

Holidays Around the World

B Vanessa Flores, Gabriel Maya

In December, people across the world celebrate many different holidays. Some holidays are based off of beliefs, while others are to commemorate their morals or events. There are hundreds of traditions other than Christmas and Hanukah including Kwanzaa, and Shōgatsu. These holidays are celebrated differently and for very different reasons. However, these holidays are equally important as the more publicly known holidays.



Photo credit:
newyearseveblog.com

Japan has a special holiday that is called Shōgatsu. Shōgatsu is the name for the Japanese New Year, which is celebrated on January 1st. Shōgatsu is considered the most important holiday in Japan. It is celebrated to address the New Year and a new start, as well as a goodbye to the current year. During this holiday people go to a shrine of a deity (a god or goddess) to pay respects. There are many festivals and parties with lots of food. Traditional dishes include soba (noodles) and osechi ryōri (an assortment of foods that relates with prosperity and health). Though, New Year is celebrated by most of the world, every continent or country celebrates it differently.

Kwanzaa is an African American holiday that originated in Africa. Kwanzaa is about identity and honoring the African culture. It is celebrated from December 26th to January 1st. Kwanzaa lasts seven days and each day represents a different principle. The first day is for unity. The second day represents self-determination. The third day is for responsibility and the fourth is for cooperative economics. The fifth day represents a sense of purpose. The sixth day is for creativity and the seventh represents faith. These principles are the main morals that are honored by this culture. Though Kwanzaa is not a religious holiday it still holds an important purpose.



The kinara has seven candles, each representing one of the seven principles.

Photo Credit; St. John's Fisher College

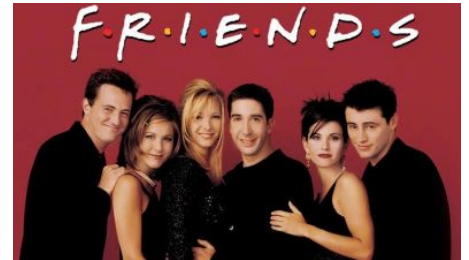
December is a very exciting month for many and that comes with a lot of family time and reflection. All around the world the traditions vary throughout the month. While one holiday may focus on religion, another may be to celebrate an event. Though they may seem very different, both have a meaning to the ones who celebrate them.

What's Trending?

Is “Friends” Leaving?

By Vanessa Flores and Giselle Bouzaglou

Friends is a comedy show made by David Crane and Marta Kauffman which centers around a group of friends. Friends takes place in New York and has 10 seasons. The show is about six friends: Chandler, Monica, Ross, Rachel, Joey, and Phoebe. It has been on Netflix since 2014, however there was a rumor that this beloved show will leave the streaming network. It was said that the contract Netflix had signed to allow streaming was about to expire. It was said that the show would be leaving Netflix and put on Warner Media. Friends is one of the most popular shows on TV, and millions love to watch and re-watch all 10 seasons on Netflix. You can imagine the havoc when people found out this show was leaving



This photograph was taken by Deccan Chronicle.

Fans of the TV series “FRIENDS” have been crazed about its absence soon on Netflix. All over the social media app, “Twitter”, accounts have been using the #Justice4Friends petition to hold Netflix accountable for their actions. Netflix, a streaming service, has said that their classic TV series would leave on January 1st, 2019. Fans were depressed and believed that 2019 will start off as “trash”. However, the spirit and love for FRIENDS is still alive. Thanks to countless petitioning, a “brighter” side came down for the friend’s lovers. Netflix has delayed its show’s leaving until 2020, with the fans still sad, but happy they made a difference.

“Thank You, Next”

Ariana Grande released her new song and music video, “Thank you, Next”, on YouTube in November. As expected, her song blew up and on November 17th it became number one on the Billboard Net 100. “Thank you, Next” expresses Ariana’s appreciation for the things she has learned from her breakups. She states the names of her exes and what she has learned from each of them. For example, she sings, “one taught me patience,” relating to her most recent breakup with Pete Davidson in which they had gotten engaged after less than a year of dating. Later in the song, Ariana says that she is in a new relationship with herself, showing how she is focusing on self-love.

Ariana’s top hit features four movies in her famous music video: Mean Girls (2004), Bring It On (2000), 13 Going on 30 (2004), and Legally Blonde (2001). Her video pops up with different movie scenes throughout it. The beginning features the “burn book” from Mean Girls. In the actual movie, the burn book includes rumors and grudges that one of the main characters hold – Regina George. During her cheerleading scenes, Grande is in her legendary Toro's cheer outfit from the 2000s classic Bring It On. As the video progresses, 13 Going On 30 is featured as Grande carries a dollhouse, passing an already-done wedding. Once the movie gets close to an ending, we are surprised by Legally Blonde coming in as the hair salon scene pops up. The video ends off with your original Mean Girls “Jingle Bell Rock” performance.

Sport-acular Jags

Flag Football Tryout Results Are In!

Kayla Barcenas and Hadley Turner

Flag football is a sport in which girls and boys in 6th-8th grade can play here at the Ridge. Flag football is like regular football, but instead of tackling, ball-carriers are downed by pulling a flag or marker. The season will start in 2019, so the schedule is not yet available but congratulations to all who made the team:

BOYS TEAM

Edrick Beckford	Terrance Jackson
Lucas Helf	Jake Lubar
Carlos Mallett	Aaron Myles
Ryan Moje	Jayshaun Dorvil
Mitchell Beckford	Cole Esterline
Royal Smith	Riley Fitzpatrick
Malique Sutherland	Leo Herrera
Kyler Wolf	Nathan Hernandez

GIRLS TEAM

Angela Cruzat	Maya Yenor
Annabel Alazraki	Melanie Villagran
Camryn Spruell	Nandi Ramessar
Gianina Caffi	Ryan Seiden
Kailyn Irwin	Samantha Boles
Kate Charlotin	Zoe Mullings
Kennedy Madison	Taylor Zollo
Madison Byrne	Selene Lopez

Miami Miracles

By Hadley Turner

Sunday, December 9th quarterback for the Miami Dolphins Kenyan Drake scored the winning touchdown in the last 7 seconds of the final quarter. They were down by 5 (33-29) the Patriots were winning, no hope, but in the last seconds Kenyan Drake pulled through and got the Miami Dolphins a win for the ages.



Kenyan Drake as he scores the winning touchdown.
Photocredit: Al Diaz of Fox

Sport-acular Jags

All About Volleyball



Hunter Ring is a 7th grader on the boys volleyball team.

By Kai Navarro and Samantha DeCapua

Here at IRMS we have numerous great clubs, sports, and extracurricular activities, one of which is volleyball. It's volleyball season here at IRMS, and there couldn't be a better time! The cold weather is just the boost we need to win, and by how well the team did at their last game, you can tell the boost worked. The volleyball team at IRMS mostly consists of eighth graders, however, there are some sixth and seventh graders in the mix. One of the team's players, Hunter Ring, one of the few seventh graders who made the team, describes the game as, "intense." and his simple statement describes the game better than anyone else could, "Volleyball is a fast paced, swift, hard game, and it puts a hard strain on its players." The team's players work very hard to play this straining game, and maintain excellent grades, they work very hard, and they all deserve a round of applause. The volleyball team for Indian Ridge is a team you should think about joining regardless of the grade you're in.

Jaguar on the Spot

A New Year Of Door Decorating

By: Madison Adkins and Hannah Brant

A new year of door decorating has started and teachers from all over the school are competing to win the title of Door Decorating Champion.

Even though the contest is optional, many teachers decide to join to bond with their students or just for their pure enjoyment. The teachers are given the chance to participate by themselves or join forces with any other teachers that they neighbor. The doors were judged using a rubric that covers the following points of originality, creativity, following the contest rules, and much more. Mrs. Hill, the head director of the contest, says that there are selected kids who go around and judge the doors. The contestants of the competition were given at least a week to create and decorate their doors and were judged on December 18th and 19th. The doors that scored the most points received one of the various prizes that will be distributed before the winter break.

From the past years at Indian ridge middle teachers from the different buildings have joined forces and followed a theme to decorate their hallways. For instance, in building 5, Mrs. Ingraham and the following teacher in that hallway followed the theme of the holiday movie 'Elf'. The outcome of the hallway decorations were captivating and memorizing. This is the first year that hallway and door decorations are being judged as one, and now the stakes are higher. With more space to manipulate, the contestants can expand their decorations to make a more cohesive picture.

Many teachers this year have come up with original themes to follow by to decorate their doors and hallways. For example, Ms. Carter and her fellow teammates, Ms. Shabsels and Ms. Faerber, are decorating around the theme of "having a 'Marvel'lous Holiday " using the Marvel characters in a Christmas theme. There are also many other teachers decorating with a theme including Mrs. Didier who is making a beautiful display using the theme of traveling and adventure. The teachers in this competition have done amazing this year in decorating their doors.



Ms. Didier's Yearbook class came in first with "Around the World In Santa's Sleigh". The second place winner was Mr. Laury, Mr. Arnold, and the rest of the SVE team for the "Charlie Brown Christmas". Third place was Ms. Nortmann with "5 Days of Kindness".

The Jaguar Den

Winter Break Is Finally Here!

By Chiara Cremonti & Valerie Roa

Everyone is waiting for Winter Break, and most have exciting plans ahead to spend time with family and friends, or to celebrate holidays like Christmas, Hanukah, or Kwanzaa. Tons of people traveled around the world to be with their loved ones. Also, everybody has different traditions and ways to spend winter break. At IRMS, many Jaguars went out of town and enjoyed their vacation, while others stayed at home with their closest family for the holidays. If you were staying home to spend the holiday, there are many things you could have done around Broward County. Some events you could have participated in were things such as seeing Christmas lights at Gulfstream Park up until December 31 during their annual New Year's Eve Party. Or, if you celebrated Kwanzaa, at Ujamaa, a huge Kwanzaa celebration was held on December 29th at Cultural Expressions in Hollywood, or maybe you could have chilled out at Dania or Hollywood beaches with your friends and family. Many students were excited for the gifts that they also received over break, but often forget the real meaning of the holidays.



Nevaeh Bustillo, a 7th grader, has big plans. She plans on going to St. Augustine because she wants to be with her family.

Jack Dickstien, an 8th grader plans on going to Nashville, Tennessee.



Mackenzie Osenkowski, an 8th grader who would like to have fun with her friends and family.

Photos taken by Hunter Ring.

Up For Debate



Colin Tinder, a sixth grader at Indian Ridge

Jaguars and Dreidels

By Ciara Matthews and Hannah Keller

Hanukkah, or the Festival of Lights is celebrated with the lighting of the menorah, traditional foods, games, and gifts. This holiday was inspired by the miracle of the long-lasting oil. Even though there was only enough oil to keep the menorah's candles burning for a single day, the flames continued burning for eight nights. Currently, at Indian Ridge, students and staff do not have school off for Hanukkah. Hanukkah may not be celebrated by the majority of Broward County, but it is still an important holiday to some people. So, the question is should we have Hanukkah off?

Pros.

Having Hanukkah off could be very beneficial to those celebrating it. First of all, many people such as Colin Tinder think students shouldn't have school off for Hanukkah because it is, "only at night." But if we did have school off some of the people that celebrate Hanukkah might spend their day celebrating in ways they normally wouldn't be able to because of school. Secondly, not having Hanukkah off isn't right considering we get school off for the last two weeks of December for "Winter break" which most people consider Christmas break. It doesn't seem fair to have Christmas off and not Hanukkah.

Photo Credit:
Thinkstock



A Jewish menorah, a very important symbol needed for Hanukkah.

Cons.

Having Hanukkah off could be "beneficial", but it will most likely be bad for schools. If we have one week off for Hanukkah and two weeks off for Winter Break, we would have all of December off of school. Even though this would be fun for all the kids that celebrate the holidays, this will be hard on them in the end. When important tests and the FSAs come afterwards, they will have forgotten all that they have learned. The reason we don't have Hanukkah off is because only 234,000 people out of the 1.936 million people in Broward County celebrate this holiday.

Jaguar Judges

Jaguars in Jeans?

By Marvin Mercelus



Jeans are pieces of clothing that are popular, but uncomfortable and shouldn't be able to be worn when it is 65 degrees or lower for students. There are many reasons why it's against the dress code. Some of them are thin, and are informal. Indian Ridge should keep the policy of no jeans no matter what.

Some jeans are thin which in many reasons can be bad. Thin jeans are, of course, thin, so they don't really do the job of keeping you warm and jeans don't do that job in general. But just remember you'll only be able to wear them when it's 50 degrees or lower, so you'll be cold since the lighter a color is the less heat it absorbs, and jeans are normally blue. Thicker jeans are a better choice but are still more lingering on the thin side.

Jeans are also informal wear while a good school environment is formal. In the school it is a formal wear place for all students to maintain a positive and upbeat learning area. It's even worse when they are ripped jeans because they don't look professional or school appropriate. The school's students are also to look professional, but jeans are sort of like every day or street wear for informal events. School is treated as a formal thing and for that we wear formal attire because that what you are supposed to do. Ripped jeans are even worse because they are the opposite of formal wear in general.

Jeans are against our dress codes for many reasons. One example is that jeans have many pockets that are special because you really can't see if there is something inside of them or if there isn't. As a result, somebody could bring something unwanted or dangerous on the campus. Another thing is that jeans could be uncomfortable since they can be tight even if they are the right size. Jeans are also bad for running mostly for the P.E. and yoga classes, since for yoga you must focus and stretch, but jeans can be tight which results of your attention being divided. If jeans were ever allowed to be worn in school, there would be many more problems.

Dear Jaguars...

Time to Take A Stand

By: Carlos Mallett

Many students in Indian Ridge struggle to speak up for what they believe is right, but truthfully there is nothing wrong with it and it is undeniably paramount to do so. Although, vocalizing opinions may be a step out of the comfort zone, this is a skill that is needed to be acknowledged. A great example of this courage is nine-year old Riley Morrison writing to Stephen Curry expressing her frustration regarding his shoes not being available in girl sizes. A nine-year old girl stood up to a beyond celebrity for what she thought was right. As a result, Stephen Curry fixed the problem and added the shoes in girl sizes. Evidently, taking a page out of Riley's book can be very useful for life in the long run. Riley is a great role model and sets a high standard for students in Indian Ridge to speak up when they disagree on a certain topic considering every circumstance.

7th Grader Taeyoung Kim is inspired by Riley as she states, "Since Riley is only nine years old and making a difference, then I along with many others can make a difference as well." Also, Tyler Jenkins insinuates he can "make a difference" and use Riley as an icon. Essentially, students at our school are taking what she did and exploiting it for themselves. Other than students being inspired by Riley to stand up for themselves, but some students have come up with ways to help other students who struggle to express their feelings. To illustrate, 6th grader Brody Miller says he can help others by "explaining to them that it is okay to disagree and help them speak up to whatever or whoever it is they oppose. I can may even be able to use this story as an example." Understand, it is not about Riley writing to Stephen Curry, but it is about Indian Ridge students having the fearlessness to make what you think heard. If A nine-year old girl is stepping out of the boundaries and standing up for herself, then without a doubt, everyone can as well.



Taeyoung Kim, a seventh grader.

Photo Credit:
Ella Glassman



Tyler Jenkins, a student from second hour peer counseling.

Photo Credit:
Ella Glassman

Feel Good

Spreading Holiday Spirit by Giving Back

By: Ella Glassman

Dream Catchers is an amazing fundraiser at Indian Ridge Middle. The program takes students who aren't going to get a lot for Christmas and lets other students and families bring in toys for them. 7th grader Kira Chen states that she does plan on helping bring toys for Dream Catchers. The program was founded by Mrs. Tower and the PTO. Mrs. Tower says that she loves helping kids. Jonna Rauh says "It makes kids happy around the holidays and it makes the feel loved." We encourage others to bring toys. It makes the students who give feel good about themselves. Emmanuel Moise says, "It makes me feel good about myself because I get to do something nice for others." Gioela Velasquez says "It will put a big smile on their faces!" This is a great way to spread cheer for the holidays. Dream Catchers started right after Thanksgiving and it ended December 19th. Overall this is a great program. It definitely raises kid's spirits, not just the ones getting, but the ones giving.

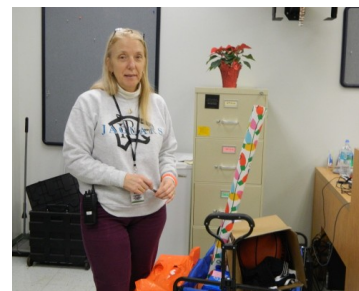


Kira Chen, a seventh grader.

Photo Credit: Ella Glassman

Ms. Tower, in charge of Dream Catchers.

Photo Credit: Ella Glassman



Saint Jude's survivors get married

By Gabriel Pacheco, Jaden Little and Brianna Harrison

On September 1, 2018 two cancer survivors got married at Saint Jude Research Hospital in Memphis. Lindsey Wilkerson and Joel Alsup were both patients in Saint Jude's when they were children. Lindsey Wilkerson discovered in 1991 she had acute lymphoblastic leukemia and Joel Alsup discovered in 1987 he had osteosarcoma, a type of bone cancer, which resulted an amputation of his right arm. The two have known each other ever since, 25 years ago.

When Joel was 7 years old his father said, "Joel was having a hard time buckling his seat and I thought he was just messing around and, Joel and I were playing catch with the baseball in the backyard he was using his left arm to catch that's when I knew something was wrong." Right now, Lindsey Wilkerson is 37 years old and Joel Alsup is 38 years old, the two said, "we are cancer free". The newlyweds stated, "When, we arrived at St. Jude, we were told that the bonds we would form with the other families would be the strongest we'd ever know." Turns out those words could not be more true, and they lived happily ever after!

Cubs of Character

By Isabella Bueno and Vania Guardarrama

Spreading Kindness Throughout the Campus

Kindness is the quality of being friendly, generous, and considerate. These actions are done without expecting something in return and can turn someone's day brighter regardless of their current situation. Those who are kind, constantly show random acts of kindness, like complimenting and smiling, to anyone they come across. Kindness involves individuals to share positivity even at times of distress just to make someone smile. The students nominated for Cubs of Character are the kids who stood out to their teachers due to their kindness.

6th Grade:

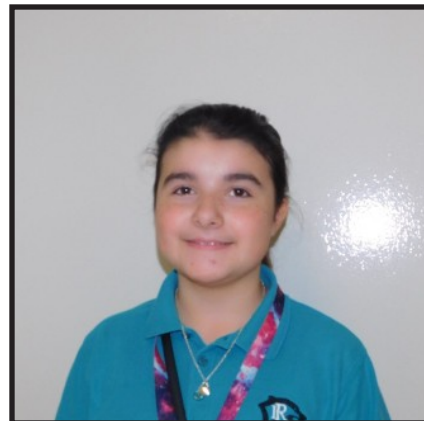
Ava Cardenas, Bailey Moyer, Brianna Quinteros, Camryn Spruel, Chelsey Ernst, Chralee Shon, Colin Tinder, Emmy Ortiz, Eve Pouland Guiliana Brosz, Hailey Gonzalez, Jarey Mathney, Jordana Osober, Lucia Farreras, Lyna Ngo, Maddox Osborne, Madison Rodan, Mia Homsey, Mia Parra, Michael Previti, Moises Mendoza, Morgan Wright, Sofia Cadid, Sofia Ojeda Camacho

7th Grade:

Ella Glassman, Hani Jewani, Hannah Keller, Ian Castilla, Isabella, DeLeon, Tom Bennet, Valerie Smith, Victoria Morales, Zharia Gelin

8th Grade:

Alec Gluckman, Brandon Goins, Cole Constantine, Emma Barney, Ethan Horwitz, Faith Lortie, Leilani Brinez, Salua Bobadilla Yate, Scarlett Roa Selene Lopez



7th Grader, Hannah Keller, states kindness is important because "it'll help other people and make them feel better about themselves knowing that they have someone that cares to help them."



6th Grader, Lyna Ngo, says she spreads kindness by helping others get a better understanding of words, problems, and topics.

"Kindness is spreading sunshine into other people's lives regardless of the weather."

-RAKtivist

Staff "Spot"light

Achieving Lifelong Dreams

Written by Jordan Miller and Malik Suleiman

Mr. Lindo is an eighth-grade language arts teacher at Indian Ridge Middle School. Recently, Mr. Lindo published a book called *What If Everything They Say Is True*. His novel is filled with poems. He has been a teacher for 10 years and all those years he has been at Indian Ridge. He started out as a student at Indian Ridge and some of his teachers are still here today. His grandfather was also a writer.

Mr. Lindo claims that his grandfather may have had an impact on him becoming writer. "My grandfather was an aspiring writer. I have vivid memories of him sitting at his desk writing short stories, poems, songs." Stated Mr. Lindo. His book took him a total of 13 months to create and publish the book and looks forward to creating more works of writing and hopes to one day become a full-time writer and he enjoys that people may find a moment of comfort in reading his book. His book is a collection of poems that he wrote, one of which is the name of his book, *What if Everything They Say is True*.

He has had a love for writing all of his life. By publishing his first book, he has achieved the first step of becoming a famous author. With a goal of becoming a full time writer, every piece of published writing is bringing him closer to his goal. Mr. Lindo talks about how his dream may be hard dream to accomplish, nevertheless it is his goal.



Mr.Lindo an author and an eighth grade teacher.

Photo Credit: Jordan Miller.

“Paw”se to Remember

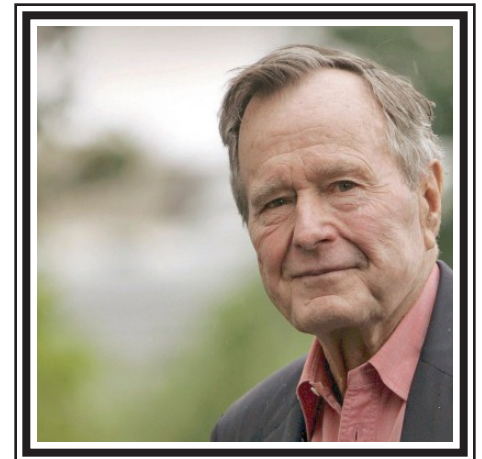
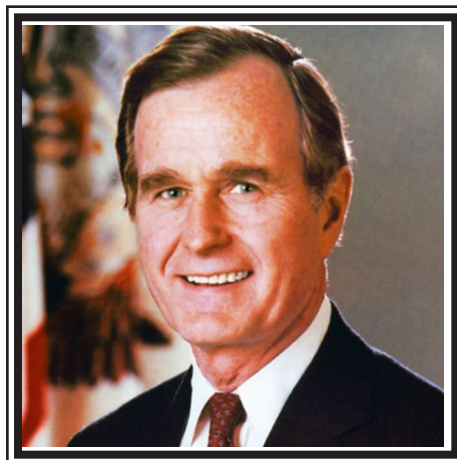
By Dani Larios

Remembering George H.W. Bush

Most commonly known as the 41st president of the United States, George H.W. Bush, passed away on Friday, November 30, 2018.

George H.W. Bush was born on June 12, 1924. He was known for being the father of George W. Bush, and serving as Ronald Reagan’s vice president. Bush fought in World War II and was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1966. He served as vice president for two terms and then won the 1988 U.S. presidential race, before losing his bid for a second term to Bill Clinton. George was chairman for the Harris County Republican Party in 1963. Bush finally became president in 1989. He won the 1988 election against Democratic nominee Michael Dukakis, becoming the first sitting vice president to be elected president since 1837. In 1990, George signed the Americans with disabilities Act. He’s done so much for the United States.

His wife, Barbara Bush, also passed in April of 2018.



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