivating. The family dynamics between the Smith family were very well done; they did especially well at delivering their offhandedly comedic remarks in a way that felt natural, filling the screen with a believable slice of life.

Writing → 9/10

Of course, the dialogue is expectedly charming and cheesy in that classic 1940s way, but the comedic writing is very well received even to a modern audience. One thing I must say that I found really refreshing about this movie is that it wrote its young female characters very well. While it didn't completely avoid the "boy-crazy" cliché, it portrays these young women as their own people with vibrant personalities, showcasing their talents, humour, flaws, anger and protectiveness. Having four young women of different ages, experiencing different aspects of their coming-of-ages all under one roof presents a glimpse at the spectrum of girlhood in a

way that doesn't make women out to be perfect, unblemished creatures, but rather embraces their messiness, moral conflicts and selfishness, making them well-rounded and relatable. I also found it interesting that they took a slightly scandalous take (for the time) on the classic "boy next door" trope. A surprisingly refreshing take on femininity and relationships -both romantic and familial- that remains relevant today.

Pacing → 9/10

The movie was so fun and I quickly became invested in the lives of the characters, so as the film skips through the year, showing vignettes of their lives, the only complaint I had was that it was only Christmas time for the final act of the film. That said, the choice serves the plot, as once all the twists and turns finally concluded, it was just in time to get everyone their happy endings for Christmas.

Theme → 9/10

Exploring a range of themes like love, family

dynamics, and coming of age, this movie really has something for everyone. The main lesson that I felt this movie had built up to encompass all of those themes, was the idea of home. The character's relationship to the place they live is not only a material connection, but a symbolic representation of the fact that a home is made up of people, memories and love, which is what makes it beautiful.

Overall → 8.6/10



Your Christmas Or Mine 2 (2023)

Haley and James have swapped christmases - again. After an airport mix-up at the start of their shared family vacations sets their holiday plans awry, James and Hayley's relationship is put to the test. Can they survive



another turbulent holiday season, or has the distance between them thrown their future entirely off course?

Cinematography → 8/10

As a sequel, there's always pressure on a director to make a great second impression, appealing to new audiences while reminding returning viewers why they fell in love with the first movie to begin with. Director Jim O'Hanlon takes this challenge in stride, captivating his audience in the first 10 minutes with a charming opening shot, giving the audience a taste of the chaotic, comedic, and charming movie they're in for. Set and filmed in beautiful Tyrol, Austria, this movie is never lacking in beautiful scenic shots. The beauty of European winter serves as a gorgeous backdrop for this movie, and its setting serves to fully enrapture the characters who, for the most part, are spending their first Christmas away from home. It gives them that feeling of always being just slightly out of place amongst the overly romanticized sights,

causing them all to confront their own ideas of the importance of tradition and where they belong.

Acting → 10/10

The magnetic chemistry between original cast members returns with a passion, and the few new cast members fit right into the dynamic of the cast. If you don't already know how much I admire Asa Butterfield and Cora Kirk as James and Hayley, check out my review of the first movie from last year! Trust me when I say their perfect chemistry truly rises to the occasion, allowing for a very compelling emotional performance as their characters have to reckon with the strength of their relationship.

Writing → 9/10

I won't deny that the writing can be cheesy at times, but isn't that part of what makes a great Christmas movie? What really defines this work is the great comedic writing that this film and the first get right every time. Something

else that they carried over with grace from the first movie was the same happenstance. I'll admit, I was worried that a second movie about accidentally swapping Christmas plans would feel bland the second time around, but I found that in this second instalment, what kept me invested was the amount of tension they built up throughout the film. By piling on mishap after mishap, leaving the audience at the edge of their seats, watching with anticipation to see if Hayley and James' relationship can pull through these challenges, once again never leaves a spare moment for the audience to think that they've already seen this before. Overall, they manage to carry a well thought out dramatic plot, sprinkled with the perfect amount of humour, and it's that great comedic writing that truly





defines this movie. Even amidst the most tension-filled points in the movie, the dialogue is so naturally witty that you can't help but find a moment to laugh.

Pacing → 10/10

Similarly to the first movie, the initial suspense is driven by them being separated from each other, but this movie doesn't rely on that trope to make the whole film. Instead, they've decided to up the stakes of their relationship, causing each mishap and

misunderstanding to foster the perfect amount of dramatic irony to keep the reader interested in how the drama will eventually unfold when all is revealed. Since all the drama is built up, it's incredibly satisfying to watch it all unravel at the most climactic point in the movie. I won't give too much away, but after the emotional rollercoaster of waiting to see whether or not everything that could go wrong will go wrong, the movie comes to a satisfying (if a little corny)

conclusion.

Theme → 8/10

It's hard to pinpoint a central theme in a movie so driven by interpersonal drama and chance, but I suppose even from that there's a lesson to be pulled out. Throughout the twisting and turning series of events, the main characters had to learn how to support relationships in spite of differences.

Overall → 9/10





# CHRISTMAS GIFT IDEAS

## OF 2024

Written By: Jocelyn Chau

Edited By: Carson Robinson

With Christmas just around the corner, if you haven't started gift shopping, now's the time! In Christianity, the tradition of gift-giving dates back to the Nativity, when the Three Wise Men brought Jesus gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Keep the tradition alive by showing your family and friends how much you appreciate them.

Here are 50 of the best gift ideas for 2024, organized by budget and type, plus five extra DIY gifts for a more artistic and affordable touch:

### FOR MOTHERS

- **Planner/Notebook:** Help your mom stay organized and carve out time for her own ideas.
- **Candles/Candle Warmer:** Create a relaxing atmosphere with soothing scents.
- **Puzzle:** Offer a fun and decorative way for her to unwind away from screens.
- **Coffee Maker:** Upgrade her coffee game with a machine tailored to her taste—drip, espresso, or more.
- **Cookbook & Utensils:** Perfect for moms exploring their culinary skills or reigniting a passion for cooking.
- **Jewelry:** Timeless and customizable, necklaces with birthstones or messages can make her feel cherished.
- **Indoor Garden:** Bring greenery indoors for a refreshing home or office touch.
- **Bath Bombs:** Encourage self-care with relaxing bath essentials.
- **Theragun Mini:** Ease her stress with a compact massage tool.
- **Yoga Mat:** Support her wellness journey with a gift that promotes energy and relaxation.

### FOR FATHERS

- **Cinephile Scratch-off Poster:** Let your dad track and celebrate his favourite movies.
- **Mini Cooler:** A practical gift for golfing, outdoor adventures, or hot days.
- **Barbells and Weights:** Help him kickstart a home fitness routine.
- **NYT or Netflix Subscription:** A stress-free way for him to explore entertainment or current events.
- **Outdoor Grill:** Enhance his cooking skills while treating the family to great meals.
- **Funko Pop Yourself:** A personalized and humorous figurine for a lighthearted touch.
- **Funny Apron:** Make him smile every time he cooks.
- **Waffle Maker:** Transform mornings with the joy of homemade waffles.
- **AirTags:** Keep track of keys, wallets, or anything he frequently misplaces.
- **Cast-Iron Grill Press:** Upgrade grilled cheese sandwiches into a gourmet experience.



## FOR FRIENDS

- Fanny Pack: A stylish and functional solution for carrying essentials.
- Bubble Tea Gift Card: Treat them to their favorite indulgence, guilt-free.
- Drawing Tablet: Inspire creativity with a tool for digital art.
- Sweet Box: Perfect for candy lovers needing a pick-me-up during exams.
- Polaroid Camera: Capture and display special moments instantly.
- Bluetooth Charging Speaker: Enjoy music and charge devices simultaneously.
- Screen Magnifier: Enhance the viewing experience for phone users.
- Fidget Toys: Stress-relieving gifts like stress balls and fidget cubes.
- Portable Charger: Ensure they never face the dreaded low-battery alert again.
- Volleyball (or Sports Gear): Encourage hobbies with high-quality sports equipment

## FOR GAMERS

- Gaming Headphones: Elevate their online experience with better sound quality.
- Escape Room Box: Bring the thrill of puzzle-solving to their living room.
- Board Games: From strategy to party games, there's something for everyone.
- Card Games: Fun options like Coup or Unstable Unicorns are perfect for gatherings.
- Clickety-Clack Keyboard: Add satisfying sounds to their gaming sessions.
- Poster: A decorative nod to their favorite game, movie, or series.
- Custom Controller: A personal touch for dedicated gamers.
- Chess Set: A classic game that combines strategy and elegance.
- Rubik's Cube: A portable puzzle for solo fun.
- iPhone Gaming Controller: Make mobile gaming more engaging.

## FOR READERS

- Books: A no-brainer for bibliophiles—just pick their favourite genre.
- Clip-On Reading Lamp: Perfect for late-night readers who want to avoid disturbing others.
- Bookmarks: Personalized designs that are both functional and thoughtful.
- Kindle: A digital library in their pocket.
- Book Lamp: A cozy, book-shaped light that doubles as decor.
- Author Quote Clock: Combine literary inspiration with practical timekeeping.
- Notebook: Ideal for jotting down thoughts or analyzing what they read.
- Bean Bag Chair: Make reading time more comfortable and stylish.
- Oversized Blanket Hoodie: Keep them warm during long winter reading sessions.
- Indigo Gift Card: Let them choose their next adventure in reading.



## DIY GIFTS

- Photo Album: Compile cherished memories for a heartfelt keepsake.
- Pottery: Create something functional and personal.
- Painting: Add meaning and individuality to your gift.
- Handmade Ornaments: Celebrate the season with a touch of creativity.
- Crochet Animals: A cute and personal token of affection.

And with that, we wrap up our holiday gift guide. Show your love and appreciation this season.

Merry Christmas!



# BREAKING THE ICE

## CELEBRATING THE PWHL THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

Written By : Hannah Thompson | Edited By : Meghan Li



As the holiday season fills the city with warmth and wonder, hockey fans in Toronto have one more reason to cheer: the debut of the Toronto Scepters in the newly launched Professional Women's Hockey League (PWHL). Since the league's start in August 2023, fans have eagerly awaited the chance to support this team, which began its journey as an unnamed squad playing at the historic Mattamy Athletic Centre (MAC) at Toronto Metropolitan University (TMU). Now officially known as the Scepters, the team has found its home at Coca-Cola Coliseum, where it is inspiring a holiday season full of passion, pride, and progress.

The Toronto Scepters represent more than just a hockey team—they are part of a significant movement in women's sports. The PWHL was created to give female hockey players the platform and professional opportunities they've long deserved. For decades, women in hockey have fought for recognition, equal pay, and resources. With the PWHL, professional women's hockey is finally receiving the investment and structure to elevate it to new heights, giving these athletes a stage to showcase their skills at a high level.

As the Scepters take the ice this winter,



they're not only creating new holiday traditions for fans, they're paving the way for future generations of female athletes. The team's fierce spirit, grit, and skill are already inspiring young hockey players across Toronto, showing them that a professional future in women's hockey is achievable. Attending a Scepters game has quickly become a must for fans seeking both great entertainment and the chance to be part of a powerful change in sports culture.

Games at Coca-Cola Coliseum have quickly become a staple of Toronto's winter scene, offering fans the perfect way to celebrate the holidays with friends and family. Whether wrapped in scarves and sipping hot chocolate, or cheering loudly from the stands, fans are witnessing the birth of a new era in professional hockey. This season, the Toronto Scepters and the PWHL bring together the thrill of sport and the unity that defines the holiday spirit.

So as you enjoy the festive lights and winter traditions, plan to catch a Scepters game at Coca-Cola Coliseum. Celebrate the season and the triumph of women's sports, cheering on a team that's making history and giving us all something to believe in.



PWHL standings as of December 16, 2024

PWHL	GP	GR	PTS	W	OTW	OTL	L	PCT	GF	GA
1  Minnesota Frost	3	27	7	2	0	1	0	0.778	11	8
2  New York Sirens	3	27	5	1	1	0	1	0.556	10	8
3  Montréal Victoire	3	27	5	1	1	0	1	0.556	7	8
4  Ottawa Charge	3	27	4	1	0	1	1	0.444	7	8
5  Toronto Sceptres	3	27	3	1	0	0	2	0.333	8	10
6  Boston Fleet	3	27	3	1	0	0	2	0.333	6	7



# MEET SBA'S BEST BUDDIES

Written By : Isabella Vignando ————— Edited By : Francis Kafieh

Best Buddies Canada is a nationwide non-profit dedicated to promoting inclusion and awareness of individuals living with and without intellectual and developmental disabilities. SBA's very own Best Buddies is one of many chapters in Canada, committed to creating lasting friendships and life-changing opportunities.. The nationwide popularity of the organization allows individuals to find this community and support wherever from high school to their post-secondary life. The relationships built by Best Buddies strengthen leadership skills, independence, and confidence.

Here at SBA, our Best Buddies chapter presents the unique opportunity to contribute towards achieving Best Buddies' goal of alleviating loneliness. Best Buddies is a great place to hang out with friends after school, form new connections, contribute to your school community, and even get community service hours! For a bit of background on our general FLS (Functional Life Skills) program, I spoke with Ms. Solon who recently joined our SBA community 3 years ago, and was responsible for the revival of the Best Buddies program at SBA after COVID.

Ms. Solon told me that she had always wanted to become an FLS teacher to experience a different facet of education. She aspired to create the same valuable relationships and connections in general education as well as in the FLS program. Through her efforts, she has observed a gradual change outside of the classroom, particularly in the welcoming relationships the mainstream students have with the FLS students. Our student body has aided in fostering this inclusion and integration of FLS students throughout the school community. While morning homeroom classes for FLS students are focused on daily routines (listening to announcements, sharing personal stories with the class, communication, literacy and numeracy skills), the rest of their day is spent fully integrated in 2-3 other courses of their choice. FLS students even have the ability to take co-op placements. This integration strategy creates a united school community, where everyone is welcomed and given equal opportunities to participate, and is valued for their unique talents is the cornerstone of SBA.

Best Buddies magnifies this aspect of our school community. "You can see it in the faces of peer buddies and best buddies alike," Ms. Solon tells me; the joy this club brings is visibly contagious. Every event is spent dancing, talking and laughing together. Ms. Solon can hear its success each time she's asked when the next Best Buddies event is. Its benefits don't end after club events end, though. The unlikely friendships developed between students in the club persist even in the hallways and cafeteria.





Getting to know Best Buddies truly begins with getting to know its members. To give you a sneak peek into the lives of SBA's Best Buddies, I interviewed four members, Elijah, Miles, Julia and Alain, about their experiences with the club and they wanted everyone to know how much fun Best Buddies can be. As a member myself, I know our Best Buddies fairly well and know from personal experience how much they love the club already, and how they hope to bring in more activities for everyone to enjoy, like arts, craft night, and bracelet making! Best Buddies is constantly changing and adapting to bring new and fun events to our school community, what stays consistent is its fun!

I also had the opportunity to speak to the current president of Best Buddies, grade I2 student Elena Farajian, to give some more insight into what the club has to offer to Best Buddies and Peer Buddies alike.

"The main benefit I've experienced," she tells me, "is the opportunity to form meaningful, lasting connections between students." As a long time member of the club, she has seen how all different kinds of students from all walks of life bond and interact in ways that they themselves wouldn't have imagined. Bridging this social gap between students of all abilities is still only one of many benefits! Another important aspect of the club is that it provides all students the chance to develop social and emotional skills, like patience, active listening, and empathy. Elena emphasizes that "these skills are invaluable in any relationship," which is why Best Buddies is so much more than just a club; "it's a platform for personal growth, community building and making a meaningful impact."

This is an asset of the club that often gets overlooked. In Elena's words; "Best Buddies helps foster a sense of community

that is both rewarding and energizing. It's true that students will get the chance to have fun and make friends, but as a Peer Buddy, you experience just as much joy, growth and fulfillment by taking part in the club. It's these feelings of fulfillment and growth that makes us want to go back year after year. What's often difficult is taking that first step toward growth and joining Best Buddies. Students may not understand how much they'll gain from the experience until they're actually part of it:

Elena shared some encouraging words for those future members who still feel a bit hesitant about joining. "I think it's completely normal to feel a bit uncomfortable when we encounter something new or different. However, that discomfort shouldn't be a reason to avoid it or stay uninformed. For most of my life, I hadn't interacted much with people with disabilities—neither in school nor in my personal life—until I reached high school. When I did meet individuals with disabilities, I'll admit I felt unsure about how to engage with them. I wasn't sure how to communicate with them, or what they were capable of, and I realized how little I knew about their experiences. This made me

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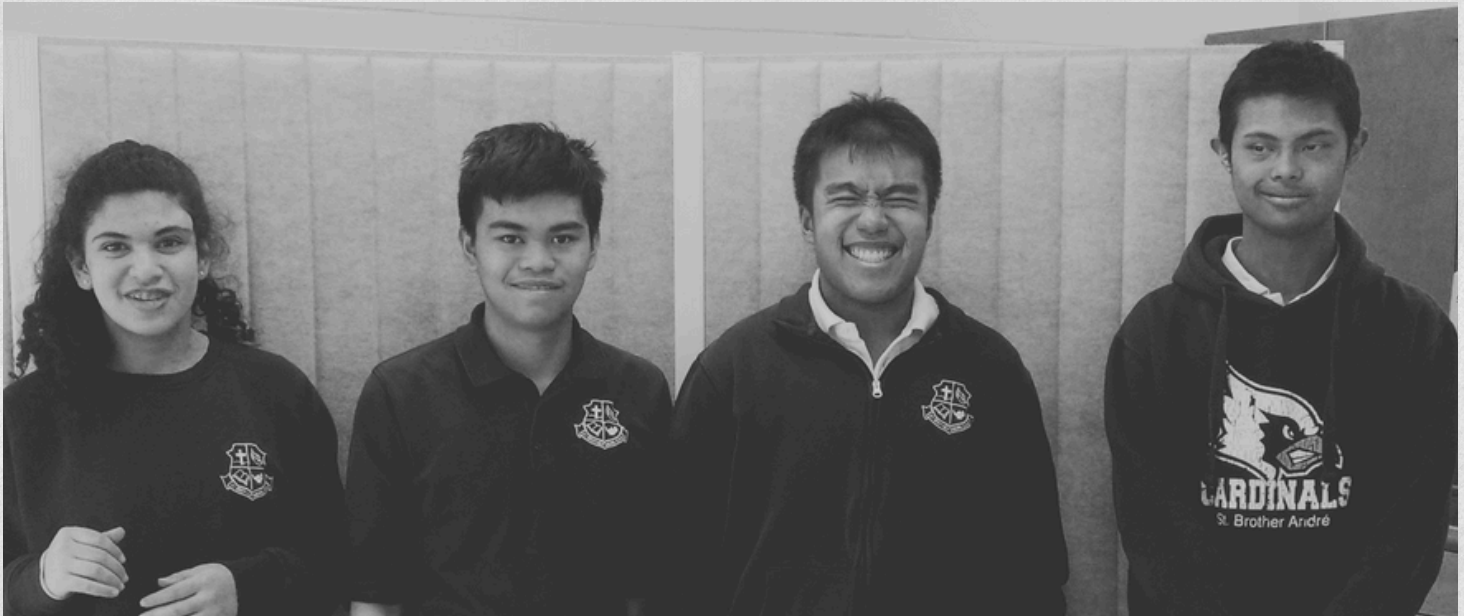


reflect on my own ignorance and prompted me to take action. I joined Best Buddies because I wanted to learn, grow, and become a more open-minded, empathetic, and understanding person. Being part of the club has allowed me to not only expand my perspective but also to build genuine, meaningful relationships with people I might never have met otherwise"

Now, having been a member all four years of her high school career, Elena reflects on all that she has learned from her time in Best Buddies. "I have learned so much about disabilities, relationships and what it means to be part of Best Buddies." she lists. "I now better understand the challenges our Buddies face, and am able to help them out the best I can, by supporting them and guiding them. I am also very happy to be leading the next generation of the club, and continuing to foster meaningful connections and inclusion in the school

community."

Elena offers a beautiful and affirming message, not only to future members of the club, but one that should be heard by all members of our SBA community. "It is saddening," she says "to see that there [is still] stigma around people with disabilities in our school: this misconception that joining Best Buddies or interacting with [our FLS students] will be awkward, uncomfortable, or even embarrassing. We need to break down this stigma in our school community. We should all strive to learn from our school's patron, St. Brother Andre, who taught us to 'open the door to our hearts to let the light in.' In the same way, we should open our hearts to [...] understanding and empathy, [to] broaden our perspectives, enrich our relationships and create a school environment where everyone is [equally] valued and accepted."



"I had a great [time], and Best Buddies is great!" - Elijah, Best Buddies member (2nd from the left)

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# SBA WELCOMES THE CLASS OF '29

Written by: Natalia Jimenez | Edited by: Carson Robinson

During the third week of November (18-22), we had a couple of visits from the grade eight students of our feeder schools. These students learned about our school and how it operates, saw classrooms, met teachers they were interested in, and they got to look around and participate in different activities.

They spent their day as if it was a real day in high school! They got to jump from class-to-class, seeing the different electives they could take and what it feels like to be a student at SBA. During their lunch, they had the opportunity to explore the clubs and councils demonstrated in the atrium. This day gave these grade 8s a moment to reflect on what classes they might want to take, and what clubs they may potentially join. It also allowed them to meet kids from other schools—people whom they will possibly be friends with through high school. It looked like the grade 8s loved this visit, thanks to our student volunteers who helped and guided them throughout the day.

Following this, on a Thursday night, the grade 8s and their parents came to visit our school. With much excitement, and of course cheer, our cheerleaders welcomed the guests into our school with a show. To start the night, our band performed the National anthem along with some singers. Afterwards,

they had a presentation where they learned about our school: uniforms, courses, their orientation Muskoka Woods trip, and much more. Both the students and their parents were able to take a tour of the school, meet teachers, see classrooms, and talk to club/council execs.

In the library, they could see and talk to all the different clubs and councils, where their members would interact with them and inform them about their club/council. You might even say these clubs have found prospects for the future.

In the gym, SBA's Athletic Council had set up games to play such as spike ball, and shoot a free throw to get a stamp! Along with the games, the weight room was open, and many of the grade 8s enjoyed looking around.

Upstairs, in front of the chapel, Ms. Balite had her FDC stand, where students could see the handmade rosaries, and get a package to make one themselves. Also upstairs, outlooking the atrium from between the two staircases, we had a religious stand, where you would take a prayer in a pocket and read it when most needed. It was explained to me that this was an old tradition with soldiers or people with medical assistance; they would keep it in their pocket, and then read it when they felt like they needed some reassurance, faith, or love. These prayers





would usually be written by a loved one, which helped them to not give up and keep pushing through whatever it was that was giving them such grief.

With the athletic, academic, and general skills they might have, they will make a great addition to our school.



Images provided by: Victoria Cooke

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# COZY HOLIDAY RECIPES FOR YOUR CHRISTMAS MOVIE MARATHON

Written By : Anaya Mack

Edited By : Victoria Koitsis

Christmas time calls for lots of decorations and keeping warm by the fire, but one of the most important things about Christmas is the delicious food we prepare. Whether you spend this special day alone or with your family, these recipes will surely please anyone.

This sweet treat is a classic and a fan favourite. Gingerbread cookies are festive, traditional and bring back lots of childhood memories. Not only are these cookies delicious, but they can be cut out and decorated with anything you like.

Recipe by: Tastes Better  
from Scratch

Preparation Time: 35 minutes



## RECIPE FOR COOKIES:

- I. Add flour, brown sugar, baking soda, cinnamon, ginger, cloves and salt into a mixing bowl and combine.
2. Add the butter pieces and use a stand mixer to cut the butter in until it is a fine mixture.
3. Gradually add the molasses and milk while the mixer is on low, for about 30 seconds.
4. Divide the dough in half, forming each part into a ball shape.
5. Place in the freezer for 20 minutes, or until firm.
6. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees and line 2 baking sheets with parchment paper.
7. Add flour, brown sugar, baking soda, cinnamon, ginger, cloves and salt into a mixing bowl and combine.
8. Add the butter pieces and use a stand mixer to cut the butter in until it is a fine mixture.
9. Gradually add the molasses and milk while the mixer is on low, for about 30 seconds.
10. Divide the dough in half, forming each part into a ball shape.
11. Place in the freezer for 20 minutes, or until firm.
12. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees and line 2 baking sheets with parchment paper.

## RECIPE FOR FROSTING:

- I. Add butter, milk and 1 cup of powdered sugar into a bowl and mix until smooth.
2. Add the additional cup of powdered sugar and mix until smooth.



## INGREDIENTS FOR COOKIES:

- 3 cups of all-purpose flour
- $\frac{3}{4}$  cup of packed dark brown sugar
- $\frac{3}{4}$  teaspoon of baking soda
- 1 tablespoon of ground cinnamon
- 1 tablespoon of ground ginger
- $\frac{1}{2}$  teaspoon of ground cloves
- $\frac{1}{2}$  teaspoon of salt
- 12 tablespoons of butter (room temperature, cut into 12 pieces)
- $\frac{3}{4}$  cup molasses (dark molasses)
- 2 tablespoons of milk

## INGREDIENTS FOR FROSTING:

- 2 tablespoons of butter (room temperature)
- 2 cups of powdered sugar
- 2 tablespoons of milk



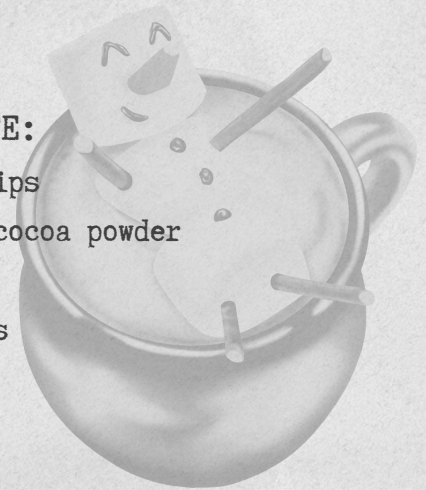
This drink is thick, creamy, and the perfect addition to the soft and chewy Gingerbread cookies. Italian Hot Chocolate is the coziest drink for a Christmas movie session. Make sure to serve it in a festive Christmas mug!

Recipe by: Inside the Rustic Kitchen

Preparation Time: 10 minutes

## INGREDIENTS FOR HOT CHOCOLATE:

- 3.5 oz (100g) of chocolate chips
- 2 tablespoons of unsweetened cocoa powder
- 2 tablespoons of caster sugar
- 2 cups of milk + 2 tablespoons
- 4 teaspoons of cornstarch
- 1 small pinch of salt



## RECIPE FOR HOT CHOCOLATE:

1. Add the 2 cups of milk, chocolate chips, cocoa powder and sugar to a saucepan.
2. Heat the mixture and stir occasionally until all the chocolate and sugar have melted.
3. Mix the cornstarch and 2 tablespoons of milk and add to the chocolate mixture.
4. Stir hot chocolate mixture until smooth and thick and serve into mugs.

Now that you have made your delicacies, make sure you have the right movies on hand. This Christmas is going to be a special one, especially with these desserts!





Inspired by the NYT

Sort the 16 festive words into four groups of four based on their hidden Christmas connections. Think carefully, as some words might belong to more than one holiday category!



# MIND MATRIX

## CONNECTIONS

MISTLETOE

SNOWSTORM

ICICLE

DASH

PRANCE

STOCKING

TINSEL

SNOWFLAKE

GIFT-WRAP

GARLAND

BAUBLE

FROSTBITE

GINGERBREAD

BLITZ

DANCE

SLED

## STRANDS

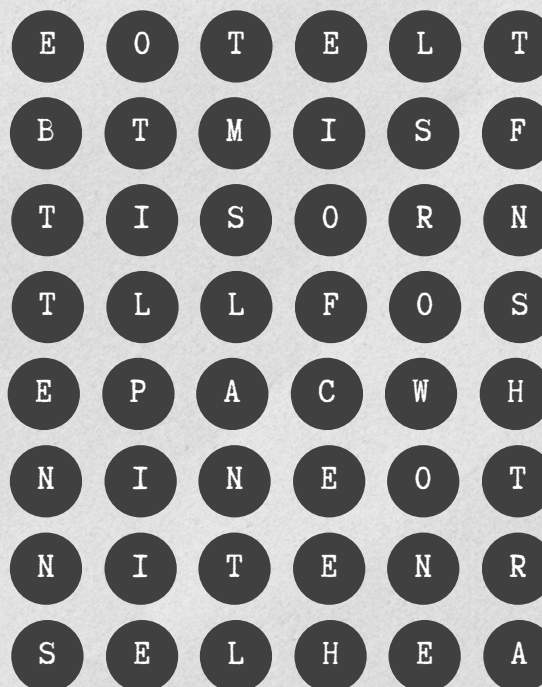
TODAY'S THEME

WHISPERS OF A WINTER NIGHT

\_\_\_ of 6 theme words found.

Find and connect theme words to fill the board, and discover the "spangram"—a special phrase or two words describing the puzzle's theme that spans from one side of the board to the other.

Created by: Iniya Haran



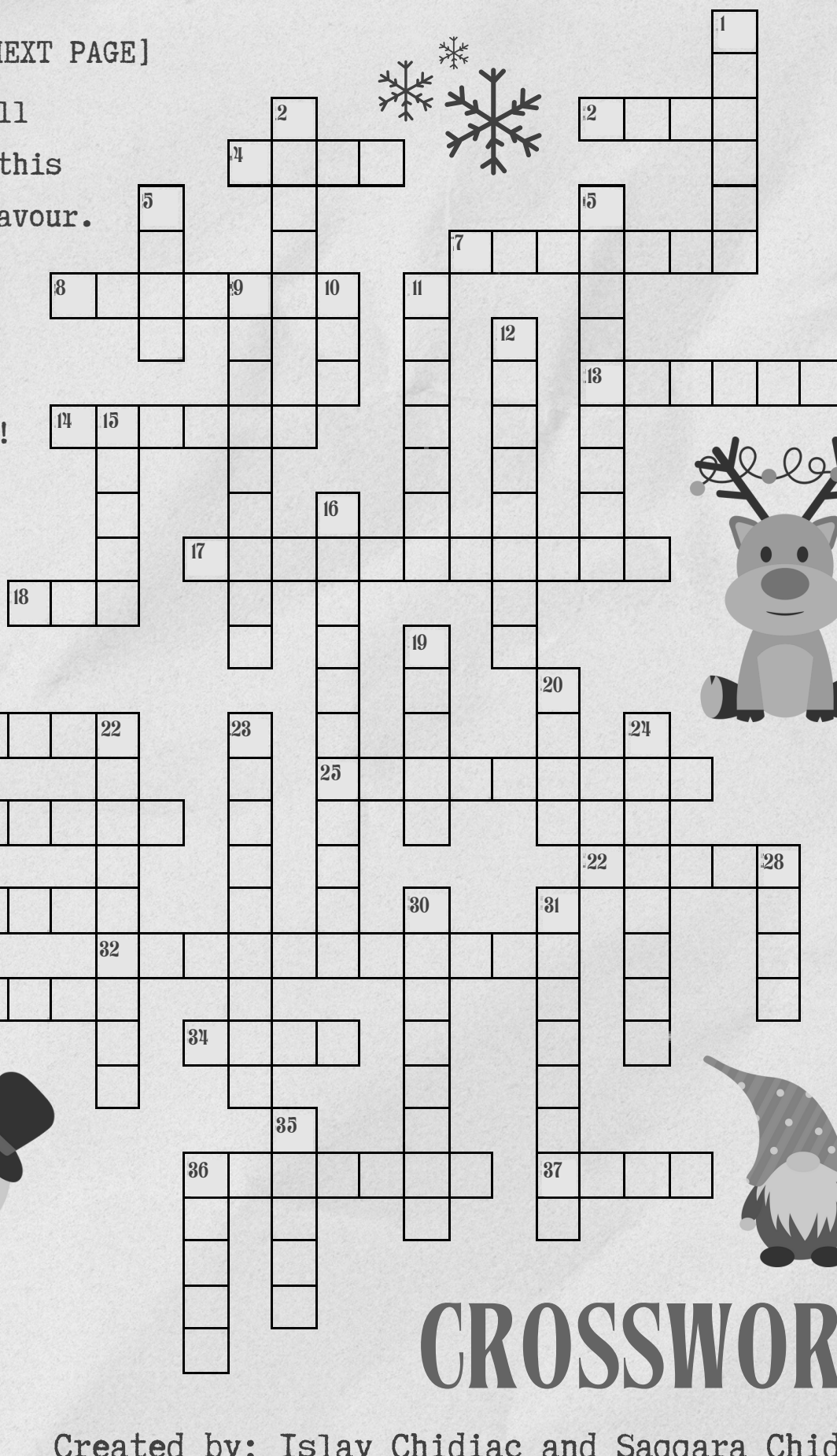
Answers on page 28



[CLUES ON THE NEXT PAGE]

Your clues shall  
guide you, in this  
Christmas endeavour.

May you keep  
the spirit  
alive, in your  
heart, forever!



# CROSSWORD

Created by: Islay Chidiac and Saqqara Chidiac



## ACROSS

- 3 First Sunday of Advent  
 4 Three wise men  
 7 Had a shiny nose  
 8 “\_ on 34th Street” (1947)  
 13 Season leading to Christmas  
 14 House of God  
 17 The queen of Christmas  
 18 Third Sunday of Advent

## DOWN

- 1 Represents eternal life  
 2 Christmas music associated  
 with Christian worship  
 5 “Greeting \_”  
 6 “KEVIN!” (1990)  
 9 Ferrero Rocher  
 10 Will Ferrell in a 2003  
 Christmas classic  
 11 “Anointed One”  
 12 Channel and card company  
 15 Festive plant

- 21 Film starring Jaimie Lee Curtis and  
 Tim Allen  
 25 City of David  
 26 Santa’s vehicle  
 27 Messenger of God  
 29 Feeding Trough  
 32 Christmas flower variety  
 33 The angel who announced the birth of  
 Jesus  
 34 Guiding light  
 36 Gift  
 37 Evergreen, Fir, Pine, etc.  
 16 Popular Christmas song  
 19 St. Nick  
 20 Joyeux \_”  
 22 “\_ fairy”  
 23 Idyllically roasted on an open fire  
 24 Dasher, Dancer, Prancer etc.  
 28 Fourth Sunday of Advent  
 30 “\_ stuffers”  
 31 “\_ scene”  
 33 Aromatic cookie variety  
 35 Our saviour  
 36 Second Sunday of Advent



# ARTIST'S CORNER

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S

Created By: Isabel Alegrias



Created By: Bianca Manlapaz



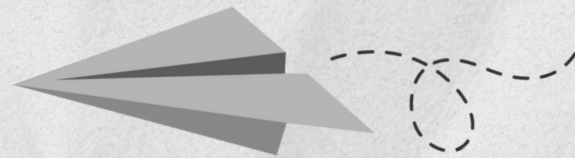
COMIC STRIPS

ARTIST'S CORNER



# ARTIST'S CORNER

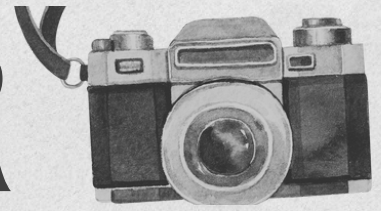
## COMIC STRIPS



Created By: Bianca Manlapaz



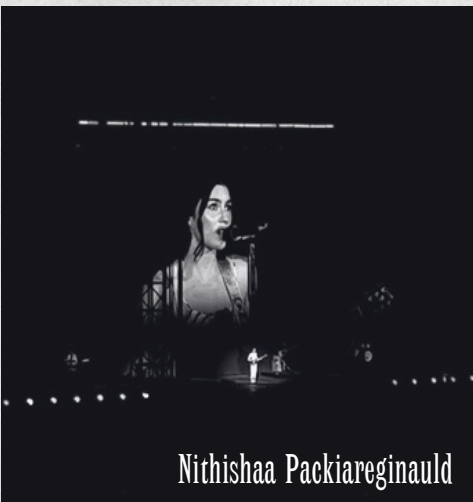
# ARTIST'S CORNER



Cecilia Vong



Clara Kim



Nithishaa Packiareginauld



Divyanne Ajanth



Divyanne Ajanth



Feanca Wai



Feanca Wai

# PHOTOGRAPHY



# ANSWER KEY: MIND MATRIX

## KEY ITEMS FOR CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES

Gingerbread, Sled, Stocking, Gift-wrap

## WINTER WEATHER, RELATED

Snowstorm, Icicle, Frostbite, Snowflake

## REINDEER NAMES WITH ENDINGS REMOVED

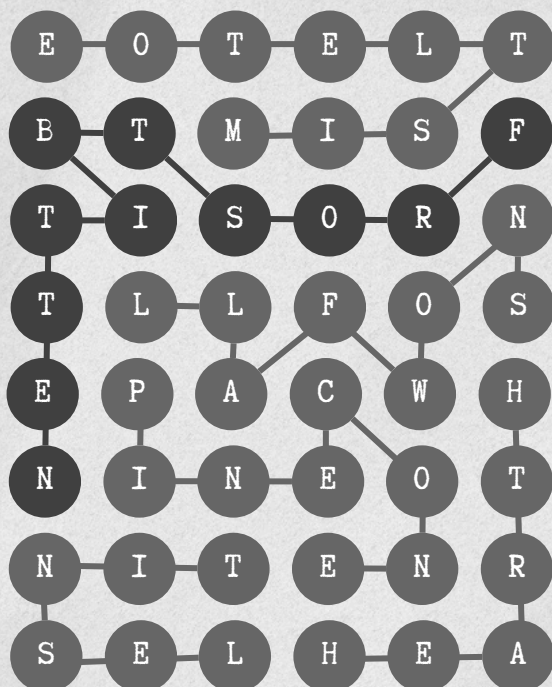
Dash, Blitz, Dance, Prance

## CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS

Garland, Tinsel, Bauble, Mistletoe

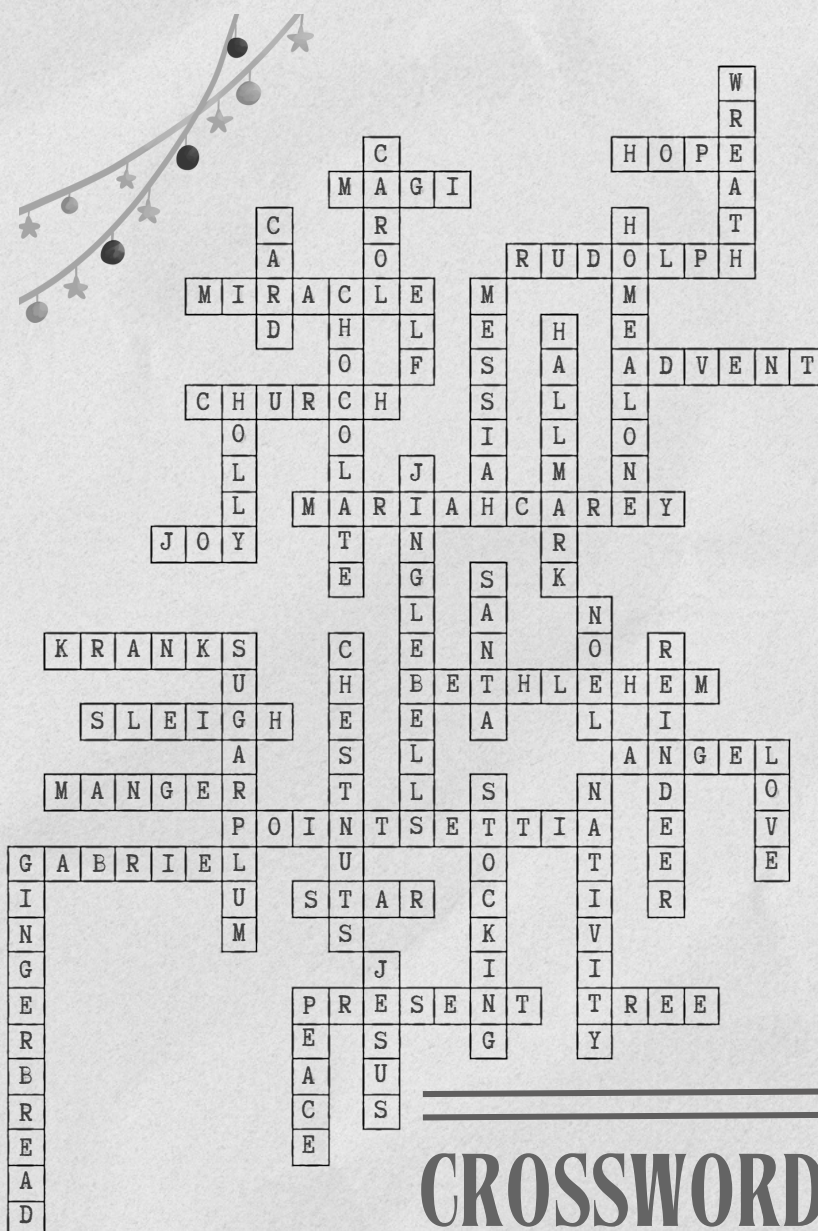
## CONNECTIONS

## STRANDS



Words: Tinsel, Mistletoe, Pinecone, Hearth, Snowfall

Spangram: Frostbitten



## CROSSWORD





YOURS TRULY,  
**THE ORATOR TEAM**







Fin.



