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INTERVIEW WITH A CHRISTMAS

ELF* *No real elf was interviewed during the making of this article. Sebastian played both parts.

- **Sebastian:** Hello, Christmas elf...
- **Christmas elf:** I'm really excited to give kids an inside scoop on an elf's life, but I'm really short on time right now. You know, there are toys to make and an old man's sleigh to fix, so this can't take too long.
- **Sebastian:** Oh, ok, I'll get to the point if that's the case... How are the elves managing the drop in Christmas spirit?
- **Christmas elf:** Well, we're actually having a hard time... The Christmas spirit situation is sickening the reindeer, and even killed a young calf last week. There was a funeral and everything, for it was Prancer's child. Now he is depressed and will not pull the sleigh. This really puts Christmas in danger, because, without the reindeer, who will pull the sleigh? The reindeer's hooves help them to gallop in midair, despite all difficulties, since they catch the Christmas spirit in their hollow parts. We elves don't have hooves, and no other creature able to resist the freezing cold of the north has hooves. Luckily, I'm working with a group of innovative elves to find a solution.
- **Sebastian :** I'm sorry for your loss. Prancer's child would have probably grown to be a great reindeer...
- **Christmas elf :** Oh, yes indeed! He was a great reindeer in the making, and my favourite calf in the herd.
- **Sebastian:** I have another question: Are the rumours true? Is toy manufacturing being cut short? Are the elves stealing from toy shops?
- **Christmas elf:** Well, that rumour has a two-sided story to it. We elves love making toys, and we're very loyal to Santa and The Spirit of Christmas, so most of us don't steal from toy shops. Recently, though, with the decreasing amount of Christmas Spirit and the new generation of lazy elves, some elves, mostly the younger ones, have resorted to stealing from toy shops. I personally would think myself a fraud if I ever stole from a toy shop, so I don't do it. Neither do my colleagues and close friends.
- **Sebastian :** Myth Busted! Would you mind giving us a sneak peek into a small part of the Nice and Naughty list?

Letter from the Editors

Welcome to our second edition! This festive Christmas volume features exclusive interviews and student stories on sports, culture and events, plus the opportunity to learn about Christmas traditions celebrated by our staff, showcasing their hard work and excellent collaboration. Since the last publication, we had the pleasure of speaking with an established journalist who shared insider secrets and tips for great reporting. The newspaper staff enthusiastically questioned him about what it takes to make it in the world of journalism. Get into the holiday spirit for the winter break—we hope you enjoy reading as much as our team loved creating it!

Thank you
Miss McGoldrick, Prof. Sgaria, and Mr Nick



- **Christmas elf** : Well, honestly, I can't. The Nice and Naughty list is a long, magic piece of paper, which only shows what is written on it if Santa is looking, and it can only be written on by a magic pen only Santa knows how to use, so even I don't know the contents of The Nice and Naughty list.

Sebastian : Is there one last message you would like to tell any kids who will read this?

- **Christmas elf** : Oh why, yes! What a very important message have I got for you, and all kids reading this! WE NEED MORE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT! If you believe in Santa, keep believing, and you might just score a permanent stay on the Nice list for this year. If you don't believe in Santa, you SHOULD! He put his whole life into giving you one day of immense joy, his WHOLE LIFE! So those who do not appreciate his sacrifice and our intensive work should go to an ethics class and change perspective.

By Sebastian Araya



Christmas Traditions Around the World: A Journey Through Festive Cultures

By Bianca Maria Giorgi and Marlene Arnell

Christmas is celebrated in many different ways around the world, each country adding its own colours, flavours and traditions to this special time of the year. To discover how diverse — and how similar — these celebrations can be, we interviewed people from Argentina, Mexico, England, South Africa and Ireland.

Here is what we learned from their festive stories:

Christmas in Argentina

Our journey begins in Argentina with **Miss Yenina**, who shared the joyful traditions of her home country. Since Christmas falls in the middle of summer, celebrations are full of heat, outdoor fun and refreshing food.

On the evening of **December 24th**, her family gathers for a huge dinner, waiting together until midnight. At exactly 12 o'clock, they place Baby Jesus in the nativity crib, a central symbolic moment in many Argentine homes. And because of the hot weather, the family then jumps into the **swimming pool** to celebrate the arrival of Christmas!

The typical Argentine Christmas menu includes cold dishes such as Russian salad, cow's tongue, grilled meats, and traditional sweets like torrone, chocolate Santas and the beloved **Mantecol** — a peanut-based treat that tastes sweet and salty at the same time. Families often finish the day all together at the grandparents' house for another shared meal and celebration.

Christmas in Mexico

Next, we spoke with **Ms. Vargas** from Mexico, where Christmas is filled with colour, tradition and community spirit.

The most important celebration takes place on **December 24th**, when families gather to eat, sing and exchange gifts at midnight. Homes are decorated with Christmas trees and **creches (nativity scenes)**.

A unique Mexican tradition is **Las Posadas**, celebrated from December 11th to 23rd. Families re-enact Mary and Joseph's search for shelter through a kind of festive theatre. There are songs, gatherings, and the famous moment where children break a **piñata** filled with sweets.

Joke Corner

What do you call an old snowman? *Water.*

Do you know why Santa's sleigh was free? *Because it was on the house!*

What do elves study in school? *The ELF-abet*

What falls but never gets hurt? *Snow!*

What did the Christmas tree say to the ornament? *Hang in there!*

Christmas in England (Yorkshire)

From Mexico, we travel to Yorkshire, England, home of our next interviewee **Mr. Greenwood**.

Christmas Day in England is full of cosy traditions such as eating sweets, watching festive films, and spending time with family. Decorating the Christmas tree with ornaments, tinsel and a star is especially meaningful in English homes — and of course, everyone looks forward to **opening presents**.

The traditional English Christmas dinner features **roast turkey**, **roast potatoes**, vegetables, **parsnips**, and the famous **pigs in blankets** (sausages wrapped in bacon). But according to Mr. Greenwood, the most important parts of the meal are **Yorkshire pudding** (a savoury dish, not a dessert!) and the classic **Christmas pudding** served afterwards.

Christmas in South Africa

Christmas in South Africa, as **Miss Dee** explained, varies widely because many cultural groups live together in the country. Since December is summertime, families often go to the **beach** for picnics or enjoy **braai** (South African barbecue).

Her own family follows more **English-style traditions** because of their heritage. On Christmas morning they open presents, go to church, and later share a big meal with extended family. The menu usually includes roast ham, roast turkey (although Miss Dee never liked it!), potatoes, vegetables and Christmas pudding. One of her childhood traditions was particularly fun: her mother used to **hide coins in the Christmas pudding**, and whoever found one got to keep it! After the big lunch, the family often cooled off with a refreshing **swim in the pool**.

Christmas in Ireland

Finally, Mr. Gary from Ireland told us about the warm and cheerful spirit of an Irish Christmas.

Irish people enjoy decorating their homes, giving gifts, dressing in festive clothes or pyjamas and, for many, attending church. On Christmas Day, people open presents, celebrate with family meals

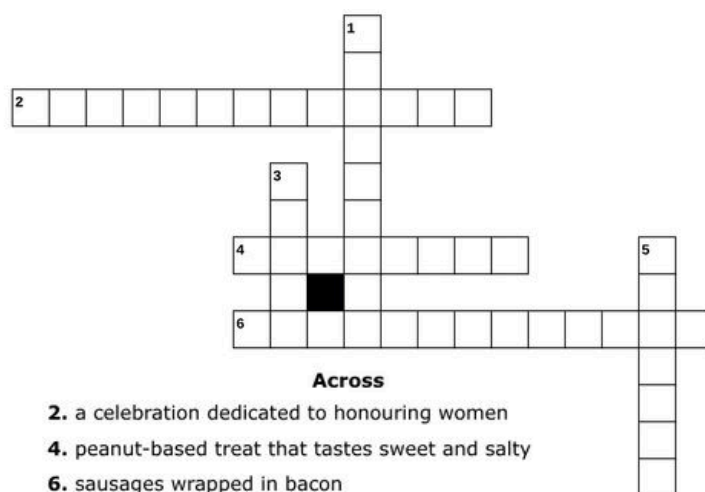
and sometimes gather with friends later in the day as well. One favourite tradition is **Secret Santa**, in which people exchange anonymous gifts and try to guess who each present is from. The traditional Irish menu begins with a warm soup, followed by **turkey or ham** served with potatoes, vegetables and gravy. For dessert, there is — of course — the classic **Christmas pudding**.

Ireland also has some special customs. One of the strangest is “**The Wren Boys**”, where people dress in costumes and go from house to house. Another important day is **January 6th**, called “**Women’s Christmas**” or *Nollaig na mBan*, a celebration dedicated to honouring women, coming from the traditional well-deserved day of rest after the busy holiday period, to the more modern general celebration of women on the day.

A World of Traditions, One Holiday Spirit

Through these interviews, we discovered that Christmas can look very different depending on where you are — from swimming under the summer sun in Argentina or South Africa, to enjoying cosy winter meals in England and Ireland, to breaking piñatas during Las Posadas in Mexico. Yet everywhere, Christmas brings people together through food, gifts, music, laughter and family traditions.

We hope you enjoyed travelling with us through the stories of our interviewees. Merry Christmas — *wherever in the world you celebrate!*



Across

- 2. a celebration dedicated to honouring women
- 4. peanut-based treat that tastes sweet and salty
- 6. sausages wrapped in bacon

Down

- 1. a traditional Mexican plant
- 3. South African barbecue
- 5. nativity scenes



SPORTS & EVENTS

Nitto ATP Finals

Finalmente è arrivato il momento che noi amanti dello sport aspettavamo impazientemente. Dal 9 al 16 novembre si sono tenuti gli ATP Finals a Torino all' Inalpi Arena, la più grande arena sportiva al coperto d'Italia!

La cerimonia nota come il Grand Show si è tenuta all' Inalpi Arena di Torino il 6 Novembre 2025. Il campo dell' arena è stato animato da Il Volo, Gianni Morandi, Max Pezzali, i Pinguini Tattici Nucleari, The Kolors, Francesca Michielin e Fiorella Mannoia.

Le prime 3 partite ad inaugurare il torneo sono state:

- 1 Carlos Alcaraz VS Alex de Minaur
- 2 Alexander Zverev VS Ben Shelton
- 3 Simone Bolelli/Andrea Vavassori VS Julian Cash/Lloyd Glasspool

I primi 10 al mondo sono:

- 1 C. Alcaraz 12050
- 2 J. Sinner 11500
- 3 A. Zverev 5160
- 4 N. Djokovic 4830
- 5 F. Auger Aliassime 4245



Si sa ovviamente che Sinner ha vinto la finale contro Alcaraz la domenica del 16 novembre.

I due sfidanti sono fatti l'uno per l'altro tutti e due spingono l'altro a fare il meglio di sé.

Sinner ha vinto gli ATP Finals per due anni ormai, secondo voi romperà la catena o vincerà di nuovo?

By Maddalena Sagramoso, Alice La Russa

Un Christmas Show Rinnovato: musica, tradizione ed inclusività.

Anche quest'anno la nostra scuola si prepara al grande Christmas Show del 17 dicembre al Teatro San Fedele, un appuntamento atteso da studenti, insegnanti e genitori. A guidare l'organizzazione dello spettacolo è la dott.ssa Laura Donzelli per la Middle School e per il liceo, invece sono Miss Linda e Mr. Alberto ad occuparsi dello spettacolo per la scuola elementare.

Tutti e tre hanno un unico obiettivo: di portare avanti un progetto musicale e teatrale rinnovato, non solo con canzoni natalizie tradizionali. "Il Christmas Show era basato quasi esclusivamente sul Natale", racconta la dott.ssa Donzelli, "ho scelto di renderlo meno pesante, inserendo altri generi musicali. Un cambiamento che ha reso lo spettacolo più vario e coinvolgente, anche mia mamma era d'accordo che non fosse più interessante ripetere ogni anno le stesse canzoni". Tra i momenti più significativi di quest'anno sarà che la presentatrice è una ragazza musulmana del liceo, si tratta di un gesto simbolico che rappresenta un valore fondamentale per la scuola: l'inclusione.

Miss Linda racconta come lo spettacolo sia possibile anche grazie all'aiuto di tutti gli insegnanti della scuola, oltre al Team Principal e alla Signora Parravicini, che l'ha inventato.

Al di là dello spettacolo, la dott.ssa Donzelli racconta anche il suo rapporto personale con il Natale "Noi adoriamo davvero tantissimo il Natale e lo festeggiamo sempre con la mia famiglia e con i miei cavalli".

Tra musica, apertura culturale e tradizione, il Christmas Show si preannuncia più vivo che mai, sarà un'occasione per mostrare la creatività e il talento della nostra scuola da Y1 al liceo!

Da Marlene Arnell e Bianca Maria Baccellieri



SPORTS & EVENTS

MIDDLE SCHOOL FEMALE SPORTS SURVEY

In the Middle School there are many girls who love doing sports after school, but counting them, we were surprised about how many of them did unexpected sports.

We found out that there are only six girls that practise basketball, twelve girls love doing gymnastics and seven of them chose volleyball as their sport. We have two football players and thirteen girls who swim all year. But the biggest category is "Other": this one includes thirty six girl students who practise dance, tennis, ice skating and much more!

We decided to interview two girls who practise their sport at a competitive level. Costanza Mancuso Y7 (gymnastics) and Isabel Gilardi Y9 (volleyball).

Costanza has been doing gymnastics for two and a half years and especially loves jumping and floor exercise. She is often anxious before competitions and gets hurt quite often, but she is motivated by the results and the example of Simone Biles. She advises to always follow what you love.

Isabel has been playing volleyball for three years, she likes the tension on the court and the final match in training. Before competitions she is anxious, but with her teammates she has fun; She rarely gets hurt. She likes points and victories, and is inspired by Sylla. Her advice is to learn quickly and grow mentally. We are happy to report that our Y8 girls recently went up against the Canadian school in a volleyball match with positive results and spectators noticed that Allegra Gerli made some spectacular hits, helping her team earn point after point.

By Lucia Ramacciotti and Sofia Gorla



Y7 and Y8 girls doing gymnastics



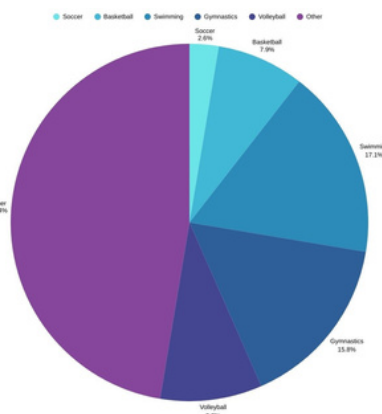
Y7 student in a Dressage competition



Y7 student racing in a triathlon



Y9 girls playing volleyball



Y7 student practicing on bars

Arts & Culture

ELF ON THE SHELF

Questa è una tradizione che ormai tutto il mondo sa, gli elf on the shelf, che vengono ogni notte dal primo dicembre fino al giorno di natale.

Questi elfi dispettosi fanno ogni notte scherzi divertenti.

Al mattino i bambini si svegliano e trovano l'elfo in una strana posizione o facendo qualcosa di birichino e riportando quindi lo spirito natalizio e il sorriso sul viso di ogni bambino!

Si dice che questi elfi vengano a casa dei bambini per controllarli tutto il giorno e vedere se fanno i bravi. Il loro ruolo è infatti quello di ritornare al polo nord dalla loro porticina, nascosta da qualche parte nella casa, per riferire tutto a Babbo Natale.

Lo sai che se scrivi una lettera a Babbo Natale la imbuchi in una qualunque cassetta delle lettere indirizzandola al polo nord questa verrà recapitata a Babbo Natale da un team delle poste che durante questo periodo dell'anno si occupa solo di queste consegne?

Quando si ha un elf on the shelf c'è qualche regola da rispettare:

- 1: Dargli un nome
(esempio: Alvin, Elphi, Caramello, Lily, eccetera.....)
- 2: NON bisogna toccarlo altrimenti perde la sua magia
- 3: bisogna comportarsi bene o l'elfo riferirà tutto a Babbo Natale... quindi attenzione! se farai il cattivo non riceverai i regali.

Quindi preparatevi e aspettate pazientemente perchè il primo dicembre sta per arrivare, ed è da lì che inizia la vera magia natalizia!

By Alice La Russa



Gli Elf On The Shelf e la loro porticina di Luna Camurati!



Elf on the Shelf has made it to school.

OPINIONS

Do you know about Moș Nicolae?

On the night of the 5th December, it is said that Moș Nicolae (or Saint Nicholas) comes and puts presents in children's boots. Usually, on that day, children cleaned their boots and left them near the door. The next morning, they would find something in them. Traditionally, there were things like mandarins and sweets but in time little toys were added.

He's mostly known in Transylvania and Romania. As he became a saint and children's protector. Unlike Santa Claus, he never shows himself. Nobody knows what he really looks like but he's described as either a bishop or an old man with a long, white beard (in fact, when it starts to snow some say that it's him shaking his beard to make winter start).

Legend says that he saved three girls from poverty by throwing a bag of gold into the house on the night before their marriage. When it was the youngest's turn, the dad saw the man but promised not to tell anyone.

But why in the boots?

When he went to the house and saw the father, he went on top of the house and threw the gifts in the chimney, making them fall-accidentally- into a sock which was drying.

By Giulia Maria Celeste



Winter vs. Summer Holidays

Christmas tree with piled presents. Sea with a cocktail and lemons.

The most famous question of all times...

"Do you prefer the winter or summer holidays?" It's possible you will receive the answer, "I don't know"

Bla bla bla...BORING!!!!

We decided to go for a more decisive approach, you have to pick a side. So get ready to be rock & roll with different ideas and opinions!!!

CHRISTMAS PEOPLE:

From our school almost half of the people from Y3 to Y9 prefer the winter holidays (specifically 44 out of 80 questioned).

Would you like to hear some of their reasons?!

Students:

Greta (Y9) : "For the hot chocolate and snow!"

Lucia (Y7) : "For the presents and the skiing!"

Filippo (Y3) : " Because I can ski!"

TEACHERS:

Prof. Todaro: "For the climate and presents!"

SUMMER PEOPLE:

From our school less than half of the people from Y3 to Y9 prefer Summer holidays (specifically 36 out of the 80 questioned).

Let's hear what they have to say:

CHILDREN:

Fede (Y6) : "Because it's hot and there is no school!"

TEACHERS:

Mr. Matt: "I love swimming in the sea!"

Prof. Pulga: "For the sea and the heat!"

Prof. Piva: "Because I like to go to the sea and the lights with the colors!"

Now that you know the official results, the record has been set straight - the winter holidays rule!



La Storia Del Cioccolato

By Sofia Di Teodoro e Virginia Bader

Il cioccolato è uno dei cibi più amati nel mondo, ma non tutti sanno la sua storia molto antica. Le prime tracce dell'uso del cacao risalgono al 2000 A.C. in civiltà come Maya e Aztechi, nell'America latina. Per loro il cacao era così prezioso da essere considerato un dono degli dei. Non lo mangiavano solido e dolce com'è oggi, ma lo bevevano sotto forma di una bevanda amara, spesso mescolata con le spezie.

Quando gli esploratori europei arrivarono in America, scoprirono questa "bevanda degli dei" e la portarono in Europa. Qui ci fu un cambiamento: al posto del peperoncino, gli europei aggiunsero zucchero e vaniglia, rendendola molto più dolce. Per molto tempo il cioccolato rimase un lusso riservato ai benestanti, perché il processo per ottenere il cacao era lungo e costoso.

Nel XIX secolo, il cioccolato iniziò a essere prodotto in forma solida, ed è così che nacquero le prime tavolette.

Da allora il cioccolato è diventato sempre più popolare, fino ad arrivare alle tantissime varietà che conosciamo oggi: fondente, al latte, bianco e con ogni tipo di ripieno.

E perché piace così tanto alla gente? Oltre al suo gusto irresistibile, il cioccolato contiene sostanze che migliorano l'umore. Non a caso molte persone lo considerano un "abbraccio commestibile".

Vi starete facendo un'altra domanda. Qual è il cioccolato più amato e venduto nel mondo? Ecco la risposta, il Cioccolato al Latte a causa di marche amate che producono il Cioccolato al Latte tipo Kinder, Nutella e Milka. Le Y6 fanno una cosa chiamata The Chocolate Fair che è come la science fair solo che invece di essere basato sui temi di scienze è basato sul cioccolato. Alla Chocolate Fair le Y6 potranno mangiare il cioccolato dei loro compagni e viceversa per i loro compagni. Quindi stati attenti che quando sarete in Y6 potrete fare lo stesso.

A Call With Chris Welsch

Written in Collaboration

Some weeks ago the Andersen's school newspaper had an interesting call with a professional journalist who has worked for many well known newspapers such as the New York Times and currently works as a photographer for Microsoft Stories. When the young journalists entered the computing room and saw that an online meeting was ready to begin, they were excited to dive into a new experience. Our editing staff introduced us to Chris Welsch's work and how he came to share the room with a group of budding journalists.

Of course everyone was full of questions to learn how to turn their passion for journalism into a profession. Based on student questions we learnt that Chris always enjoyed reading and wanted to become a writer early on. He also shared with us that writing allowed him to explore many different passions that he has such as race car driving, having contact with animals, and world travel. I mean he even got to feed reindeer! When asked about the most significant story he ever wrote, he told us about his time in Costa Rica learning about how tourism has created more pollution and destruction to the natural environments there.

The experience not only showed us that following this passion could lead to a career, but Chris also kindly shared some advice to help us become better reporters. He told us to always be empathetic to the situation we write about. It will help us be honest and non-partial.

