

The Buccaneer

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MERRY MOVIES

Turn to Page 2 to see what other Bucs are watching this winter!



PUZZLE Palooza!

This special holiday edition of The Buccaneer student newspaper is packed with more puzzles than Santa's sleigh! Solutions to the trickier ones appear on Page 5.

Hungry for holiday treats? Check out Page 4 for a fun and easy recipe that hits the spot!



FESTIVE FLICKS

SURVEY BY KATELYNN PARKER

Merry Christmas, ya filthy animals! Nearly 37% of the RBR students, faculty, administrators and staff who responded to *The Buccaneer’s* holiday survey identified the 1990 kid-centered caper “Home Alone” as their favorite live-action Christmas watch. Another sizable chunk (28.4%) shared Buddy’s affinity for “Elf” culture, while the 1983 throwback flick “A Christmas Story” ran a distant third with 7.6% of the votes cast.



The animated landscape was a bit more fragmented: The RBR community’s top pick (28.4%) was a 2004 adaptation of *The Polar Express*, a popular children’s picture book. On the eve of its 60th birthday, “A Charlie Brown Christmas” garnered 21.2% of the votes cast, and two stop-motion animation masterpieces tied for third place, each with 13.2% of the votes cast: “Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer” (1964) and Tim Burton’s “The Nightmare Before Christmas” (1993).

The revered English writer Charles Dickens would probably have the morbs (that’s Victorian slang for “be bummed”) to learn that Buc Nation is not a fan of his 1843 novella “A Christmas Carol” or the nearly one dozen adaptations it has spawned. More than one-



Results are based on a bilingual, highly unscientific survey completed by 250 RBR students and staff (or about 17% of the school population) on Dec. 18, 2024.

quarter of those who took *The Buccaneer's* survey reported that they did not like — or had never even heard of — the story or its many film iterations. That said, “The Muppet Christmas Carol” was deemed the superlative Scrooge, with 16% of the votes cast.

Runners-up included two Disney animated productions: the hand-drawn “Mickey’s Christmas Carol” (13.6%) and the 2009 Jim Carrey motion-capture joint (12%).



Speaking of Jim Carrey, he’s Buc Nation’s favorite Grinch by far, with nearly half of survey respondents (48.8%) identifying his 2000 live-action film as their favorite adaptation of the Dr. Seuss storybook *How the Grinch Stole Christmas!* Twenty-two percent preferred the 1966 animated TV special, while the 2018 animated film, simply titled “The Grinch,” ran a close third (18.4%).

More than 100 respondents wrote in special mentions for holiday favorites that were not included in the survey choices. These ran the gamut from unconventional picks like “Die Hard” (“Yes, I think it’s a Christmas movie!” one respondent wrote) and “Gremlins”; to Christmas-adjacent films (“The Sound of Music,” “Babes in Toyland”); to edgier fare like “Bad Santa” and the “Saturday Night Live” Christmas specials. Some respondents expressed a preference for “Home Alone 2: Lost in New York,” while others shouted out Christmas episodes of their favorite TV shows or Hallmark-style TV movies. The 2019 Netflix original “Klaus” got three mentions, while two respondents highlighted “Holiday Inn,” the 1942 musical starring Bing Crosby and Fred Astaire, in which the classic carol “White Christmas” made its debut.



Of the 187 students who completed *The Buccaneer's* survey, 34% self-identified as seniors, 28% as freshmen, 21% as sophomores, and the remaining 17% as juniors.

RECIPE | Sophia Kurdes

HOMEMADE *Hot Cocoa*

INGREDIENTS

- ½ tablespoon cinnamon, plus more for garnish
- 2 tablespoons cocoa powder
- 2 tablespoons brown sugar
- 2 tablespoons heavy cream
- ¼ teaspoon vanilla
- 1 cup milk
- ¼ cup water
- Whipped cream

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Add all the ingredients (except the whipped cream) into a medium saucepan set over medium heat.
2. Whisk until combined.
3. Serve topped with whipped cream.
4. Optional: Garnish with cinnamon.

CONNECTIONS | Phoebe Rubinstein

Inspired by the popular New York Times puzzle of the same name, the goal of this game is to create four groups of four related words.

ORANGE	HOT	TRADITIONS	DRIFT
APPLE	MAN	RITUALS	CUSTOMS
GLOBE	CRANBERRY	TOOTH-BRUSH	SOCKS
FESTIVITIES	DAY	CANDY	EGG

P U Z Z L E A N S W E R S

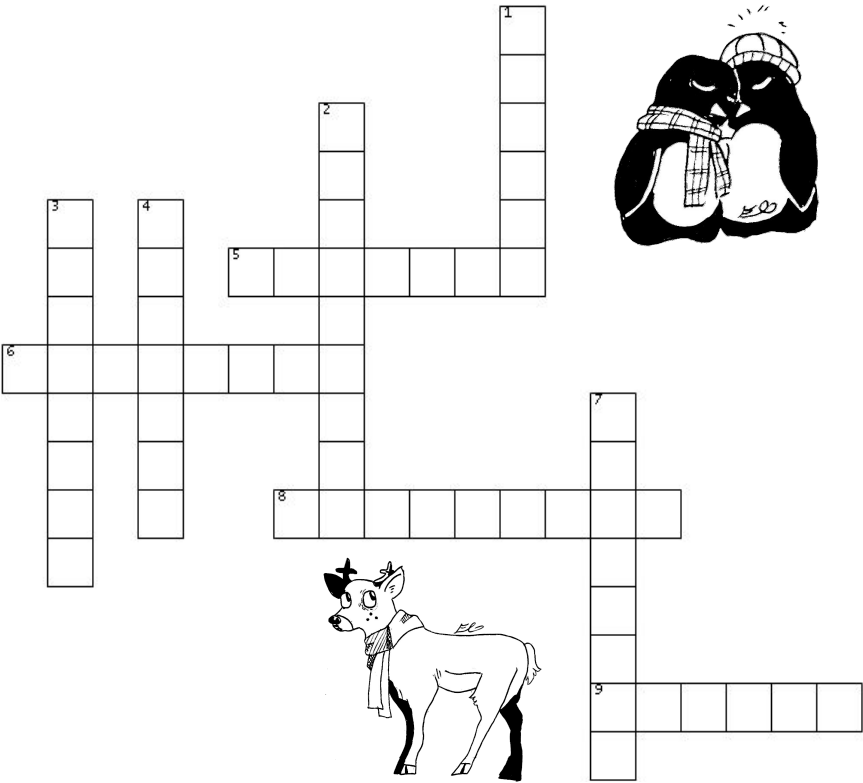
1. Chanukkah, an alternative spelling of Hanukkah, is a Jewish tradition that lasts eight days and nights. This year, Chanukkah begins at sundown on Wednesday, Dec. 25.
2. Las Posadas is a Christian religious festival celebrated in Mexico and parts of Latin America in the nine days leading up to Christmas.
3. The Winter Solstice, which falls this year on Dec. 21, is the shortest day and longest night of the year in the Northern Hemisphere. It was historically celebrated in pagan religions with rituals that commemorate the death and rebirth of the sun.
4. Boxing Day, which originated in the United Kingdom, was historically a day to donate holiday gifts to those in need. It takes place the day after Christmas.

WORD SCRAMBLE, PAGE 8

- The first part of seasonal drinks: APPLE(cider), CRANBERRY(juice), EGG(nog), HOT(toddy)
- Snow — : DAY, DRIFT, GLOBE, MAN
- Synonyms for annual celebrations: CUSTOMS, FESTIVITIES, RITUALS, TRADITIONS
- Classic stocking stuffer gifts: CANDY, ORANGE, SOCKS, TOOTHBRUSH

CONNECTIONS, PAGE 5

ARCTIC ANIMALS | Phoebe Rubinstein



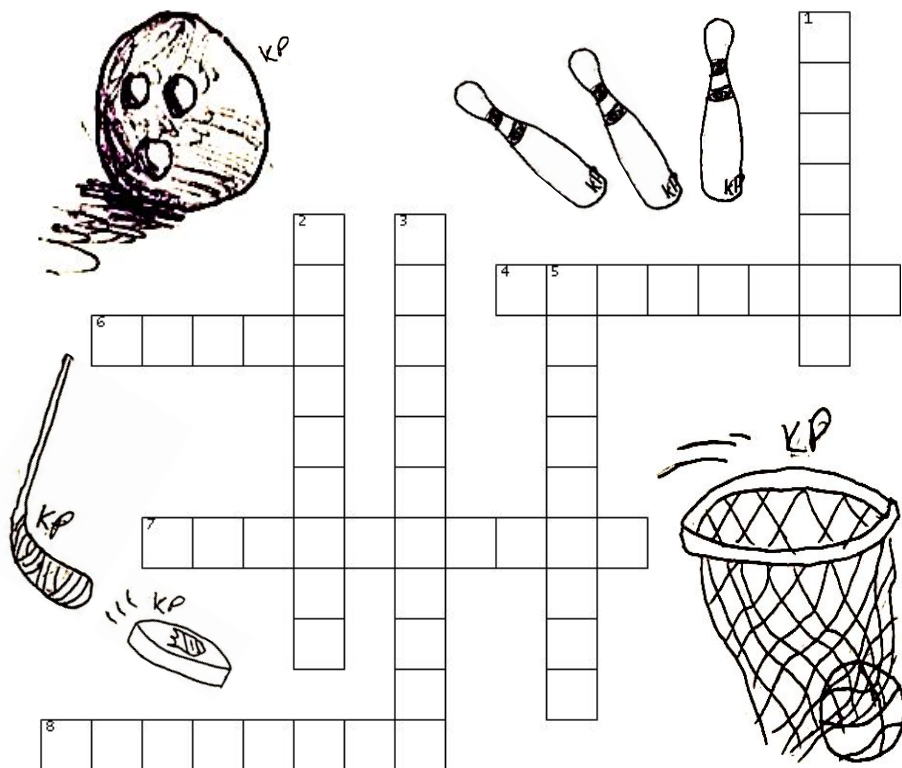
ACROSS

- 5. Although this marine animal shares part of its name with the King of the Jungle, the two creatures could not be more different!
- 6. This crustacean is named after the color of its meat.
- 8. Its baby is called a “kit,” and it is well adapted to the cold.
- 9. Known for its blubber and large tusks. (This creature’s true identity might have been Paul!)

DOWN

- 1. Bird often mistaken as the penguin’s cousin.
- 2. Underneath all the fur, this animal has jet-black skin.
- 3. The festive version of a moose.
- 4. The marine version of a unicorn.
- 7. Harry Potter’s Hedwig

WINTER SPORTS | Phoebe Rubinstein



ACROSS

4. This is one activity people do in a pool.
6. Ballet, tap and hip hop are all examples of this sport.
7. This indoor sport is played with a net.
8. This is a necessary ingredient in group sports.

DOWN

1. In this sport, players want to achieve a strike.
2. The NHL is the professional league for this sport.
3. This sport includes not just running events, but also the long jump, shot put, and much more!
5. Two opponents grapple in this sport.

DIY COLORING | Sophia Kurdes



DECEMBER CELEBRATIONS | Kelly Rizzetta

1. K U H A N C H A	
2. A L S A A O S P S D	
3. W T O I E T E S R I L N S C	
4. D X Y A G O N B I	