



the Bingo Times

Issue #16 – December 2018

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Ho ho ho! Christmas is coming! We just can't wait☺. Some of us have already started Christmas preparations and shopping. The smell of tangerines at schools or workplaces means that Christmas time is about to start! That is why this edition is solely about Christmas and family. But "our family" not always means our relatives – to find out more – look inside this issue. You can read about Christmas traditions within our families. You can learn a little bit more about Christmas customs in the past. So, relax and unwind, grab our December edition and have fun!



LOOK INSIDE FOR MORE CONTENT!

OUR FAMILY

Folk Song and Dance Ensemble of Warsaw Uni
"Warszawianka"

CHRISTMAS in the past

Christmas in the past was different than now.

OUR CHRISTMAS

Poland is a country where tradition is still alive and lasts.



OUR FAMILY

Our family - Folk Song and Dance Ensemble of Warsaw University "Warszawianka"

What is "Warszawianka"? "Warszawianka" is a folk group where children, teenagers and students meet and dance. The group was established in 1972. At the beginning there weren't costumes and regular training there. No one knows why the name of the group is "Warszawianka" but I think it is because the team was established in Warsaw.

In 1986 Jan Łosakiewicz and his wife Małgorzata started cooperation with "Warszawianka". At this time the manager of "Warszawianka" was Krystyna Stańczak-Pałyga. The group badly needed a good musician and in 1994 Witold Jaroński started cooperation with Jan Łosakiewicz.

In 1996 Jan Łosakiewicz became a manager. Since then the group started developing and in 2001 a children division was created. Next, in 2008, teenagers group was established. In 2017 "Warszawianka" celebrated its forty-fifth anniversary of establishment.

"Warszawianka" is an ensemble of young people sharing love and passion for folk dance and song. By outstanding choreography, great arrangements and top level skills we win the audiences both in Poland and abroad. We are the winners of many prestigious prizes.

I am in "Warszawianka" since 2012. I can't believe now that I could live without my team, because it isn't only a group of people, who occasionally meet. It is a family. Our family.

Author: Marta Burzyńska



CHRISTMAS in the past

Christmas in the past was different than now. In the past, there weren't electric lamps. Instead of them, there were candles.



Santa Claus, in fact was different than we think. He was born about 270 A.D. and died on 6th of December 345 or 352 A.D. That is why we celebrate St. Nicholas on this day. St. Nicholas was a bishop of Myra town. The most popular legend about him was as follows:

''Young Nicholas, before being elected a bishop, had a greedy and wealthy neighbor who mocked the piety of the saint. God punished his neighbor and made him lose his fortune and he fell into extreme poverty. When he did not have anything to support his family anymore, he decided to sell his three daughters to a public house because nobody wanted to marry them without getting a proper dowry. Nicholas, after long deliberations of the Holy Scriptures and prayer, decided to save the girls' virtue. Three times, under the cover of the night, he threw through the window the money for the dowry for each sister. When the neighbor has already set up two weddings, he decided to find out where the mysterious money came from. He watched all night and was surprised to discover that the man he had despised, threw money through the window for the third time. He thanked him embarrassed and decided to change his life according to the commandments''



CHRISTMAS in the past

According to Christian theology, the Christmas holiday commemorates the birth of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whose teachings form the basis of the Christian faith. Christians didn't begin celebrating Christ's birth until the third century A.D., when Roman church officials settled on December 25 (the Bible doesn't mention the exact date), probably to coincide with already existing pagan winter festivals. Today, Christmas is not the most important Christian holiday—in fact, it ranks fourth after Easter, Pentecost and Epiphany. Yet since the 19th century, when Americans began to celebrate Christmas in the way we think of today—including traditions such as decorating trees, sending holiday cards and giving gifts—it has grown into the biggest commercial holiday of the year and is now celebrated by the vast majority of people, Christians or not.

Summarizing, the Christmas was different in the past than now. Christmas is amazing time, when we can sit at the table with our family and spent time with it.

Author: Staś Pszczółkowski



OUR CHRISTMAS

How my family celebrates Christmas

Me, my mum and my sister decorate Christmas tree and my dad and my brother hang decorations and lights in all the windows and we buy presents two weeks before Christmas. At Christmas Eve my grandparents and my mum cook dishes for Christmas Eve dinner. There is a tradition in Poland that there are 12 dishes at Christmas Eve dinner, but we never count them. Me, my sister and my brother make cards with wishes and we send them to further family and friends. We want to start dinner when the first star shows up on the sky, but usually it's cloudy. We sing Christmas carols, talk and laugh. Everyone is happy and everyone gets a gift. My mum said that who doesn't believe in Santa, he or she doesn't get gifts and all family believes☺. At Christmas we spend time together.

Author: Ola Smolińska



How my family celebrates Christmas

I spend my Christmas with my whole family. Together, we sit down to dinner and go to Midnight Mass. Our celebration of Christmas has a classic style, a Christmas tree, twelve dishes and a place for an unexpected guest.

Author: Franek Oziębło



The distinct features that make Polish Christmas different from others

Poland is a country where tradition is still alive and lasts. Young Poles don't remember about it like older people do but still carry on. Poland is distinguished by holiday cooking comparing to other countries. On Christmas table you can see twelve dishes which were homemade. At the table one place is left empty for the wanderer. In Poland Christmas lasts for three days. In Christmas Eve Catholics go to church to welcome Jesus. In our country Christmas is a time when we can hang out with our family or meet friends and forget about bad things. This is why I think that these features make Polish Christmas different from others.

Author: Marta Burzyńska

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S EVE

Christmas is celebrated around the world. Children and adults get gifts then. Special dishes are eaten during Christmas. This feast celebrates the birth of Jesus Christ. At that time the whole family meets together. During Christmas Eve people divide the wafer. The Christmas dinner starts when the first star appears on the sky.

Authors: Natalia Garstka and Lena Nguyen



The distinct features that make Polish New Year's Eve different from others

Almost every one of us celebrates the New Year's Eve differently. For example, one goes to visit his family or friends and celebrates with them. However, probably the most people go to the parties in the city. This is how the New Year's Eve is celebrated in Poland, but if you wonder how others celebrate this great event, here we go: a New Year's Eve in the USA and more specifically in New York, is celebrated on Times Square. A New Year's Eve celebration in Times Square is commonly referred to as the ball drop, where the ball descends 141 feet (43 m) in 60 seconds down to signal the start of the new year. In Australia there is a music festival. In Brazil people dress for the new year in white. In Denmark people break plates at the door of their friends. In Poland we celebrate it traditionally and simply, fireworks and parties and that distinguishes the Polish New Year's Eve from others.

Author: Julia Knap



JOKES AND FUNNY PICTURES - CHRISTMAS



Meme review

In last few days I saw many memes with Santa and many with Christmas symbols. I know we have Christmas time but memes with Santa and Christmas are generally bad, but we have exceptions for example Star Wars and Darth Vader who wants to have some Christmas joy.

Author: Marcin Stępień



Meet the Journalists

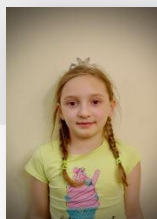
Meet the people behind this amazing edition of The Bingo Times!
We meet up once a month – on the second Friday of each month.
Our next meeting is in January 2019.



Marta Burzyńska



Ala Chaczykowska



Iza Czernek



Nataalka Garstka



Julka Knap



Franek Oziębło



Ola Smolińska



Julka Strzeszyńska



Lena Nguyen



Marcin Stępień



... you?

Feel free to contact us!

If you have a topic you would like us to write about, or you wrote an article and you would like us to publish it, or maybe you would like to submit your artwork or a joke – you can e-mail us at: school@edulang.pl

