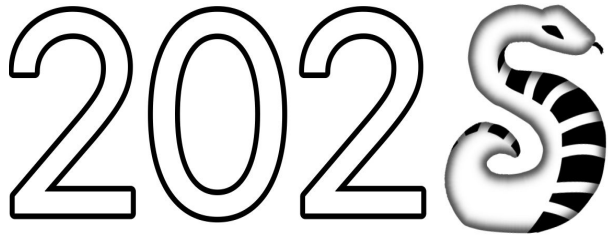


# The Buccaneer

Red Bank Regional H.S. / Student Newspaper / Jan. 29, 2025



BY SOPHIA KURDES

Illustration by Sam Martinez

Lunar New Year officially begins today! From China to the Koreas, Singapore to Malaysia, and Indonesia to the Philippines, celebrations have commenced all across Asia, as

well as in Asian communities around the world.

Although different cultures keep their own calendars for traditional or religious purposes,

SEE NEW YEAR, PAGE 6

## MIDTERMS ~~DISTRESS~~ de-stress

*This special exam edition of The Buccaneer student newspaper is jam-packed with puzzles and activities designed to give your brain a break. Good luck, happy studying, and don't forget to breathe!*

| RBR MIDTERMS                                    | MONDAY<br>Jan. 27, 2025 | TUESDAY<br>Jan. 28, 2025 | WEDNESDAY<br>Jan. 29, 2025 | THURSDAY<br>Jan. 30, 2025 |
|---|-------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>EXAM 1</b><br>7:40 - 9:35 AM<br>115 minutes  | Period 1                | Period 5                 | Period 3                   | Period 7                  |
| <b>EXAM 2</b><br>9:40 - 11:35 AM<br>115 minutes | Period 2                | Period 6                 | Period 4                   | Period 8                  |

# GEOGUESSER

BY PLUTO RIGGLEMAN

*Based on the online game that asks players to deduce locations from Google Street View imagery, The Buccaneer invites you to guess these countries where Lunar New Year is being celebrated this week.*



## LOCATION #1

In this country, the new year celebration is referred to as Tet. Families assemble five-fruit trays to honor ancestors and bring prosperity in the new year.

Traditions vary, with distinct cultural practices in the northern and southern regions of the country.



# LOCATION #2

This country celebrates the new year in three stages, which last a combined total of 15 days. Popular decorations include red paper lanterns, inscribed with phrases like “arriving luck.”



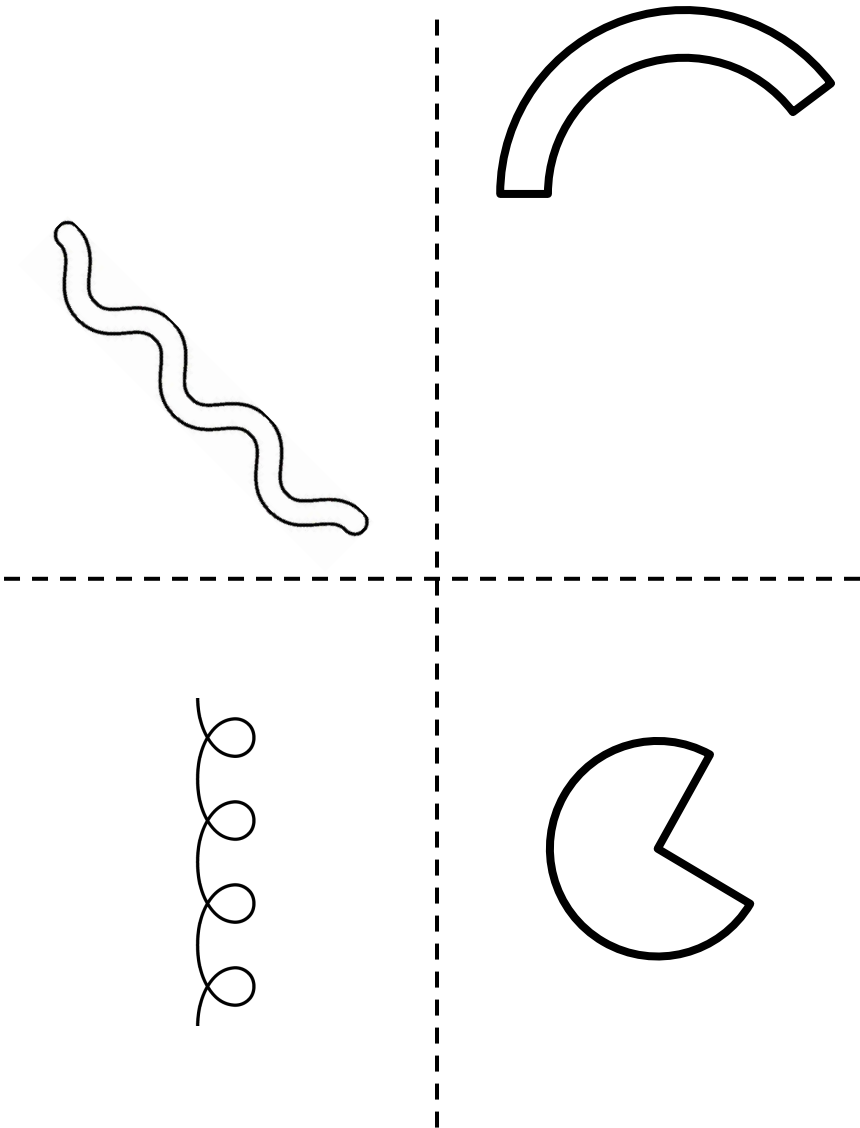
# LOCATION #3

This country is home to a decently large population of Chinese expats and families of Chinese descent, so it celebrates the new year with many typical Chinese traditions. Here, round shapes are thought to bring good luck, so Media Noche, the customary midnight meal, features 12 round fruits, and folks wear polka dot-patterned clothes for Lunar New Year.



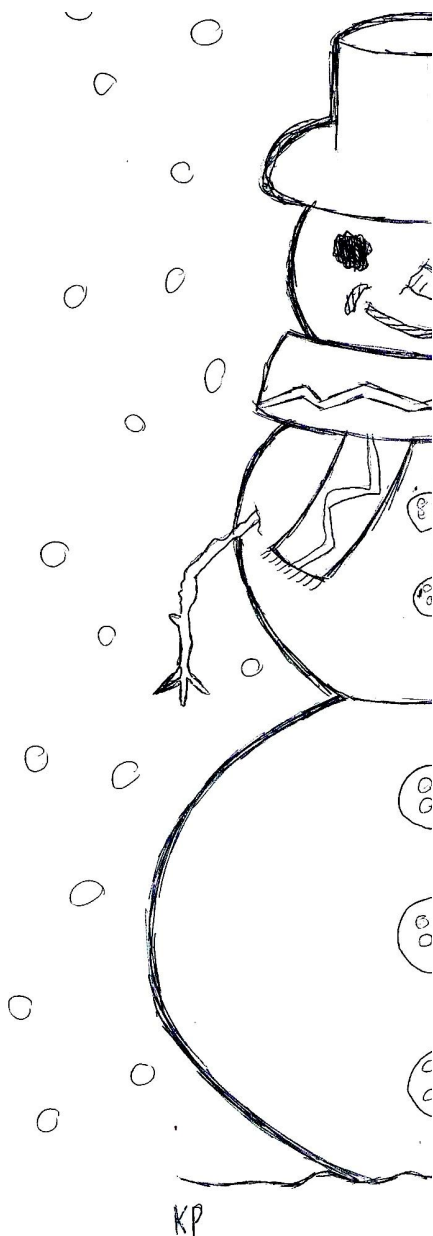
**DOODLER NOODLER | Kelly Rizzetta**

*Put on your thinking cap and turn the shapes below into doodles.  
Bonus points if you can create a single scene that incorporates all  
the given shapes!*



## HALF & HALF | Katelynn Parker

*Midterms got you too tired even for doodling? That's OK! We'll get you started: Finish the seasonal scene you see here.*



NEW YEAR, FROM PAGE 1

# Monster legend inspires New Year traditions

most East Asian calendars are derived from the lunisolar Chinese calendar. (For reference, the Gregorian calendar — the standard calendar most of the world uses to mark time — is strictly solar.)

According to the traditional Chinese calendar, the new year begins on the second new moon after the winter solstice (typically, Dec. 21 or 22). In China, the New Year’s celebration lasts for 15 days. Also known since the early 1900s as the Spring Festival, Chinese workers are typically granted seven consecutive days off from work to welcome the oncoming spring season — though this year, the Chinese government extended the holiday to eight days.

The holiday’s origin is deeply rooted in Chinese legends, the most popular of which is the legend of the Nian beast. There are many variations of the Nian legend, but

## THE BUCCANEER STUDENT NEWSPAPER

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*Editor-in-Chief*

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*The Buccaneer* staff meets after school on Thursdays in Room 242. The paper is always looking for students interested in writing, editing, layout design, photography and illustration. If you want to receive notifications about newspaper meetings and deadlines, join our Google Classroom (3vtuxok) and/or Remind thread (text “@bucpaper” to the number 81010). Any questions, ask a *Buccaneer* staff member or stop by Room 242.



NEW YEAR, FROM PAGE 6

# Red, fireworks ward off bad energy

the basic story is as follows ...

Long ago, there was a quiet village with simple, peaceful villagers. Up high in the mountains above the village lived the terrifying creature Nian, a monstrous demon that had sharp horns and even sharper teeth.

Throughout the year, Nian would peacefully sleep in its hiding place until the Lunar New Year arrived, when it

would leap down from the mountains and wreak havoc upon the villagers. Nian would eat their crops, livestock and even people — particularly children!

However, with the power of loud noises, fire and the color red, the villagers finally drove off the monster. Today, these tokens are all still used to ward off this evil spirit while celebrating the new year.

## STEP 3: energy

According to traditional Chinese philosophy, *yīn* and *yáng* are opposing but complementary forces. Their push and pull bring order to the chaos of the universe.

|      |   |   |
|------|---|---|
| yīn  | passivity, receptivity, darkness, softness, coolness, introspection, intuition, femininity, stillness, connection to the earth and moon | Years ending in odd numbers:<br>Ox, Rabbit, Snake, Goat, Rooster, Pig   |
| yáng | activity, expansion, light, warmth, masculinity, assertiveness, extroversion, movement, daytime, heat, connection to the sun            | Years ending in even numbers:<br>Rat, Tiger, Dragon, Horse, Monkey, Dog |

*Your full Chinese zodiac sign, then, is energy + element + animal. Since I was born in January 2009, that makes me a Yīn Earth Ox.*

*In case you're interested and wish to delve further into this philosophy, the Chinese zodiac assigns you an inner animal based on your birth month, a true animal based on your birth date, and a secret animal based on your birth hour — look it up!*

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.*

|         |          |          |          |
|---------|----------|----------|----------|
| BURDEN  | WHITEOUT | SQUASH   | BULLETIN |
| SKIFT   | PAPER    | SHAKE    | DUCK     |
| GAZETTE | BLIZZARD | OVERTAX  | DISTRESS |
| JAM     | JOURNAL  | PRESSURE | ONDING   |

P U Z Z L E   A N S W E R S

- CONNECTIONS, PAGE 8
- Synonyms for news publications: BULLETIN, GAZETTE, JOURNAL, PAPER
  - Snowfall indicators: BLIZZARD, ONDING, SKIFT, WHITEOUT
  - Foods that are verbs: DUCK, JAM, SHAKE, SQUASH
- GEO GUESSEUR, PAGES 2-3
- Location #1 = Vietnam
  - Location #2 = China
  - Location #3 = Philippines



SUDOKU | Avery Pugnetti

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
|   |   | 5 |   | 6 |   | 2 | 7 |
| 8 |   | 1 | 4 | 9 |   | 5 | 3 |
|   |   |   | 8 | 5 |   | 4 | 1 |
|   |   | 8 |   | 4 |   |   |   |
|   | 9 | 7 | 2 |   |   | 1 | 8 |
| 2 |   | 6 |   | 8 |   | 3 | 9 |
| 5 | 2 |   |   | 7 | 8 |   | 4 |
| 7 |   |   | 9 | 1 |   |   | 3 |
|   | 8 |   | 3 |   |   | 5 | 7 |

easy

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 9 |   | 3 | 6 |   |   |   |   |
| 6 | 4 |   |   |   | 1 |   | 2 |
| 8 |   |   |   |   |   |   | 4 |
|   | 3 |   | 2 |   |   | 5 | 1 |
|   | 6 |   |   | 1 | 3 |   | 8 |
|   | 2 |   |   |   |   | 9 |   |
|   | 9 | 5 |   |   | 7 |   |   |
| 2 |   |   |   |   |   |   | 3 |
|   | 7 |   | 3 | 5 |   | 8 |   |

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
|   | 5 |   |   | 6 | 1 |   |   |
|   |   |   | 3 |   | 2 |   | 6 |
|   |   |   |   |   |   | 4 |   |
| 5 |   |   |   |   |   |   | 3 |
|   |   | 6 |   |   | 7 | 5 |   |
| 2 | 1 |   |   |   |   |   | 4 |
| 1 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|   |   |   |   | 7 | 9 |   | 2 |
|   |   | 9 | 2 |   | 4 | 8 | 7 |

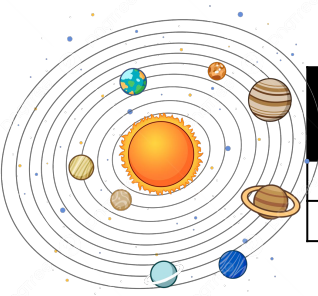
hard

CRYPTO-QUIP | Avery Pugnetti

Answer each of the numbered questions to unlock the response to the joke on the next page.

1) Who was the first President of the United States?

|  |   |    |  |  |  |  |   |  |  |   |  |   |  |  |
|--|---|----|--|--|--|--|---|--|--|---|--|---|--|--|
|  |   |    |  |  |  |  |   |  |  |   |  |   |  |  |
|  | 1 | 14 |  |  |  |  | 3 |  |  | 7 |  | 5 |  |  |



2) What is the name of the fourth planet from the Sun?

|  |  |   |    |
|--|--|---|----|
|  |  |   |    |
|  |  | 4 | 16 |

3) What is the name of the world's longest river?

|   |  |  |  |  |   |   |  |
|---|--|--|--|--|---|---|--|
|   |  |  |  |  |   |   |  |
| 6 |  |  |  |  | 9 | 8 |  |



4) Who is the main character in the musical "Wicked"?

|  |  |   |  |    |  |    |  |
|--|--|---|--|----|--|----|--|
|  |  |   |  |    |  |    |  |
|  |  | 2 |  | 11 |  | 11 |  |



5) In which galaxy do we live?

|  |  |    |    |  |  |  |    |
|--|--|----|----|--|--|--|----|
|  |  |    |    |  |  |  |    |
|  |  | 12 | 13 |  |  |  | 13 |



6) What does the symbol Au represent on the periodic table of elements?

|    |  |  |  |
|----|--|--|--|
|    |  |  |  |
| 10 |  |  |  |



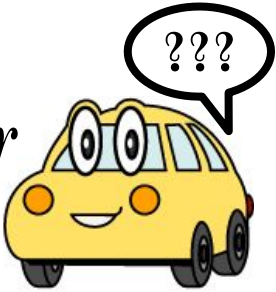
7) What is the largest body of water on Earth?

|  |  |  |  |    |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|----|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
|  |  |  |  |    |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  | 15 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |



Q:

What did the car say to its tires?



|    |   |    |   |    |    |    |    |    |   |  |    |   |   |    |    |    |
|----|---|----|---|----|----|----|----|----|---|--|----|---|---|----|----|----|
|    |   |    |   |    |    |    |    |    |   |  |    |   |   |    |    |    |
| 6  | 7 | 11 | 5 | 12 | 16 |    | 15 | 14 | 4 |  | 11 | 8 | 3 | 11 | 13 | 16 |
|    |   |    |   |    |    |    |    |    |   |  |    |   |   |    |    |    |
| 12 | 1 | 1  | 2 | 9  | 5  | 10 |    | 9  | 6 |  | 3  | 7 | 1 | 1  | 8  |    |

# Find Your Sign

BY SOPHIA KURDES

*Unlike the Western zodiac, which is based on Ancient Greek and Babylonian astrology and tied to birth date, the Chinese zodiac is interpreted according to year of birth. 2025, which begins today in Chinese and other Asian cultures, is the year of the snake.*

**STEP 1:**  
*animal*

These can vary by culture, but there are traditionally 12 creatures associated with Asian zodiacs. It is thought that each animal lends its traits to those born in the year associated with it.

|         |                                  |      |      |      |      |      |      |
|---------|----------------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| RAT     | social, shrewd, cunning          | 1960 | 1972 | 1984 | 1996 | 2008 | 2020 |
| OX      | hardworking, stubborn, honest    | 1961 | 1973 | 1985 | 1997 | 2009 | 2021 |
| TIGER   | fierce, confident, adventurous   | 1962 | 1974 | 1986 | 1998 | 2010 | 2022 |
| RABBIT  | calm, kind, communicative        | 1963 | 1975 | 1987 | 1999 | 2011 | 2023 |
| DRAGON  | confident, vigorous, powerful    | 1964 | 1976 | 1988 | 2000 | 2012 | 2024 |
| SNAKE   | intelligent, intuitive, charming | 1965 | 1977 | 1989 | 2001 | 2013 | 2025 |
| HORSE   | energetic, enthusiastic          | 1966 | 1978 | 1990 | 2002 | 2014 | 2026 |
| GOAT    | sensitive, patient, creative     | 1967 | 1979 | 1991 | 2003 | 2015 | 2027 |
| MONKEY  | smart, curious, quick-witted     | 1968 | 1980 | 1992 | 2004 | 2016 | 2028 |
| ROOSTER | aggressive, punctual, faithful   | 1969 | 1981 | 1993 | 2005 | 2017 | 2029 |
| DOG     | loyal, diligent, dependable      | 1970 | 1982 | 1994 | 2006 | 2018 | 2030 |
| PIG     | compassionate, determined        | 1971 | 1983 | 1995 | 2007 | 2019 | 2031 |

**STEP 2:**  
*element*

The ancient Chinese concept of *wǔxíng*, usually translated as Five Phases or Five Agents, explains many natural phenomena as a balance between five forces.

|       |   |                  |
|-------|---|------------------|
| METAL | autumn, collecting, changing, contracting, dryness  | Years ending 0-1 |
| WATER | winter, retreat, stillness, consolidation, coolness | Years ending 2-3 |
| WOOD  | springtime, growth, vitality, movement, wind        | Years ending 4-5 |
| FIRE  | summer, flowering, passion, intensity, heat         | Years ending 6-7 |
| EARTH | late summer, transition, leveling out, dampness     | Years ending 8-9 |

SEE PAGE 7 TO COMPLETE YOUR CHINESE ZODIAC SIGN!