

THE PULSE

EDITION 52 | THE OASIS | DECEMBER 2024





सा विद्या या विमुक्तये



“रिक्तोदवेष्ट इति त्वां चोक्ते लिबरलैड्”

JINGLE BELLS WINTER TELLS

Monthly Recap



- **3rd December:** Inter House Elocution Cl VI - VIII
- **6th December:** Just a Minute Cl IV - V
- **12th December:** The OASIS Athletic Meet for Ankuram
- **14th December:** The OASIS Athletic Meet for Satva & Ekya
- **16th December:** Careers of the Future & Liberal Education by Ashoka University.
- **17th December:** Filmmaking and Storytelling with Empathy Session by IIAD
- **17th December:** Inter House Extempore Cl VI - XII
- **18th December:** Inter House One Act Play Cl VI - XII
- **19th December:** Transparent Meeting
- **20th December:** Transparent Meeting
- **20th December:** The OASIS Winter Fest
- **20th December:** Winter Vacation Begins for students



From The Editor's Desk

Gauri Juyal (XI-A)

Dearest Reader,

I often find myself in a fix. When I am with people, I miss my solitary peace, and when I am alone, I feel like going to a party. I do not know if I am an 'extroverted introvert' or an 'introverted extrovert' or if it depends "on my mood." One solution to this dilemma of mine has always been writing. Look at the connection you and I share; I am scribbling and making something up to bore (or entice!) a bunch of people who might not even know what this "secret writer" looks like or if they have even seen her around on The OASIS campus! I guess that is the beauty of writing; the reader tends to know all about the writer, and the writer (in a fix!) doesn't even know who reads her.

With my parents travelling overseas this winter, I had to stay with my grandparents for two weeks. Delhi's bone-chilling cold (literally!), 24/7 murky sky and the exhilarating sound of aeroplanes taking off and landing over my head were very different from my busy school days in Dehradun. Another cherry on top was my dadu teaching me how to play cards, dadi constantly bringing apples for me to eat (every.single.day), even if I told her a thousand times 'I am not hungry', and me forcefully making them listen to new songs by Arijit Singh because they have to keep up with the trend! In the process, I realised how much I had missed! Leading an overwhelming life, where you feel like you need to succeed in every aspect of it, you often tend to forget what it means to be happy.

The Happiness in Being Simple.

By simplicity, I don't mean being devoid of ambitions or reducing one's life to a minimalist existence. Instead, it is about focusing on what truly matters—taking a break, going out with your family on weekends, or putting on music and sitting and staring into infinity. Being there with them made me realise that sometimes, even switching my phone off for a day and not responding to any text will definitely not make the sun rise from the opposite direction. This makes me feel that sometimes, while being there for everyone, we tend to forget to be there for ourselves. The joy of spending quality time with loved ones is a feeling that warms the heart and connects us in a way that technology cannot.

So my sermon for this time's edition is "Beauty is being yourself. Because you are a work of art."

You are unique.

You are funny.

You are stunning.

You are intelligent.

You are amazing.

You are talented.

You are a gift from God.



LEO THE LEOPARD

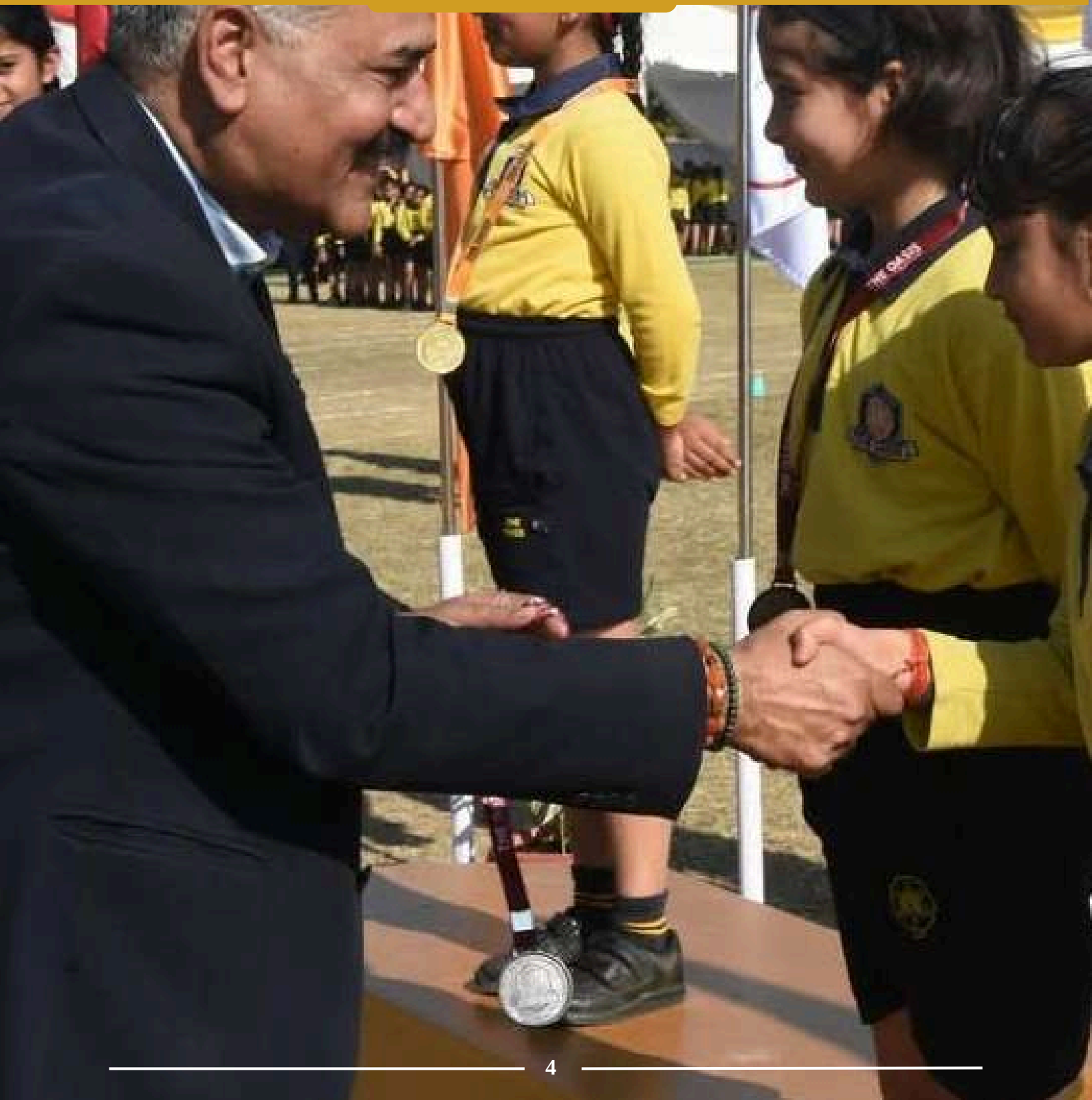
Oshin Jindal (XI)



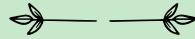
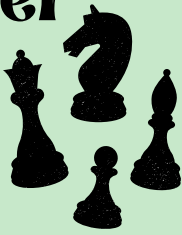


Prime-O-Gram

ANKURAM



Travelogue – My Trip to India’s Premier Chess Manufacturing



Before the chill of winter set in, my family and I embarked on a much-awaited trip to the historic city of Amritsar. Most of us know that Amritsar is known for its iconic landmarks—the Harmandir Sahib, Jallianwala Bagh, Attari-Wagah Border, and, of course, its lip-smacking Amritsari Kulchas. But as a chess enthusiast, I discovered something truly special during my pre-trip research—Amritsar is home to India’s premier factory that makes tournament-grade, wooden, handcrafted chess sets.

The idea of visiting such a place was irresistible. After further online research, I got a few phone numbers and asked my dad to call and inquire if we could visit the factory. To my delight, the owners, Mr Rishi and Gaurav Sharma, both kind and welcoming gentlemen, agreed to give us a tour the next day.

The visit turned out to be one of the most fascinating experiences of my life. The owner was the third generation in the family business. He shared how the tradition of handcrafting chess sets has been passed down through the generations.

The tour began with a detailed walk-through of the factory. He also walked us through the whole process-sourcing fine wood, treating it, and carefully carving each piece. To my utter surprise, each artisan specialises in a single piece; I even met a worker who has mastered making Rooks and has done so all his life.

The owner then showcased some of his stunning custom creations, including a set with a trademark prancing horse he was commissioned to make for Ferrari and a set as a birthday present for Mr Richard Branson (Founder of Virgin Group)with miniature carvings of him.

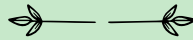
The craftsmanship and attention to detail were extraordinary. The visit gave me a new appreciation for chess and the artistry behind it.

It was indeed a cherished moment that I will always remember.



Veer Sandhu
Eustoma

JAM- Just A Minute



The Inter-House Extempore Competition, Just A Minute, for classes IV and V was held on Friday, December 6th, at 2:00 p.m., in the Theatre Studio. Students spoke on a given topic for one minute.

The esteemed guests for the event were Mr Sanjiv Bathla, School Director and Head of School, and Mrs Anulekha Purohit, Primary School Coordinator. The judges were Ms. Vani Dua, Ms. Akanksha Vasudev, and Ms. Harpreet Machra.

The competition had two rounds: the Prop round and the Linked Lines Saga round.

In the Prop round, each student picked up a prop from a bag and spoke about it for a minute. It was a challenging round. Class IV students spoke first, followed by class V.

In the Linked Lines Saga round, the students participated in House teams, each comprised of one class IV and one class V contestant from the same house.

Words flashed on the screen. Students took turns building a story with those words. This round lasted one minute. It was challenging and very engaging.

Participants in the JAM competition were:

Class IV- Mehraansh Singh Sadana, Shivraj Nair Gupta, Maahika Bhambhu, Samyra Rawat.

Class V- Saisha Tripathi, Reyanshi Mittal, Inayat Arora, Aaradhya Vishnoi

Primary School Coordinator Mrs Anulekha Purohit appreciated the students' creativity and spontaneity. The Linked Lines Saga Round was much appreciated and my favourite round in the competition.

The comperes, Mishka Suman and Bhoomi Nainwal were complimented for effectively anchoring the show.

The results were as follows:

Samyra Rawat and Reyanshi Mittal of Pelican House secured the 1st Position.

Maahika Bhambhu and Saisha Tripathi of Cardinal House bagged the 2nd Position.

Mehraansh Singh Sadana and Inayat Arora of Starling House won the 3rd Position.

I hope our school keeps organising more exciting and challenging competitions like this one. They boost teamwork and make learning enjoyable!



Mehr Guleri
Daisy



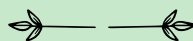
Udaan – Ideas That Fly

SATVA





Annual Athletics Meet



The OASIS experienced an exciting day filled with sportsmanship, teamwork, and celebration as it hosted the 7th Annual Athletics Meet for Satva and Ekya on December 14, 2024. The event was characterised by vibrant energy and a competitive spirit, showcasing the immense talent and determination of students from all houses.

The day began at 9:30 A.M. with a welcome address that set a positive tone for the event. Following this, the opening ceremony took place, where Mr. Sanjiv Bathla, the School Director and Head of School, introduced the esteemed Chief Guest, ADG Amit Sinha, IPS, Special Principal Secretary (Sports) for the Government of Uttarakhand.

The ceremony featured a spectacular March Past led by Sahajveer Singh Sandhu, our Sports Captain; Gauri Juyal, our School Captain; Jigyasa Kukreti, our Head Girl; and Aanya Soni, our Athletics and Swimming Captain. This was followed by the Inter-House March Past, the flag hoisting, and the official announcement declaring the meet open.



The event began with an oath-taking ceremony and a torch run led by Sports Captain Sahajveer Singh Sandhu and Athletic & Swimming Captain Aanya Soni, symbolising unity and determination. Participants in the March Past returned to their house tents, and the day transformed into a series of energetic and engaging activities.

The Yoga Display captivated the audience with its coordination and discipline. Soon after, the prize distribution for the predetermined events began, honouring the students' hard work. The morning's highlight was the athletic events, including 100m and 200m races for all divisions. As the athletes competed, their houses cheered passionately.

Following this, the Inter House PT Display Competition showcased flawless blending and teamwork. After a short break for prize distribution, the event continued with the highly anticipated relay races, providing an inspiring display of continuity and speed. The Medley Relay 4x100m for boys and girls further heightened the excitement, as each team gave their all in the pursuit of victory.



THE OASIS MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



One of the most unique aspects of the meet was the Parents' event, which featured a Relay race with four runners on each team and a Tunnel Ball game with ten players per team. These activities brought families together and added a delightful team spirit to the day's events.

As the day concluded, it was time for the closing ceremony, which included the final March Past and the announcement of the overall winners. Trophies and medals were awarded to the champions, recognising their hard work and dedication. The day ended with a heartfelt Vote of Thanks by Ms Vineeta Sharma, Senior School Coordinator, who thanked all participants, organisers, and attendees for making the event a grand success.



The Best Athlete awards were presented to students who demonstrated outstanding performance in sports. In Classes VI and VII, Lakshya Rawat was recognised as the Best Athlete among boys. For Classes VIII and IX, Aditya Singh Gusain won the Best Athlete award for boys, and Siyonaa Sharma received the title for girls.

In the senior group, which includes Classes X to XII, both Sahajveer Singh Sandhu and Jayant Rawat were honoured as Best Athletes among boys, while Aanya Soni was awarded Best Athlete among girls. These students showcased exceptional skill, hard work, and dedication in their athletic pursuits.

The programme concluded at 1:00 P.M. with the National Anthem, leaving the audience inspired. The PT competition was won by Mahit House, and Daivik House claimed victory in the March Past, ultimately securing the overall championship trophy.

The 7th Annual Athletics Meet, organised by Satva and Ekya, truly embodied its theme of encouraging unity and showcasing excellence, creating lasting memories for years to come.



UNNATI KUKRETI
VII A

शब्द सृजन



"हर अंत एक नई शुरुआत का संकेत है।"



बूझो तो जानें हिंदी पहेलियाँ



1. एक महल में चालीस चोर,
मुँह काला, पूँछ सफेदा।
2. सात रंग की एक चटाई,
बारिश में देती दिखलाई।
3. छोटा हूँ पर बड़ा कहलाता,
रोज़ ढही की नदी में नहाता।
4. प्यास लगे तो पी सकते हैं,
भूख लगे तो खा सकते हैं,
और अगर ठंड लगे तो उसे जला भी सकते हैं।
बोलो क्या है वो?
5. हरी थी, मन भरी थी,
लाख मोती जड़ी थी,
राजा जी के बाग में,
दुशाला ओढ़े खड़ी थी।



हिंदी 'पहेलियाँ' 'दिवाली' 'बिहूँ' 'पुष्पा

जिज्ञासा कुकरेती
XI

क्रिसमस का इतिहास



क्रिसमस का त्योहार हर साल 25 दिसंबर को मनाया जाता है। यह ईसाई धर्म के अनुयायियों के लिए बहुत ही खास दिन होता है। सभी क्रिसमस का बेसब्री से इंतजार करते हैं। क्रिसमस का अर्थ है ईसा मसीह का जन्मदिवस। ईसाइयों के अनुसार ईसा मसीह परमेश्वर के पुत्र थे और उनका 25 दिसंबर अर्थात क्रिसमस के दिन जन्म हुआ था। इस खास मौके पर लोग चर्च जाकर प्रार्थना करते हैं और क्रिसमस की पौराणिक कथाओं से जुड़े भजन गाते हैं। घरों में क्रिसमस ट्री सजाया जाता है, साथ ही रोशनी के प्रकाशमय नजारे देखे जा सकते हैं। रात को परिवार और दोस्तों के साथ विशेष डिनर और केक काटकर जश्न मनाया जाता है। बच्चों को तोहफे दिए जाते हैं।



आध्या पवार
कार्नेशन

स्कूल का विंटर फेस्ट



यह मेरा दी ओएसिस का पहला स्कूल विंटर फेस्ट है। मैं इस उत्सव के लिए बहुत उत्साहित हूँ। सर्दियों के मौसम में हमारे स्कूल दी ओएसिस में आयोजित होने वाला विंटर फेस्ट बच्चों और शिक्षकों के लिए एक यादगार अवसर होता है। यह त्योहार न केवल मनोरंजन का जरिया है बल्कि बच्चों की प्रतिभा और रचनात्मकता को प्रदर्शित करने का मंच भी प्रदान करता है।

विंटर फेस्ट की तैयारी हफ्तों पहले से शुरू हो जाती है। कार्यक्रम के दिन विभिन्न गतिविधियाँ आयोजित की जाती हैं, जैसे सांस्कृतिक प्रस्तुतियाँ, नृत्य, संगीत और कला प्रदर्शन। वरिष्ठ बच्चों द्वारा बनाई गई जैविक खाद का स्टाल भी लगाया जाता है। मनोरंजन खेल जैसे रिंग टॉस, बॉल थ्रो और फूड स्टॉल इस उत्सव की रौनक बढ़ा रहे थे। माता-पिता और शिक्षक भी इस उत्सव का हिस्सा बने थे।

विंटर फेस्ट बच्चों के लिए सीखने और मनोरंजन का अनोखा संगम होता है। यह न केवल उनके आत्मविश्वास को बढ़ाता है बल्कि उन्हें टीमवर्क और अनुशासन का भी पाठ पढ़ाता है। सर्दियों की ठंड में यह उत्सव गर्मजोशी और खुशियों से भर देता है जो सभी के लिए यादगार बन जाता है।

धन्यवाद!

आप सभी को क्रिसमस और नववर्ष की हार्दिक शुभकामनाएं।



अधिष्ठा असवाल
कार्नेशन

सर्दियों की छुट्टियां



सर्दियों की छुट्टियां होने वाली हैं। हमारे यहां हमेशा सर्दियों का मेला लगता है। सर्दियों की धूप में मैं अपने दोस्तों के साथ खेलता हूँ। इन्हीं दिनों मेरा जन्मदिन आता है, जिसे मैं अपने परिवार के साथ मनाता हूँ। मैं अपने माता-पिता के साथ दूध अस्पताल के बाहर बैठे गरीबों को गर्म कपड़े और कंबल बांटता हूँ। उन्हें देखकर मुझे रोना आता है। मेरी सैंटा से प्रार्थना है कि वे सभी की सहायता करें।

मेरे पापा हमें मसूरी ले जाते हैं और हम खूब मजे करते हैं। हम जंगल सफारी करते हैं, बहुत से जानवरों को देखते हैं और बहुत जानकारी प्राप्त करते हैं। सर्दियों की छुट्टियों में देर तक सोना, खूब खेलना और बहुत कुछ सीखना मुझे अच्छा लगता है।

आप सभी को नववर्ष की हार्दिक शुभकामनाएं!



मौलिक अग्रवाल
कैना

राहुल और उसकी माँ



एक गाँव में एक बच्चा रहता था। उसका नाम राहुल था। वह अपनी माँ के साथ रहता था। राहुल की माँ उसको हमेशा से डॉक्टर बनने के लिए प्रोत्साहित करती थी। बहुत साल बीत गए और राहुल एक होशियार डॉक्टर बन चुका था। एक दिन सर्दियों में जब वह अपने घर जा रहा था तो उसने एक गरीब परिवार को देखा। वह रुक गया और उनकी बातें सुनने लगा। उस परिवार में माता-पिता व उनके दो बच्चे थे। एक बच्चे ने रोते हुए कहा, "माँ, पापा कब ठीक होंगे? हमें भूख लगी है और ठंड भी बहुत है। क्रिसमस आने वाला है, क्या सैंटा हमारी कोई मदद नहीं करेगा?" उस बच्चे की माँ एकदम शांत और दुखी थी। राहुल घर गया। उसने बहुत सोचा और उस परिवार की सहायता करने का निर्णय लिया। उसने बच्चों के पापा को ठीक किया। क्रिसमस के दिन उन बच्चों के लिए भोजन, कपड़े और खिलौने घर के दरवाजे पर रख दिए। बच्चे उपहार पाकर बहुत खुश हुए और उन्होंने सैंटा का धन्यवाद किया।



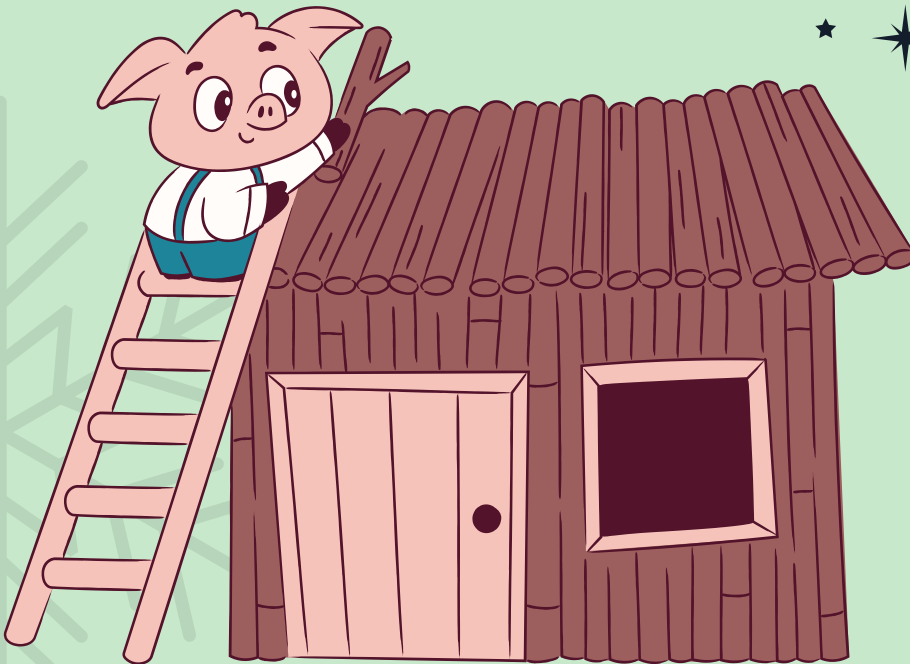
रुबेन लामा
कैलेंडुला



तीन छोटे वराह



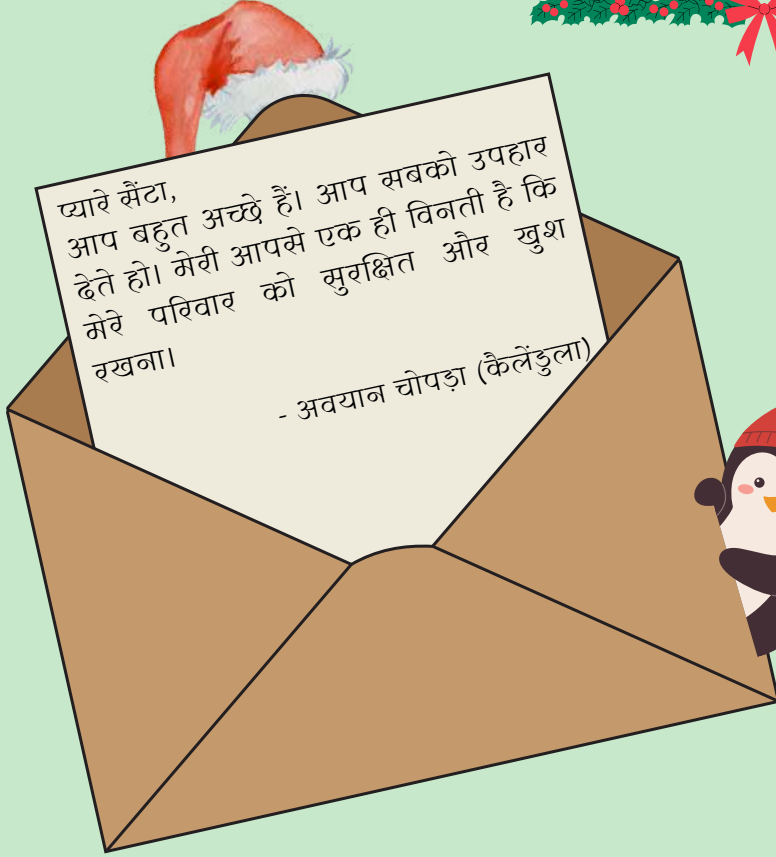
एक दिन तीन वराह अपनी माँ के साथ घर पर आराम कर रहे थे। उनकी माँ ने कहा, "तुम अब बड़े हो गए हो, अब अपने-अपने लिए घर बना लो।" सबसे छोटे वराह ने स्ट्रॉ का घर बनाया। उससे बड़े वाले वराह ने लकड़ी का घर बनाया और सबसे बड़े वराह ने मिट्टी का घर बनाया। तीनों अपने घर में खुशी-खुशी रह रहे थे। सर्दियों का मौसम था। सबसे छोटे वराह का परिवार ठंड से परेशान था क्योंकि उनका घर स्ट्रॉ से बना था और छोटे वराह की स्थिति दोनों भाईयों की तुलना में दयनीय थी। उनके बच्चे अपने माता-पिता से क्रिसमस का उपहार माँग रहे थे। यह सब दोनों बड़े भाइयों ने सुन लिया। दोनों ने बहुत सोचा और सैंटा का रूप धारण किया। उन्होंने उन्हें उपहार तथा नए घर की चाबियाँ दीं। सभी ने सैंटा का धन्यवाद किया और साथ में खुशी-खुशी रहने लगे।



रेयांश सचदेवा
कैलेंडुला



सेन्टा को पत्र



प्यारे सैंटा,
आप बहुत अच्छे हैं। आप सबको उपहार
देते हो। मेरी आपसे एक ही विनती है कि
मेरे परिवार को सुरक्षित और खुश
रखना।

- अवयान चोपड़ा (कैलेंडुला)

प्रिय सैंटा,

मैं अद्विता आपका बहुत-बहुत धन्यवाद करती
हूँ और साथ ही आपसे विनती करती हूँ कि आप
ऐसे बच्चों की भी इच्छाएँ पूरी करें जिनके पास
खाने और पढ़ाई के भी साधन नहीं हैं। उन्हें भी
कम से कम एक उपहार तो मिलना ही चाहिए।
आशा करती हूँ कि आप मेरी यह इच्छा पूरी
जरूर करेंगे।

-अद्विता (कार्नेशन)

नमस्ते सैंटा!

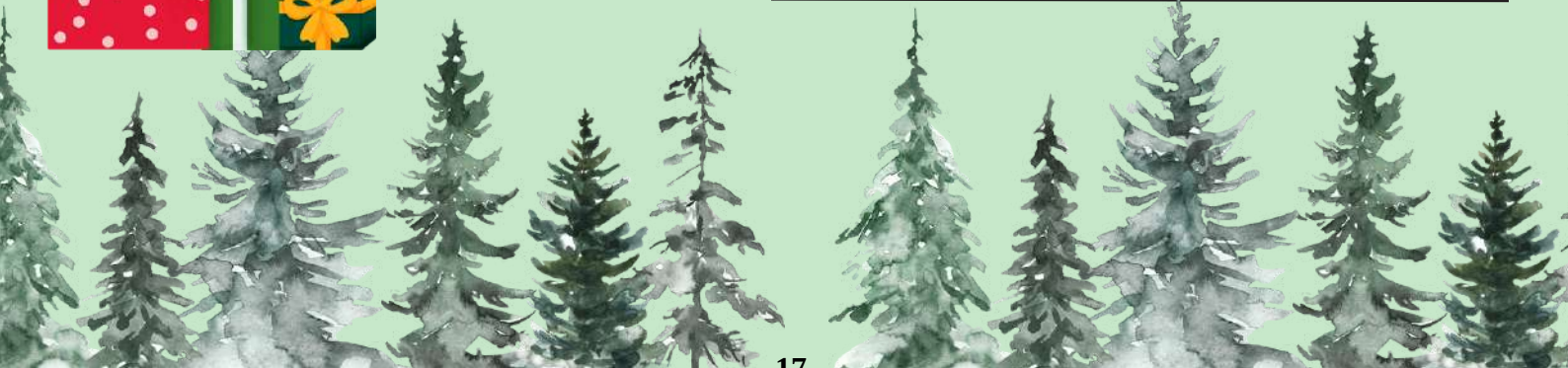
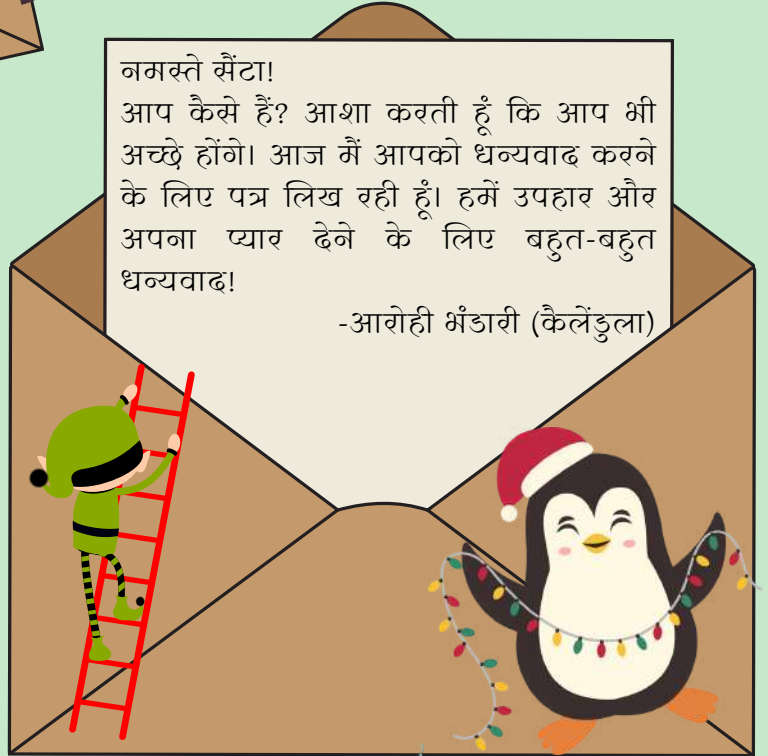
आप कैसे हैं? आशा करती हूँ कि आप भी
अच्छे होंगे। आज मैं आपको धन्यवाद करने
के लिए पत्र लिख रही हूँ। हमें उपहार और
अपना प्यार देने के लिए बहुत-बहुत
धन्यवाद!

-आरोही भंडारी (कैलेंडुला)

प्रिय सैंटा,

क्रिसमस की हार्दिक शुभकामनाएँ। सर्दियाँ शुरू
हो गई हैं। हमारे विद्यालय में अवकाश होने वाले
हैं। मुझे बहुत ही खुशी हो रही है, पर साथ ही
मुझे अपने मित्रों व शिक्षकों से न मिलने का
दुख भी है।

-आकर्षण मलेठा (कैना)



Highlights Hub

03-12-24

Inter House Elocution (VI-VIII)

- 1 st Position – Mahit House
- 2 nd Position – Prasatti House
- 3 rd Position – Vinaya House

06-12-24

Just A Minute (IV-V)

- 1 st Position – Pelican House
- 2 nd Position – Cardinal House
- 3 rd Position – Starling House

17-12-24

Inter House Extempore - 'Spontaneous Expressions' (VI-XII)

- 1 st Position – Prasatti House
- 2 nd Position – Vinaya House and Mahit House

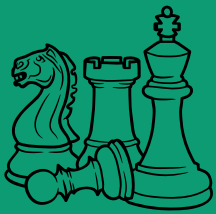
18-12-24

Inter House One Act Play (VI-XII)

- 1 st Position – Daivik House
- 2 nd Position – Prasatti House
- 3 rd Position – Vinaya House

O.A.S.I.S

OUTSTANDING-ATHLETICISM-SPEED-INTEGRITY-
SPORTS



GUKESH!!!!!!!!!!

By Aanya Soni -in collaboration with another chess freak Karmanye Goel
XI - A

Gukesh Dommaraju was born on May 26, 2006, in Chennai. He started playing chess when he was just seven years old, and his love and ambition for chess kept on growing. To pursue a career in chess, Gukesh even dropped out of school after class 4 to focus on it! By age twelve, he also earned the title of ‘Grandmaster’, becoming one of the youngest to achieve that title!

The World Chess Championship 2024 was held in Singapore from November 25 to December 12, 2024. The match to gain the title ‘WORLD CHESS CHAMPION’ was between the reigning world champion, Ding Liren from China, and our prodigy, Gukesh Dommaraju.

It is the World Chess Championship finals 2024; Ding Liren has played 33 moves and is about to make the 34th. After careful calculations and taking 11 minutes, Ding Liren plays the move, Queen D2. The young 18-year-old Indian is quick to notice that his opponent has committed a blunder; his hand trembles, sweat drops from his forehead, and his pupils dilate as he realises that the next few moves, if played right, can make him the youngest world champion in the history of chess. The odds are now in his favour, knowing that the young prodigy finishes his Chinese rival within five moves, crowning him as the youngest world chess champion in the history of the great and magnificent sport of chess. The prodigy’s dedication and hard work are a testament to the limitless potential of human ability, perseverance, and passion.

He has become a symbol of hope and aspiration, particularly in India, where his achievements have ignited a passion for chess among millions. Gukesh Dommaraju is not just a chess champion—he is a leader, a source of inspiration, and a shining example of what it means to dream big and work tirelessly to achieve those dreams.



SPORTS TALK WITH AANYA

A December to Remember: Bridging the Past and Present

Jigyasa Kukreti

XI A

GLOBAL LENS



Credits: India Today

New RBI Governor:

Sanjay Malhotra assumed office as the 26th Governor of the Reserve Bank of India on 11 December, succeeding his role as the former Revenue Secretary.



Credits: ChessBase

India's Youth:

India's young chess player D Gukesh created history by winning the World Chess Championship in Singapore on December 12, 2024. He defeated China's Ding Liren to become the youngest chess world champion.

"The turning of the year reminds us that time keeps moving, and it's up to us to make the most of it, regardless of what the past has left behind."

– Franklin D. Roosevelt

This month is a lot more special than any other month. Historically, it marked the fall of empires and the start of transformation. December has been a turning point for many civilisations, where the world saw significant shifts in power and ideology. From pivotal treaties to revolutions that changed the course of history, it holds the essence of both endings and new beginnings. As we approach the close of this year, it's a moment to reflect on how the past continues to shape our present and how the seeds of change sown today will grow into tomorrow's future.

December has played a pivotal role in shaping the rise and fall of empires throughout history. One of the most significant events in December was Napoleon Bonaparte's coronation as Emperor of France on December 2, 1804, marking the beginning of the Napoleonic Empire. This event set the stage for Napoleon's dominance across Europe, although his eventual downfall came after the failed invasion of Russia in 1812.

In China, the First Opium War began on December 28, 1832, between Britain and the Qing Dynasty, leading to the weakening of China's imperial rule and the opening of the nation to foreign influence, culminating in the fall of the Qing in the early 20th century.

Additionally, December played a key role in the rise and fall of the Soviet Empire. The dissolution of the Soviet Union was marked by the suspension of the Communist Party on December 4, 1991, followed by the resignation of Mikhail Gorbachev on December 25, 1991, signalling the end of one of the world's most powerful empires.

From Napoleon's reign to the end of the Soviet Union, December has been a month that defined the fate of empires, marking moments of glory, loss, and transformation that reshaped the global order.

As 2024 draws to a close, the year has been defined by pivotal political events, national controversies, global conflicts, and significant achievements in sports, all of which have had a lasting impact on both India and the world.

In India, the 2024 general elections were fiercely contested. The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, secured a third consecutive term, winning 240 seats in the Lok Sabha. Across the globe, the USA presidential elections saw Donald Trump defeating Kamala Harris in a battle that highlighted deep political divides within the country. Concurrently, elections were held in over 60 countries, including the UK, France, Japan, and South Korea, with approximately 50% of the global population casting their vote in 2024.

India also experienced notable social unrest. The Ladakh protests, sparked by concerns over local governance, land disputes, and environmental issues, raised alarms. Similarly, the Maldives-Lakshadweep controversy escalated tensions between the neighbouring nations. The NEET scam exposed widespread corruption in India's medical entrance exams, prompting calls for reform within the education system. The Kolkata rape case resulted in mass protests across the nation, intensifying the debate over gender-based violence and the need for stronger protective measures for women.

On the international stage, the BRICS summit marked a milestone with the inclusion of the United Arab Emirates, Egypt, Iran, and Ethiopia as full members, significantly expanding the bloc's global influence. In terms of India's economic reforms, Budget 2024 emphasised employment, skilling, MSMEs, and the middle class. However, the middle class seemed most dissatisfied, as the budget fell short of their expectations in key areas.

In sports, India experienced a mix of triumph and challenge. At the Paris Olympics, India made notable improvements from previous years, yet Vinesh Phogat, the celebrated wrestler, failed to secure a medal, plagued by a series of controversies. Nonetheless, her determination earned her tremendous respect across the country. On a brighter note, India's Paralympic athletes shone brightly, bringing home 29 medals: seven gold, nine silver, and 13 bronze, reflecting the country's growing success in inclusive sports.



Credits: NPT

Missing the Legend:

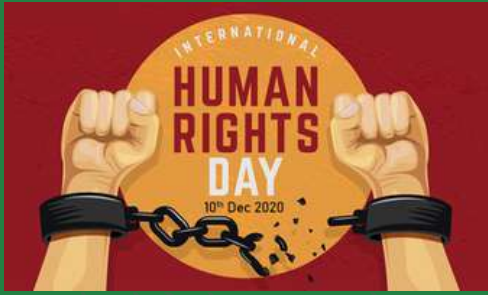
Tabla maestro Zakir Hussain passed away in a San Francisco hospital at the age of 73 years, due to complications from idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis. His death prompted an outpouring of tributes from prominent figures across politics, business, sports, and entertainment, celebrating his contribution to music and his legacy as a global icon of Indian rhythm.



Credits: The Indian Express

ISRO launches XPoSat for Cosmic Research:

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) commenced 2024 with a milestone by successfully launching the X-ray Polarimeter Satellite (XPoSat), aims to enhance our understanding of black holes and neutron stars.



Credits: Green World Group

Chronicles of Calendar:

December 10: Human Rights Day - Marking the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights by the United Nations, this day is dedicated to the promotion and protection of human rights worldwide.

December 12: Giorno della Memoria (Day of Remembrance) - In Italy, this day commemorates the victims of the Holocaust and the importance of remembering the horrors of World War II.

December 14: National Energy Conservation Day (India) - A day to promote energy conservation and encourage the use of energy-efficient practices in various sectors of society.

December 16: Vijay Diwas - A national observance to commemorate India's victory over Pakistan in the 1971 India-Pakistan war and the creation of Bangladesh.

December 21: Winter Solstice - The shortest day and longest night of the year in the Northern Hemisphere, celebrated in various cultures for its significance in calendars, agriculture, and spiritual beliefs.

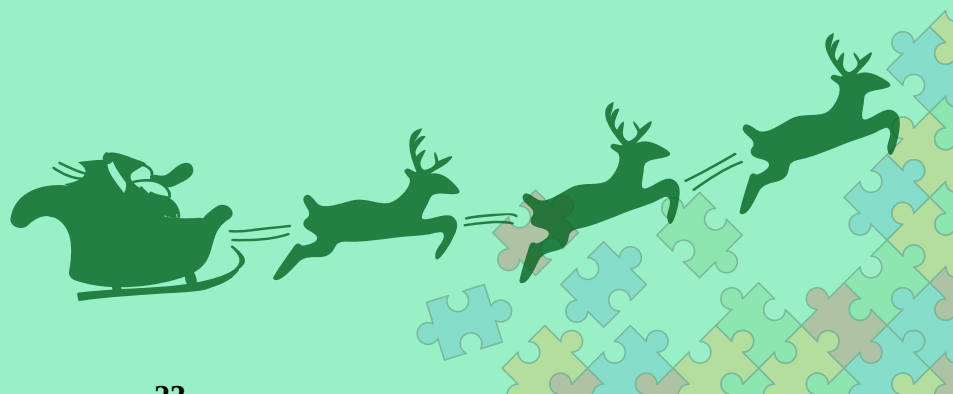
The year was also marked by tragedy, notably the Jhansi fire disaster, which claimed the lives of several newborns. This tragedy sparked a nationwide debate on the safety standards within the healthcare sector, highlighting the urgent need for better infrastructure and regulation.

Globally, the Israel-Palestine conflict continued to escalate, with Israeli airstrikes intensifying in Gaza and rising tensions over territorial disputes. The Israel-Iran standoff remained a major concern, with both nations engaging in military posturing and proxy wars in the Middle East. Meanwhile, the Russia-Ukraine war entered its third year, exacerbating global economic challenges, particularly with skyrocketing energy prices and disrupted food supply chains.

In East Asia, China-Taiwan tensions remained a volatile flashpoint. With China increasing its military presence near Taiwan, fears of an escalating conflict grew, especially as the United States and other regional powers closely monitored developments, wary of the wider implications for global security.

As 2024 comes to an end, there remains an undercurrent of uncertainty regarding global peace and stability, with ongoing conflicts and political turmoil continuing to shape the international order. Yet, India's political stability and economic reforms, along with its growing global influence, position it as a key player in the evolving global landscape. The year also underscored the persistent challenges India faces, including issues of social justice, regional disparities, and the need for continued governance reforms.

December reminds us that despite the challenges we face, we have the strength to improve. It teaches us to let go of the past while cherishing the lessons we've learned, allowing us to grow with each experience. This month is a time for hope, love, and new beginnings. As we celebrate Christmas, let us become our own Santa Claus and gift ourselves the hope for a brighter future.





A Vaccine for Cancer?

Arshiya Sandlas Chandna
XI A

What is a vaccine? A vaccine is a biological preparation that provides active acquired immunity to a particular infectious disease. Vaccines contain a small, harmless piece of a pathogen, such as a virus or bacteria, or a weakened form of the pathogen. This piece of the pathogen, known as an antigen, triggers the body's immune system to recognise and fight the pathogen. Cancer is steadily increasing worldwide, driven by a combination of factors such as ageing populations, lifestyle changes, and environmental influences.

When it comes to treating Cancer, it is done using a combination of therapies tailored to the type, stage, and location of the Cancer and the patient's overall health. Some common treatments that you might have heard of, which are also the most common types of treatments available around the world, include chemotherapy, surgery, radiation therapy, and hormone treatment. It is indeed a heartbreaking reality that many cancer recurrences occur within 2-5 years after completing treatment. The possibility of recurrence often causes immense physical and emotional distress, as patients may need to endure additional rounds of treatments. Imagine if a vaccine was invented for this, which could recognise the cancer cells recurring in the body and kill them then and there.

Reports in Russia's state-run news agency claimed this week that Russian scientists have developed an mRNA vaccine that can suppress tumour development and metastasis in pre-clinical trials. The Russian mRNA vaccine under development can be "personalised" based on the genetic analysis of each person's tumour to identify mutations called neoantigens. The vaccine is expected to be launched in early 2025. Vaccines can combat cancer by stimulating the immune system to recognise and attack cancer cells. Therapeutic cancer vaccines target specific proteins or antigens expressed by tumour cells, training the immune system to identify and destroy them. For instance, some vaccines use weakened or modified viruses to deliver these antigens, prompting a strong immune response.

Earlier this year, Russian President Vladimir Putin said that "we have come very close to the creation of so-called cancer vaccines and immunomodulatory drugs of a new generation." This statement seems to be becoming a reality for the betterment of mankind.

If successful, this vaccine could be a promising tool in oncology.



Bloom of the Month

(Mis)Fortunate Christmas Delight!

Gauri Juyal
XI A

Botanical name: *Viscum album*
Common names: Mistletoe
Flowering season: February to April
Native: Great Britain and Asia



Mistletoe is a plant that grows parasitically on trees. The word mistletoe comes from the Old English misteltan, with tan meaning “twig” and mistel meaning “mistletoe.” It forms a drooping yellowish evergreen bush, 60–90 cm (2–3 feet) long, on the branch of a host tree. It has thickly crowded forking branches with oval to lance-shaped leathery leaves about 5 cm (2 inches) long, arranged in pairs, each opposite the other on the branch. Most mistletoes parasitise various hosts, and some species even parasitise other parasites on a host.

Ethnobotany:-

Known only for its presence in our lives during Christmastime, humankind tends to ignore the malicious, evil side of mistletoes.

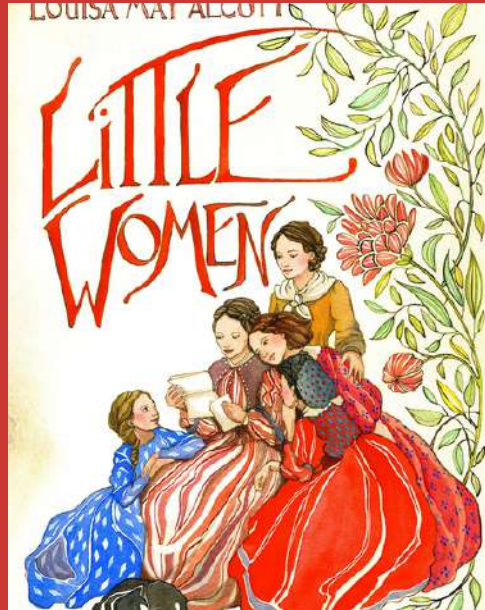
Mistletoe represents romance, fertility, and vitality. The Celtic Druids (a druid was a member of the high-ranking priestly class in ancient Celtic cultures) valued mistletoe for its healing properties and likely were among the first to decorate with it. The berry of the mistletoe ripens in December, and the plant remains green, hence its appeal in wintertime. The origin of kissing under the mistletoe is shrouded in uncertainty. However, it is believed the ancient Greeks celebrated the winter holiday of Kronia—a lively festival and one of the biggest of the year—with mistletoe, which may have started the tradition of kissing under it.

But.

In Norse mythology, the plant plays a key part in a story with a violent conclusion; the god Balder is killed by his blind brother, Hoor, with (of all things) a mistletoe projectile. Some versions claim he came back to life, and his mother, Frigg, cried tears that turned into mistletoe berries and then declared the plant symbolic of love. It is a plant that kills in more ways than one. Birdlime, a juice made from mistletoe berries, is used as an adhesive to trap small birds. Coils of the sticky substance are placed on tree branches. When birds land on them, they get stuck. The birds can then be caught by hand. Though illegal in many parts of the world, some countries still use this method to capture wild birds for eating. Some species of plants are toxic to humans, too, if they are ingested.

MUST READ

Little Women



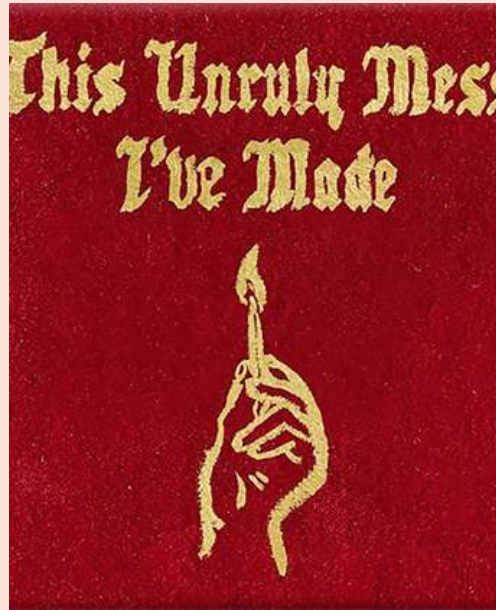
- **Author** – Louisa May Alcott
- **Publisher** – Roberts Brothers (original)
- **Pages** – 759 (Two Volumes)
- **Genre** – Coming-of-age, Family Fiction, Classic Literature

“I am not afraid of storms, for I am learning how to sail my ship.”

Set during the American Civil War, Little Women follows the lives of four March sisters—ambitious Jo, gentle Beth, artistic Amy, and practical Meg—as they grow from childhood to adulthood. Through love, loss, and personal struggles, the story explores family bonds, individual dreams, and the pursuit of happiness.

MUST LISTEN

Christmas Saves The Year



- **Singer:** Twenty One Pilots
- **Genre:** Heartfelt
- **Songwriters:** Twenty One Pilots, Tyler Joseph
- **Released in:** 2020

“Dust off old photo boxes
This one's marked '92, yeah
Years past seemed so much grander
This one needs to come through”

MUST WATCH

That Christmas



- **Director** - Simon Otto
- **Producer**- Richard Curtis, Adam Tandy, Lara Brey, Nicole P. Hearon, Aaron Dem, Bonnie Arnold, Mary Coleman, Rebecca Cobb
- **Genre** - Action, Thriller, Magic
- **Cast** - Bill Nighy, Brian Cox, Guz Khan
- **Where to watch** - Netflix
- **Released on:** 2024

It's an unforgettable Christmas for the townsfolk of Wellington-on-Sea when the worst snowstorm in history alters everyone's plans, including Santa's.



Picture Gallery



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