

the nicholls north



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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

EDITOR IN CHIEF

Jade Williams



Dear Students,

We are almost there. We are almost through with this semester, so hang in there, Colonels. This year has been crazy; I feel as though this has been the longest semester yet.

It's been stressful, no doubt. For some reason, I feel like I have had more assignments than any other school year before because of the HyFlex/Zoom situation we have been in.

I am just as ready for this year to be over as you are. With the craziness of the world, I have been wondering the same questions as you. What will 2021 have in store for us? When can we throw away our masks?

That is why in this magazine, our cover story is about what we can expect looking into next semester.

With COVID-19 still around and without knowing when more cases will arise, we have prepared a story on some of the university's plans and how they will prepare us for the future.

In this magazine, we have an investigative entertainment piece on holidays and how they are celebrated around the world. Our entertainment editor did a wonderful job of researching different holiday traditions around the globe.

I am beyond excited for you all to read it. We will also have a short, easy quiz for you to take to find which holiday character you are during this upcoming Christmas season.

Trust me, you won't want to miss it. As I said, this semester has almost come to an end. It's finals and then pretty much vacation time until January.

But don't worry, between all those breaks and finals, The Nicholls Worth will still be covering stories and content for you to stay informed with our campus.

So, make sure you follow The Nicholls Worth on social media. Lastly, I want to wish you all good luck with finals. Geaux Colonels!

PRINT MANAGING EDITOR

Jillian Landry

ONLINE MANAGING EDITOR

Brennan Arcement

SOCIAL MEDIA MANAGER

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SECTION EDITORS

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Troy Foret

Alexia Castellon

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Benton Blanchard

Owen Callais

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Caitlin Jones

Alexis Dantin

Brandt Solar

COPY EDITOR

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DESIGNER

Addie Wetzel

PHOTO EDITOR

Ryker John Emnace

PHOTOGRAPHERS

Avery Landry

Maggie Bychurch

ADVERTISING MANAGER

Shaun Breaux

ADVISING

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Our Spring Semester

WRITTEN BY CAITLIN JONES | DESIGNED BY ADDIE WETZEL

When Nicholls State University announced its changes for fall 2020, it included an earlier start and HyFlex classes.

On July 28, the Faculty Senate held a meeting. When asked about student behavior outside of campus and whether it was possible to keep students from growing lax with COVID-19 guidelines, University President Jay Clune said, “That’s going to be the fun part.”

From August to late October, Nicholls has seen a successful transition into HyFlex classes. There have only been 104 cases of COVID-19 reported among students and faculty between March and Oct. 22.

On Oct. 15, fall commencement was announced as a two-day event over Nov. 21 and Nov. 22, and the long-postponed spring 2020 commencement was finally held on Nov. 7.

University success during COVID-19 control reflects a larger statewide trend. On Oct. 20, newly released White House reports indicated that Louisiana remained in the “orange zone” of coronavirus infection, while most states had spiked again into the “red zone.”

According to the White House report data, Louisiana has the lowest infection rate of any southern state. The Governor’s Office and The White House have both cited mitigation efforts, such as mask wearing and social distancing, as the reason for the low infection rate.

Many students and faculty members have been wondering what the 2021 spring semester will look like. Most questions remain unknown with how spring 2021 will look, according to internal administrative statements.

When class schedules were released in early October, all regular in-person courses were listed under “Lecture”

coursework. As of now, length of the spring 2021 calendar is also normal. It runs from Jan. 19 to May 12, 2021.

Administration said concrete answers were difficult to give until after finals.

On Nov. 4, Governor John Bel Edwards updated the state status on COVID-19. (Put his answer of the status after the announcement)

Looking ahead to spring, Vice President of Enrollment and External Affairs Alex Arceneaux has stated that Nicholls is up 6.5 percent in newly admitted students for the spring 2021 semester. He attributed this increase to students who postponed their enrollment to spring because of concerns of COVID-19 during the fall.

He also said that another reason for the influx of applications is because it is common for students to transfer to Nicholls after their first semester at another university.

With withdrawal data in mind, Arceneaux also cited an improvement from last fall. The university drop rate was 3.7 percent compared to last fall’s rate of 5.1 percent.

Sue Westbrook, Vice President of Academic Affairs, said that decisions on the spring 2021 calendar were made in September in response to student needs.

“I think students are exhausted right now, with the COVID restrictions, the social-distancing, wearing masks, moving to HyFlex...” Westbrook said. “So, we thought, let’s be positive and roll the calendar as normal. And we’ll see what the situation is with COVID, if they reduce the restrictions, if they remove the six-foot distancing. Maybe we’ll just need

“Dr. Clune has, in fact, encouraged us, to try to take the classes outside, when we could. It’s just that it’s been so hot,” Westbrook said.



the masks? We don’t know.”

On the subject of student events, Greek life and activities, Michele Caruso, Vice President of Student Affairs, stated that there was no clear guidance on events for 2021 just yet.

“It really is going to depend on what happens in the next few months,” Caruso said. “And what our sets of guidelines look like.”

According to Westbrook, no changes will be needed for the winter session because the majority of classes offered during the session are usually online or hybrid anyway.

Since students and faculty will still be on campus after Nov. 4, Westbrook anticipates that the campus population will be better prepared for any changes that occur due to statewide announcements.

Westbrook highlighted the use of larger spaces such as Shaver Gymnasium and outdoor areas around campus, despite difficulties with local weather.

“Dr. Clune has, in fact, encouraged us, to try to take the classes outside, when we could. It’s just that it’s been so hot,” Westbrook said.

Caruso made similar statements about outside events, citing the fluctuating Louisiana weather as something to keep in mind.

“We would try to schedule those events that made sense, during times that made sense, knowing what the season was and maybe having backup plans, if necessary,” Caruso said.

Westbrook cited that the usage of Zoom and Moodle would not change and that administration wanted to avoid adding any additional technology.

“We don’t want to add too much new software for students,” Westbrook said.

She mentioned administrative discussions about using both Zoom and Top Hat, but her concerns remained that students

and faculty would grow frustrated with additional required technology.

Westbrook also cited university surveys, stating that students “preferred face-to-face” above Zoom and other online modules.

One concern Westbrook expressed was the upcoming flu season and how flu season would interact with COVID-19. Caruso said health service demands for flu vaccines on campus have not been high in the past, and at this time, the university has no plans for mass vaccinations.

Westbrook also expressed concerns about the winter break, with Thanksgiving and Christmas in mind.

“We’re just hoping that students will continue, if we have to wear the masks and social-distance, that they will do that when they’re gone for Christmas,” Westbrook said.

According to Caruso, discussions have opened up about testing and precautions ahead of the spring 2021 semester.

“We talk about testing almost every day,” Caruso said, citing Arceneaux as an important figure in organizing on-campus testing. “That conversation I’m sure I’ll be having about making testing available for students returning or before they return. We will be asking students, of course, to make smart decisions as they enter the couple of weeks before the semester, to monitor their health.”

Caruso said that if students do exhibit symptoms or test positive ahead of the spring semester, they should contact Nicholls on the COVID-19 section of their website. If needed, students may have to quarantine on campus or participate in classes virtually.

As a result of winter break, Westbrook said there were internal questions about the safety of spring break, even though the week off remains on the spring 2021 calendar.

SPORTS CALENDAR

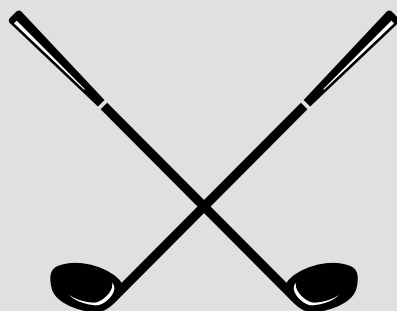
WRITTEN BY ALEXIS DANTIN | DESIGNED BY ADDIE WETZEL

2/27	VS.	Lamar
3/6	AT	Northwestern
3/13	AT	Sam Houston State

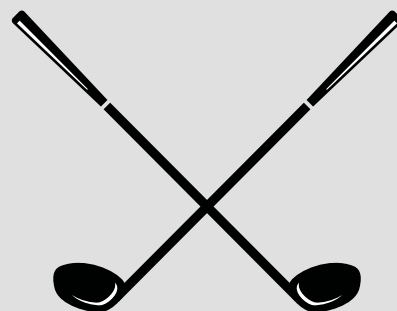
FOOTBALL

3/27	VS.	Incarnate Word
4/3	AT	McNeese
4/10	VS.	Southeastern

2/14 & 15	LaTour Intercollegiate (LaTour Golf Club)
3/1 & 2	Gulf Coast Collegiate (Diamondhead Country Club)
3/8 & 9	Colin Montgomerie HBU Invitational (Augusta Pines Golf Club)



MEN'S GOLF



3/29 & 30	Moe O'Brien Invitational (Lake Charles Country Club)
4/5 & 6	Bayou City Collegiate Classic (Westwood Golf Club)
4/26 & 28	Southland Conference Championship (Stonebridge Ranch Golf Club)

2/4	VS.	New Orleans
2/6	AT	McNeese
2/9	AT	Southeastern
2/11	VS.	Houston Baptist
2/25	AT	Abilene Christian
2/27	AT	UIW

WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL

3/11	VS.	Stephen F. Austin
3/13	VS.	Lamar
3/18	VS.	Texas A&M - Corpus Christi
3/20	VS.	Sam Houston State
3/25	AT	Central Arkansas
3/27	AT	Northwestern State

— April 2nd-3rd, 2021 Southland Conference Tournament (TBD) —



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2/12
2/19
2/21
2/26
2/28
3/12

AT
VS.
VS.
AT
AT
VS.

McNeese
Stephen F. Austin
Sam Houston State
Northwestern State
Central Arkansas
Lamar

WOMEN'S SOCCER

3/19
3/21
4/1
4/3
4/9

AT
AT
VS.
VS.
AT

Abilene Christian
UIW
Texas A&M - Corpus Christi
Houston Baptist
Southeastern

April 15th-17th, 2021 Southland Conference Tournament (TBD)



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Colonels Christmas

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C E A L U I W H E M Y N X A Y
S J D W Y N N D G E A R T P N
T Q S M W I V G N S R S I A T

gingerbread man
reindeer
cookies

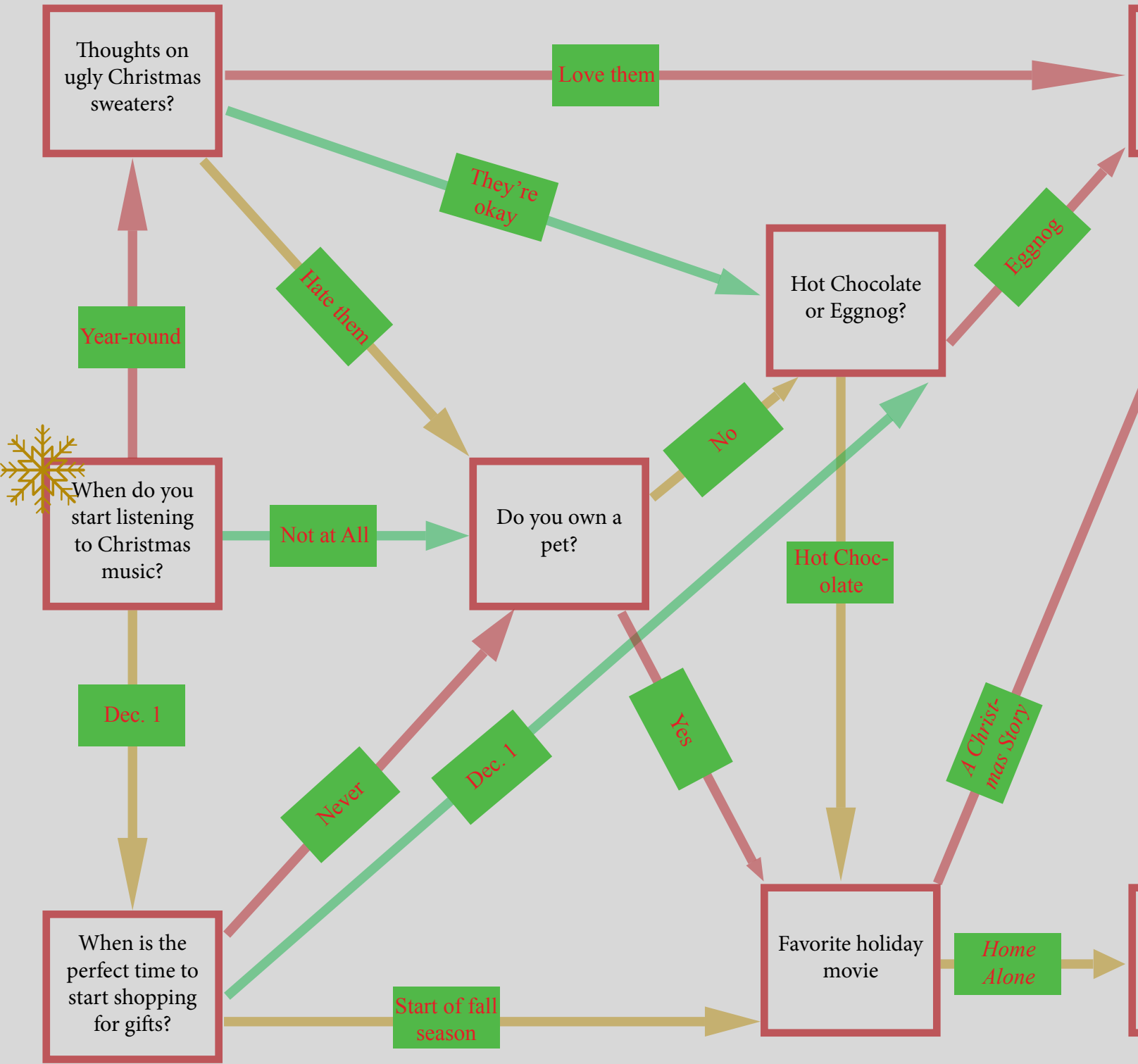
Christmas
ornament
Santa

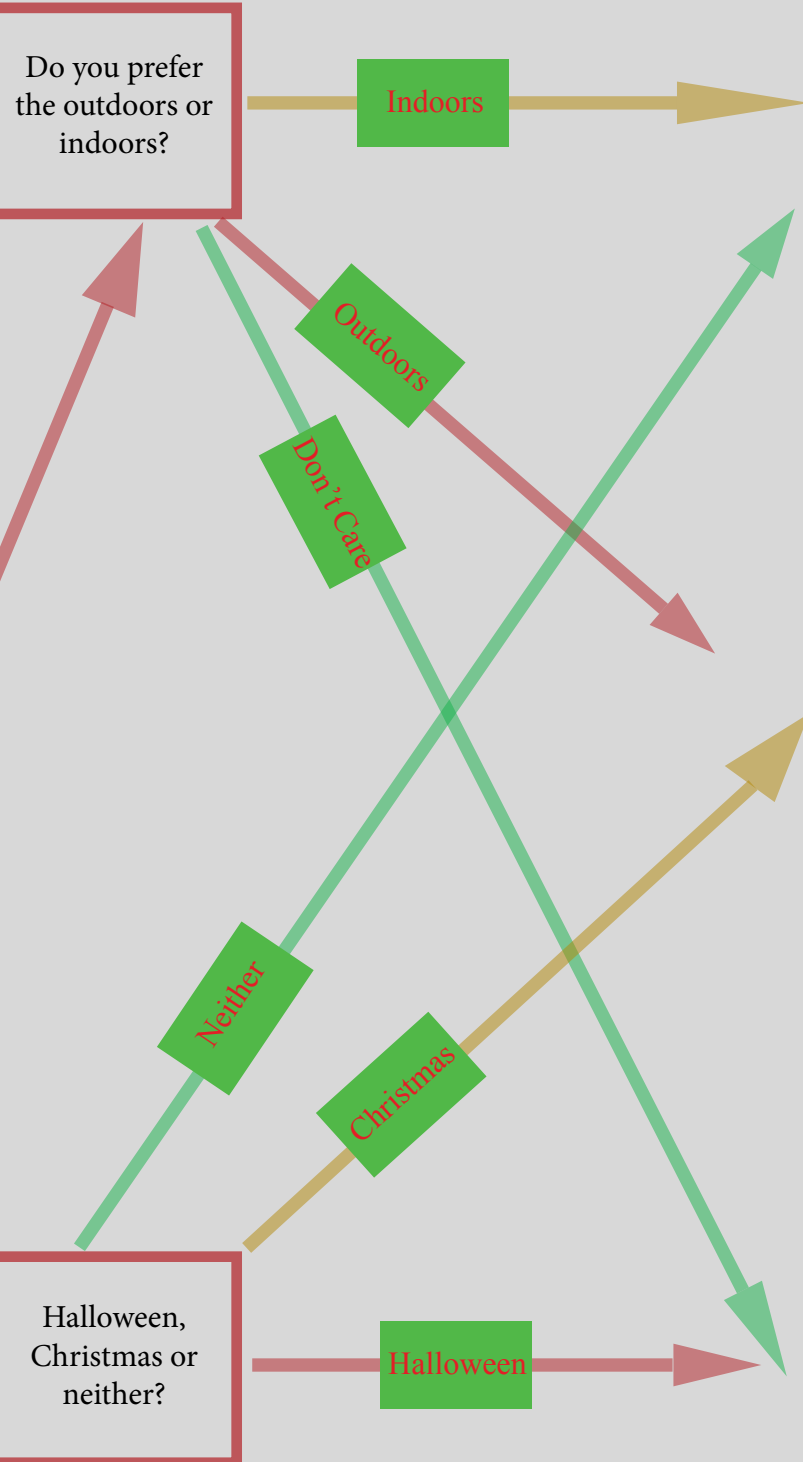
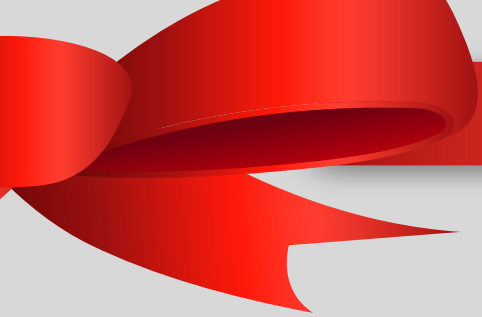
fireplace
Chimney
presents

Stocking
candy cane
tree

WHICH CHRISTMAS CHARACTER ARE YOU?

Written by Jade Williams Designed by Jillian Landry Quiz Starts at ❄️





THE GRINCH

You're grumpy all the time, you hate waking up early and your most loyal friend is your dog or other pet. You love food, but you hate Christmas music and can't stand the site of Christmas decorations. You also can't figure out what to wear. "Ooh, ah, mmm, that's it I'm not going" are the words you live by.

FROSTY

You're happy and energetic about the holidays. You love the cold weather and wearing scarves. You probably put up your Christmas tree way too early and you blast the holiday music everywhere you go in your car. Basically, you're a real cheermeister.

JACK

You like Christmas and want to get in the spirit of the holiday. You are also way too connected to scary stuff. You want to give the right gifts but just don't know what to get. You may want something new, but you're not sure how to express your feelings around the holidays.



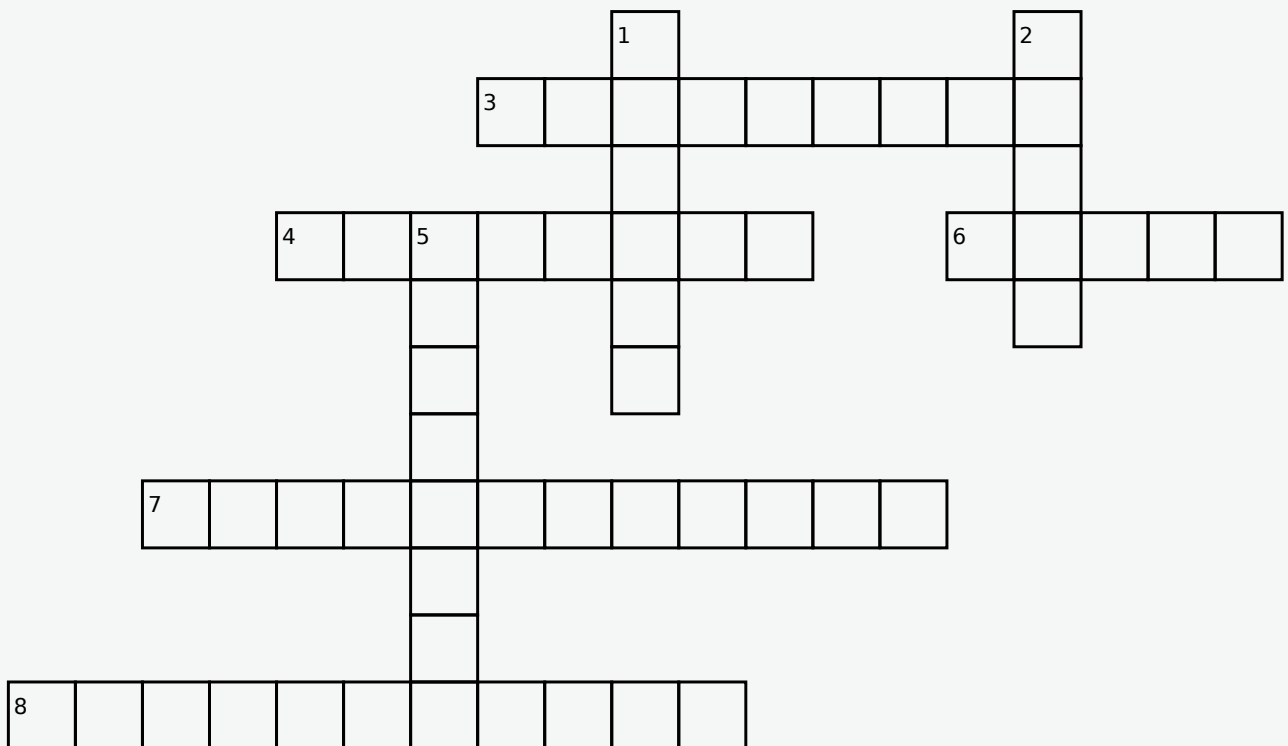
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Down:

1. The name of the mascot
2. Down the
5. Geaux...

Across:

3. The only on campus fast food place
4. Name of the college you attend
6. The presidents dog
7. One pride...
8. SPA's most famous event

Holidays Around the World



WRITTEN BY ALEXIA CASTELLON | DESIGNED BY ADDIE WETZEL

Many occasions bring family and friends together for celebrations, but perhaps the best time is the holidays. Every country has its own traditions based on its culture, and while we may share holidays around the world, here are some with which you may not be familiar with.

Canadian Thanksgiving

Canadian Thanksgiving is celebrated every year on the second Monday of October. The date lines up with the completion of the Canadian harvest, and it is right on time before the very cold days. On this day, Canadians typically enjoy Jiggs dinner, which is a dish made up of boiled meat and split-pea pudding. Their usual dessert is butter tarts, which are pastry shells filled with syrup. The holiday is often celebrated the weekend prior to the Monday. Even though it is considered an official statutory holiday, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island do not get that day off.

Día de los Muertos

On Nov. 2, the Mexican culture celebrates the Day of the Dead by paying tribute to their loved ones who have passed away. While some celebrate this day by visiting them and sharing a meal in the graveyard, others welcome the spirits of the past into their homes by setting up altars with their favorite foods, drinks and pictures for them to enjoy back in the realm of the living. If the altar is paying tribute to a child, candy and

toys may be found on it.

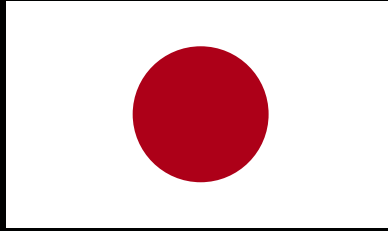
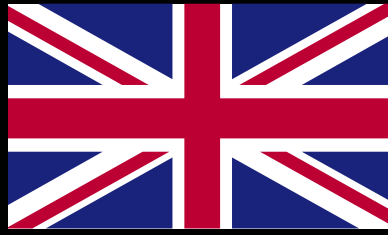
All over Mexico, in cities and towns, people wear decorative makeup and costumes, inspired by Calaveras (skulls) and Calacas (skeletons). They hold parades, parties, sing and dance to demonstrate their love and respect for the dead. Even though the main theme of this celebration is death, it is actually a very colorful and joy-filled celebration because the Aztec, Toltec and other Nahua people considered mourning the dead disrespectful.

All over the cities, skull-shaped candy, Pan de Muerto (a sweet bread), flowers, colorful decorations and candles may be found.

“Marigolds are the main flowers you’ll find because they believe that these flowers guide wandering souls back to their place of rest,” Dalia Diaz, from Guadalajara, said.

Diwali

Diwali, also known as the festival of lights, is celebrated by the Hindus as a holiday that pays homage to the



gods and marks the beginning of a new year. Lights are a symbol of knowledge and everything good in the world. The lighting of lamps welcomes the goddess of prosperity, Lakshmi. The Diwali festival begins in late October and lasts for five days. Since this is a celebration of happy times, most dishes are sweet. Some other common sweets are gulab jamun, halwa and barfi amongst others.

Different regions in India will celebrate different gods and their stories. In the north, the tradition of lighting lamps for good fortune comes from King Rama's victory over the demon Ravana. The story says that he defeated the demon by lighting a row of lamps. In the south, they honor the victory of Lord Krishna, the eighth avatar of Vishnu, over the demon Narakasura. The western regions of India focus on Vishnu, one of the three major Hindu gods.

Hogmanay

Hogmanay is Scotland's way of celebrating the new year. It is a celebration that lasts from three to five days filled with ancient traditions such as street parades, entertainment, fire festivals and fireworks. It became a tradition after the celebration of Christmas was banned in the 16 and 17 centuries by Oliver Cromwell. In Scotland, Christmas remained a normal working day until 1958, so the Scottish found another way to celebrate mid-winter with gifts, parades and whiskey.

Before the year ends, families usually do a major cleanse of the house to prepare it for the new year. This includes actual clean up as well as going from room to room with a smoking juniper branch in order to rid the house from evil spirits.

After the stroke of midnight, it is tradition to visit houses of friends and neighbors bearing a gift, which is usually some kind of fruit cake, and in return one receives whiskey. This is called "first-footing" and is thought to bring luck into the homes based on an old Viking tradition.

Fire is the center of Hogmanay. According to Viking tradition, fire rids a place of evil spirits. In most cities, there are fire festivals and bonfires all around. These can go on for days, and some last from the end of December to the beginning of January.

Christmas

Christmas is one of the holidays that is celebrated almost everywhere in the world, and even though it holds almost the same meaning everywhere, different cultures have distinct ways of celebrating it.

In the Philippines, Christmas lasts five months. Decorations start going up in September and are not taken down until the first Sunday in January.

In Japan, it is a common tradition to eat Kentucky Fried Chicken, and the holiday is treated as a romantic day for couples.

In the United Kingdom, families wear paper crowns around the table and share Christmas crackers, which are paper tubes that have small gifts and confetti inside.

In Venezuela, people visit the church on Christmas Eve in roller skates and then have tamales for dinner.

In Croatia, while some children clean their boots and place them in their window hoping





to receive gifts from St. Nicholas, others are afraid that Krampus, St. Nicholas's evil accomplice, will capture them for being naughty.

In Iceland, mischievous trolls called The Yule Lads, visit the children for 13 days right before Christmas. Children will place shoes in the windows for them and receive a gift every day in exchange.

Good children get gifts, and misbehaved ones get rotten potatoes.

In Finland, the main holiday season revolves around the celebration of St. Lucia Day on Dec. 13.

During this celebration, the eldest girl in the family will dress up in white, while wearing a crown of candles and

serve the family food.

On Christmas Eve, families enjoy a relaxing trip to the Sauna, and for Christmas lunch, they usually have porridge with a hidden almond in it. It is believed that the person who finds the almond will have good luck for the rest of the year.

These are just some of the holidays that you may come across if you get to visit and experience these cultures.

It's pretty amazing how these celebrations have a different meaning for people even on the same continent.

The one thing we all have in common is that holidays bring family and friends together, one way or another, to celebrate the gift of life.



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