

THE FORESTRY TECHNICAL COLLEGE PIATRA-NEAMȚ
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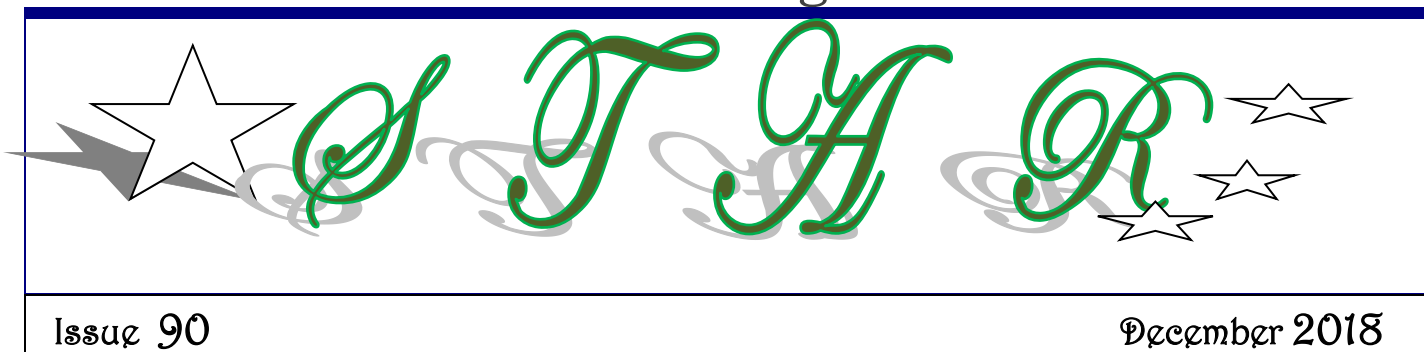
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THE FORESTRY TECHNICAL COLLEGE PIATRA-NEAMȚ

School magazine



December



On the 1st of December we celebrate our National Day. It is a time of joy and a time of being proud that we are Romanians especially because this year we celebrate our country's 100th anniversary.

The students from The Technical College of Forestry have taken part in many activities which were organised

in our school for this historical event. They recited poems, sang songs, participated in various competitions, drew posters and on the whole, felt proud of being Romanian citizens and trying to emphasise our national values.

This issue of our English written school magazine is about celebrating our National Day, but it is also about winter and Christmas. Snow has already started to fall, the town is beautifully decorated and we are starting to buy gifts or sing Christmas carols.

In the Students' Corner you will read about various traditions related to Christmas and how our students are preparing for this wonderful celebration.

Star's Editorial Team

DECEMBER IN HISTORY

Symbols of December

Birthstone: Turquoise,

Flower: Narcissus or Holly

Christmas Plant: Poinsettia

December was originally the tenth month of the year in the Roman calendar. It gets its name from the Latin word which means tenth. However, when the Romans added January and February to the calendar, it became the twelfth month.

They still kept the name, though. It is the first month of winter and the last month of the year. December in the Northern Hemisphere is similar to June in the Southern Hemisphere.

The first day of astronomical winter is on either December 21 or 22. This is the shortest day of the year and the longest night. It is called the Winter or Southern solstice in the Northern Hemisphere.

At the beginning of December, the season of Advent starts. The word advent means 'coming', and as its name suggests it is a time of preparation for the coming feast at Christmas. Christmas, the mass of Christ, is held on

25th December and celebrates the birth of Our Lord Jesus Christ over 2000 years ago.

December is also a month of multicultural celebrations.

The following multicultural events and celebrations are among those that will happen this year:

- Saint Nicholas Day (Christian)
- Fiesta of Our Lady of Guadalupe (Mexican)
- St. Lucia Day (Swedish)
- Hanukkah (Jewish)
- Christmas Day (Christian)
- Boxing Day (Australian, Canadian, English, Irish)

Great Union Day 2018

Great Union Day in Romania is celebrated annually every 1 December .

Great Union Day, occurring on December 1 is the national holiday of Romania. It marks the unification of Transylvania, Bessarabia, and Bukovina with the Romanian Kingdom in 1918. This holiday was set after the Romanian Revolution and celebrates the assembly of the delegates of Romanians held in

Alba Iulia, declaring the Union of
Transylvania with Romania.

On December 1, 1918 (November 18 Old
Style), the National Assembly of the
Romanians of Transylvania formed of
1,228 elected representatives of the
Romanians in Transylvania, Banat,
Crişana and Maramureş, met in Alba
Iulia and decreed (by unanimous vote)
“ the unification of those Romanians and
of all the territories inhabited by them
with Romania.”

Christmas Lights Day

Before the invention of electric lights,
families would balance candles on the
branches of their Christmas trees
Electric Christmas lights were first
invented in 1880 by Thomas Edison,
however it took another several decades
for the invention to catch on. And it
wasn't until 1903, when General Electric
began selling pre-assembled kits of
Christmas lights, the electric lights
became popular with people of all
classes.

The story of solstice

Solstice means “sun standing still.” In
the Northern Hemisphere, it is the first
day of winter, the shortest day and
longest night of the year, occurring on
the 20th, 21st or 22nd of December.

The introduction of Christmas

In the year 274AD, solstice fell on 25th
December. Roman Emperor Aurelian
proclaimed the date as “Natalis Solis
Invicti,” the festival of the birth of the
invincible sun. In 320 AD, Pope Julius I
specified the 25th of December as the
official date of the birth of Jesus Christ.
In 325AD, Constantine the Great, the
first Christian Roman emperor, finally
changed the ancient solstice celebrations
into Christmas, announcing that it
would be an immovable feast, officially
celebrated as the birth of Christ.

Christmas Eve - December 24

The anticipation of reindeer hooves
pitter-pattering on the roof, Christmas

Eve dinner by the fire, Christmas carolling amidst glowing holiday lights, evening church services, staying up late to prepare the stockings.... These are what makes Christmas Eve for many one of the most magical days of the year. While Christmas Eve traditions vary by culture and country, one thing is for sure, no matter who or where you are—on December 24, the fantastical becomes possible, and magic is all around us.

Christmas – December 25



There are so many things to love about the Christmas holiday The great thing about Christmas is that there is a joyful festivity for everyone to enjoy. Although Christmas has roots in Christianity and honours the birth of Jesus Christ, it has evolved over two millennia into a worldwide celebration that's both religious and secular. Every year on December 25, we celebrate Christmas, a day for spending time with family, honouring Christ's

birth, partaking in beautiful traditions, or just spreading some holiday cheer!

You should know that...

The figure of Father Christmas (Santa Claus) is based on the patron saint of children, Saint Nicholas (270-310AD) He became well known for supporting the needy. He would often be seen, clad in red and white bishop's robes and riding on a donkey, handing out gifts to children.

Santa Claus in New York

The Dutch, under Peter Stuyvesant, founded New York – named New Amsterdam under the Dutch and renamed when the British took over the colony – and brought with them the celebrations of Sinterklaas, the Dutch name for Saint Nicholas. Santa Claus is the American pronunciation of Sinterklaas.



Mistletoe is a symbol for peace and joy. The idea originated in the ancient times of the Druids: whenever enemies met

under the mistletoe in the forest, they had to lay down their arms and observe a truce until the next day. From this comes the custom of hanging a ball of mistletoe from the ceiling as a sign of friendship and goodwill.

In the Celtic language mistletoe means “all-heal.”



Did you know?

The first Christmas trees

According to some sources, the Christmas tree is actually a throwback to "Yggdrasil," the Great Tree of Life mentioned in Norse mythology. The first documented use of a tree at Christmas and New Year celebrations is argued between the cities of Tallinn in Estonia and Riga in Latvia! Both claim that they had the first trees; Tallinn in 1441 and Riga in 1510. The modern custom of an indoor Christmas tree is thought to have originated in Germany. German Christians would bring trees into their homes to decorate.

The famous Christmas reindeer

At one stage it was thought that Father Christmas (Santa Claus) lives in the North Pole. In 1925 it was discovered that there are no reindeer in the North

Pole. But there are lots in Lapland, Finland. So today we know that the reindeer live around the secret village of Father Christmas and the elves somewhere on the Korvatunturi mountain in the Savukoski county of Lapland, Finland, which is on the Finnish-Russian border.

Names of the Christmas

reindeer

Rudolph is the famous



most

reindeer. He is the leader of the other 8, whose names are *Blitzen, Comet, Cupid, Dancer, Dasher, Donder, Prancer, and Vixen.*

The names of the 8 reindeer were published by Clement Clark Moore, an American poet and professor of theology, in his 1822 poem “A Visit From St. Nicholas.”

Christmas stockings



A special Christmas tradition is hanging your stocking for Santa to fill

with small presents. This tradition comes to us from Holland, where children hang stockings for Sinter Klaas to fill.

But why stockings? Here is one story. Long ago there was a merchant who had three daughters. Sadly, the merchant somehow lost all of his money. His daughters were going to be sold as servants to pay his bills. During their last night at home the girls washed their stockings and hung them by the fire to dry. Bishop Nicholas, hearing about their fate, dropped gold down the chimney into each girl's stocking.

The girls were saved!

When their father heard who had given the gold, he went around town praising Bishop Nicholas.

Ever since, children have hung stockings by the chimney in the hopes that Santa Claus will fill their stockings with gifts, too.

The Christmas candy cane,

shaped as  a shepherds' crook, represents the

humble shepherds who were first to worship the new-born Christ.

Legend has it that the candy cane was invented in 1670 by a choirmaster at the Cologne Cathedral who handed out the bent sugar sticks among children to keep them quiet during the Living Crèche ceremony.

Did you know?

English is the official language of 54 countries, almost double any other country. It is the most widely used language in the world, and is used by many international organizations.

“Merry Christmas” is much more common than “Happy Christmas”, although the latter is sometimes heard.

Beginning about two weeks before Christmas, “Merry Christmas” is the common greeting in the United Kingdom, Ireland, and America.

Boxing Day - December 26



Did you know that Boxing Day originated in the UK?

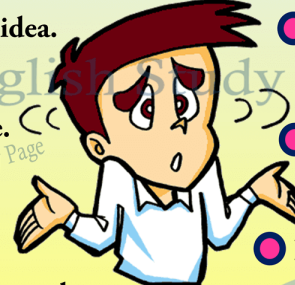
Boxing Day is a great excuse to give gifts to people. Everyone loves a gift so give your family and friends a gift from you.

Boxing Day is observed only in the United Kingdom, Canada, Hong Kong, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa and some other Commonwealth nations.

New Year's Eve - December 31

Did you know that the first places in the world to ring in the New Year are Samoa, Tonga, and Kiribati, while American Samoa and Baker Island in the USA are the last?

WAYS TO SAY I DON'T KNOW

- 
- I have no idea.
 - I am unsure.
 - Search me.
 - Don't ask me.
 - Beats me.
 - I am not sure.
 - I don't have a clue.
 - That's a good question. I'll check it.
 - I don't know anything about ...
 - I don't have any information about that.

Let's learn!



Difference Between **Whose** & **Who's**

Whose is a possessive pronoun like 'her', 'his', 'our' and etc... We use **WHOSE** to find out which person something belongs to.

Example Sentences

- **Whose** car is this ?
- **Whose** notebook was stolen in the class?
- The child **whose** bicycle has been lost cried.
- The girl **whose** bag is red is looking for you.

Who's is always a contraction for who is.

Who is → **Who's**

Example Sentences

- **Who's** driving that blue car?
- **Who's** to be responsible?
- **Who's** that man?
- **Who's** playing the guitar?
- **Who's** your favorite TV star?



Using **Very** and **Every**

VERY

Very is used to add emphasis. We use it before adverbs and adjectives. It means in a high degree.

Examples

- She said, "I am **very** happy".
- It was **very** difficult.
- This answer is **very** interesting.
- It's a **very** small window.
- I love you both **very** much.

EVERY

We use **every** to talk about collectively things more than individually. It means each, all.

Examples

- I shave **every** morning.
- She wanted to get away from **everyday** life.
- I take a break **every** three hours.
- **Every** artist is sensitive.

STUDENTS' WRITING CORNER

*Christmas is one of the most important and most popular holidays throughout the year. The winter vacation is near and I have many things to do. One of these things is to buy gifts for friends and family. I've always liked the idea of Secret Santa because you don't know where your gift comes from. I've always spent Christmas at my grandmother's house, a place which is full of comfort, warmth and happiness.

At Christmas, I have always been able to escape the cold winter days and allow myself to truly enjoy the celebration. Christmas is a time for family and friends to get together, share stories and feel good. A week before Christmas Eve I'll go with my grandmother to buy a Christmas Tree. On Christmas Eve, all the family gathers in the living-room, starting to decorate the Christmas Tree. When we start decorating the Christmas

Types of Nouns

1. Common Noun

Nonspecific people, places, things or ideas
Man, city, religion etc...

2. Proper Noun

Specific people, places, things...
Albert Einstein, London etc...

3. Abstract Noun

Something that you can not perceive with your five senses
Belief, love, pride, happiness etc...

4. Concrete Noun

Something that you can perceive with your five senses
Apple, lion, eyes, flower etc...

5. Countable Noun

Can be counted
Pencil/pencils, apple/apples, train, clock etc...

6. Uncountable Noun

Cannot be counted
Milk, music, food, water, snow, rice etc...

7. Compound Noun

Made up of two or more smaller words
Textbook, snowball, seafood, sunflower

8. Collective Noun

Refer to a group of things as one whole
Bunch, audience, flock, group, family

9. Singular Noun

Refer to one person, place things, or idea
Cat, dog, ship, monkey, hero etc...

10. Plural Noun

Refer to more than one person, place things, or idea
Dogs, cats, ships, babies etc...



Tree, the first thing we do is add the tree lights, then the garlands and then the other decorations.

My grandmother makes the best sponge cake and on the 24th of December I bake cookies with my best friend and sometimes we burn the cookies in the oven.

We also make a list with our New Year resolutions. Every winter we go to the skating rink even if I don't really know how to skate.

Ingrid-Ioana Lupu- 9 A

*How do I see Christmas? First of all, I think it's the best festivity ever where all the family gets together, the children sing Christmas carols. When I was little i went outside with my sister, sometimes playing in the snow, sometimes playing with other children and making snowmen. I remember 4 or 5 years ago I was trying to make a snowman. I wanted it to be as tall as me and it wasn't very difficult because I was pretty short. Anyway, I started building my snowman when I realised that I didn't use the

right proportions because the base was too big; but I tried to fix it and finally it was finished: eyes, nose and everything. But the next day when I went outside my snowman was destroyed; at first, I was destroyed but then I remembered that I did the same thing to a snowman built by some classmates some days ago.

Merry Christmas! Make lots of beautiful snowmen this year!

Adriana Iordache -9 A

*It was a beautiful December night. It was the day before Christmas. All day long it wouldn't stop snowing and the houses were covered in snow. Such an amazing scenery!

In my family's house it smells like apple pie, sponge cake and cookies. My mom is cooking a delicious meal while me and my father are decorating the Christmas tree.

I got so fascinated by the tree decorations that I didn't even notice it was midnight. I looked out of the window and everything looked like it came out from a Disney movie.

The stars were shining and it was a full moon in the sky. For a second I thought I heard Santa's bells jingling in the distance but I guess I was really tired so I went to bed.

The next day, when I woke up I ran downstairs in the living-room where the Christmas tree was. I was really happy to see a lot of gifts left near the tree by Santa Claus. I enjoyed all the gifts together with my family.

I love Christmas!

Andreea Vinca- 9A

*Christmas is a day which gives us a lot of memories that we consider very special. One of my favourite memories about Christmas is when I and my twin cousins organised a pyjama party. We were five years old and I remember that we had a lot of fun.

So, there were three kids running in the apartment, looking at every window to see if Santa Claus is coming. We also opened the rooms in the house asking:

"Santa, are you there? Please, come faster!"

Another Christmas memory is with my Italian cousins and my little sister who was just born. I got costumed as the Fairy Queen, a cousin was the Fairy King and the others were princes and princesses. We had lots of fun.

About Santa Claus, I think that he really exists and I don't think that he gives only material things. He usually gives us things that we want or deserve and they may be feelings, accomplishments or even people.

Merry Christmas, everyone!

Ana Lara Fodor- 9 A





Celebrating our National Day 2018





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*Christmas is a wonderful
celebration !
Snow is falling, all around me.
Children playing, having fun.
It's the season of love and
understanding,
Merry Christmas, everyone!*

We Wish You A Merry Christmas

And a happy New Year.

Glad tidings we bring

To you and your kin;

Glad tidings for Christmas

And a happy New Year!



Jingle Bells

**Dashing through the snow
On a one-horse open sleigh,
Over the fields we go,
Laughing all the way;
Bells on bob-tail ring,
making spirits bright,
What fun it is to ride and sing
A sleighing song tonight
Jingle bells, jingle bells,
jingle all the way!
O what fun it is to ride
In a one-horse open sleigh**

www.educationworld.com/a_lesson

<https://nationaltoday.com/christmas/>

<http://www.learn-english-today.com/resources-for-teachers.html>

<https://didyouknow.org/christmas>

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