

Can you find the hidden acorn?



The Acorn

Issue #4 - Wednesday, December 4th, 2024

Cultural Corner: The Icelandic Yule Lads and Other Stories

By Wren Mister-Mercer

The Yule Lads are mischievous little creatures that, in Icelandic legend, deliver either a sweet treat or a potato to good and naughty children, respectively. They leave their sweets (or not-so-sweets) in a shoe placed on a windowsill. The 1st of 13 different Yule Lads arrives the eve of the 11th of December, then stays for 12 days. The last (13th) arrives on the night before Christmas Eve, staying until the 6th of January.

The oldest mention of the Yule Lads is in a 17th century poem titled "Poem of Grýla". Grýla (gr-ee-la) is the mother of the Yule Lads, with their father being Leppalúði (lep-

au-thee). Grýla's story is much older than the Yule Lads, with her oldest source being the Prose Edda, a 13th century fairytale compilation. Grýla walks through villages, demanding that parents bring her their naughty children so she can "discipline them", which means she boils them in a cauldron and eats them. Leppalúði is a very lazy character, with most of his lore being that he waits for Grýla to bring him food. My personal favourite is the Christmas Cat, or Jólakötturinn (yo-la-ko-ta-rin). If someone doesn't receive a new item of clothing for Christmas, they'll be eaten by Jólakötturinn.

The Yule Lads are:

Stekkjaraustur (stek-ur-steve) - "Sheep-Cote Clod" - His legs are pegs, which hinders his harassment of sheep.

Giljagaur (gil-ya-gur) - "Gully-Gawk" - Hides in ditches and gullies, waiting to sneak into the cowshed.

Stúfur (sht-oi-ver) - "Stubby" - He takes unwashed pans, looking for leftover crumbs.

Þvörsleikir (thur-slay-keir) - "Spoon-Licker" - Steals and sucks on wooden spoons for food.

Pottaskefill (potta-ske-vik) - "Pot Scraper" - Takes pots to scrape out leftovers.

Askasleikir (as-ka-slay-geir) - "Bowl-Licker" - Hides under beds of children for scraps of food.



Wren's boot for the Yule Lads

Hurðaskellir (hurr-tha-sket-lish) - “Door-Slammer” - Runs around town slamming doors in the night.

Skýrgámur (skyr-gam-eur) - “Skyr-Gobbler” - Steals skyr (a type of Nordic yoghurt).

Bjúgnakrækir (byu-ck-na-cry-keir) - “Sausage-Swiper” - Hides in the rafters of smokehouses, looking for sausages.

Gluggagægir (glu-gha-ghei-hair)- “Window-Peeper” - Looks in houses for items of value.

Gáttapfur (gaf-fa-ver) - “Doorway-Sniffer” - Sniffs out fresh bread to steal.

Ketkrókur (ket-kro-ker) - “Meat-Hook” - Has a wooden or metal hook to grab meat.

Kertasníkir (ker-sta-snea-ker) - “Candle-Stealer” - Eats childrens candles (they used to be made of tallow, which then means they were edible.)

My Christmas movie recommendations

By Maya Ney-Nichols

WARNING: MILD SPOILERS

Watching festive movies during the holiday season is a fun and enjoyable tradition that many families practice throughout the world, especially when it comes to Christmas movies. In my household, my family has always watched some of the same Christmas


movies every year during the festive month of December. I have many movies on my list of favorites to watch during the holidays, but for the sake of this article I will just go through my top three recommendations.

National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation, directed by Jeremiah S. Chechik, is a holiday classic. Even though it was released 35 years ago, it still is a hit today. Its goofiness and holiday chaos with the family brings many comedic moments.. This movie shows the variety of challenges the Griswald family faces as they try and prepare to host Christmas at their home with their many relatives. As they experience ups and downs, the audience experiences laughs and surprises.

The next classic I have to recommend would be **How the Grinch Stole Christmas**, directed by Ron Howard. This hilarious Christmas comedy takes place in Whoville, a town built inside of a snowflake! The Grinch, played by Jim Carrey, hates Christmas due to an embarrassing moment that occurred in his childhood. The Grinch is absolutely miserable since Whoville is all about Christmas and the holiday season. While he attempts to ruin Christmas, he learns to see the joy in the holiday and finds himself loving the spirit of the holidays as well.



HBO Max



Last but not least, **Elf**, directed by Jon Favreau, is so goofy and funny. Buddy, played by Will Ferrell, is a naive and clumsy elf who, throughout the movie, must learn how to live in the real world. After being brought to Santa's workshop by accidentally sneaking into Santa's bag on Christmas Eve, he starts to work as an elf. He knows nothing about the city, but when he finds out that he could reunite with his father in New York, he leaves to find him. All of this takes place during the holiday season, which makes it easier for Buddy to fit in as all he wears is his elf suit.

Overall, all these movies are fantastic to watch with your family during the holiday season as they can boost the festive spirit!

Clubs at Oak Bay

By Lola Weinzettl and Sophia Schlag

Joining clubs is an amazing way to become more connected to your school. Here at Oak Bay we have a plethora of them, many of which are not very well known to students. If you want to meet more people, give back to your community, or simply have fun, here are some clubs you could join:

- **Board game club:** Monday at lunch in library classroom (room 121) and Friday in the cafeteria.
- **Oceanography Club:** Every second Wednesday at lunch in room 231
- **Astronomy Club:** Wednesdays at lunch in room 234
- **Dungeons & Dragons Club:** Wednesdays and Thursdays at lunch in room 313
- **Science Club:** Mondays at lunch in room 233

- **Interact Club:** Wednesdays at lunch in room 209
- **Bead Club:** Thursdays at lunch in room 205

The History of Elf on the Shelf

By Kali Weinzettl

Now that it's December, people have started celebrating the holidays, and one way to celebrate is with the Elf on the Shelf. This is a yearly tradition that people use to count down the days until Christmas. It's fun and engaging for children, because every morning they're told to go find their Elf and see what it's doing, whether it's just hanging out on a shelf or it's made a big mess that the children end up having to clean up.



Cardology

The tradition of Elf on the Shelf started in 2005. Carol Aebersold and her daughter Chanda Bell self-published the book "The Elf on the Shelf: A Christmas Tradition". The

book came with a box that contained an Elf on the Shelf, otherwise known as a Scout Elf. Carol Aebersold's parents were the ones who started the tradition with their family, and Carol passed it down and shared it with the rest of the world.

The idea is that the Elf watches the children during the day to see if they are being good, and then it reports back to Santa at night by flying home using its magic. If it gets touched by a kid, it will lose its magic, and won't be able to report back to Santa to tell him what gifts to get the child or if they were being good.

Another thing is that families don't buy the Elf, they adopt them, so that they are part of the family. The book explains that the Scout Elves get their magic by being named and loved by a child, and at the back of each copy of the book, there is a section where you can write the name and the adoption date of your Elf. After being named, the Elf receives its magic which allows it to go to the North Pole.

One problem with the Elf on the Shelf is that it can teach kids some bad lessons. For example, it can teach children that involuntary, non-consensual surveillance is normal and okay, it can communicate to children that it's okay for people to spy on you and you're not entitled to privacy. Others believe that it's good for children, because it encourages them to be kind and compassionate. I personally believe that the Elf on the Shelf is only meant for harmless entertainment, and that every child who celebrates Christmas deserves to have one.

Fun Facts!



Scientific American

- The largest Hanukkah menorah was 32 feet (almost 10 metres) tall
- The fear of long words is called Hippopotomonstrosesquippedaliophobia
- The South Pole is colder than the North Pole
- The world's oldest dog lived to be 29.5 years old
- Each year, Canada exports around 2 million Christmas trees around the world
- A horse normally has more than one horsepower
- Candy canes were fully white for around 200 years before they got red stripes
- Skis were invented before the wheel
- A snowflake can take up to 2 hours to travel from a cloud to the ground

December Word Search

C	C	E	F	R	E	E	Z	I	N	G	G	G	S
A	E	I	G	O	I	M	O	O	C	I	A	R	E
A	F	A	E	A	F	A	A	A	F	N	Y	A	A
A	M	E	U	N	S	A	A	T	N	E	S	O	N
K	W	I	G	R	S	H	S	A	Q	G	N	K	S
Y	E	R	A	C	H	A	I	R	A	M	O	W	C
S	U	A	L	C	A	T	N	A	S	A	W	A	A
T	O	G	T	R	C	F	T	T	G	S	C	N	R
S	A	M	T	S	I	R	H	C	T	U	H	Z	F
A	S	F	Q	D	F	N	A	A	O	E	R	A	D
H	A	N	U	K	K	A	H	T	Q	O	N	A	N
R	R	R	S	I	S	S	K	E	U	W	R	Y	R
H	R	C	A	O	I	T	C	I	E	K	S	Y	H
C	M	R	W	T	S	O	R	F	R	C	Y	I	A

TOQUE
 CHRISTMAS
 SCARF
 MARIAHCAREY
 SANTACLAUS
 KWANZAA
 DARK
 HANUKKAH
 FREEZING
 GIFTS
 SNOW
 FROST

