

# THE DRAGON'S BREATH

Hangzhou International School



## THE HISTORY OF CHRISTMAS

Written by Grace Tan

Christmas is one of the most celebrated holidays in the world. Christmas is a time of year associated with busy malls, gifts wrapped in shiny paper with stick on bows, LED lights strung on every tree, hot chocolate, and more. The Christmas spirit is unmistakable: anywhere you go, you can feel it. However, Christmas wasn't always this huge commercialized holiday. So, how did Christmas become the commercial and cultural phenomenon it is today?

Christmas, on a very simple level, is a holiday that celebrates the birth of Jesus Christ. Although the origins of the holiday are disputed, it is usually agreed that it is a Christian holiday. It is believed that the first recorded celebration of Christmas was on December 25th, 336 in the Roman Empire.



---

**Did you know?**  
Jingle bells was  
originally a  
Thanksgiving  
song.

---



# CONTINUED...

Starting after the second World War, Christmas became more commercialized. In fact, Santa Claus as we know it is based heavily on a successful Coco-Cola campaign. Rudolph was another successful marketing campaign from a department store that gave out free coloring books every Christmas. Robert L. May created a Rudolph coloring book as the store decided that it would be cheaper to give out their own coloring books rather than purchasing them.

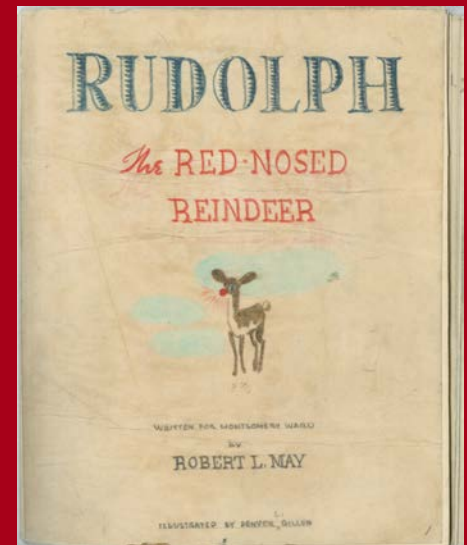
Despite its religious nature, people all around the world, Christian and Non-Christian, celebrate Christmas. It seems that over time, Christmas has become more of a cultural celebration rather than a religious one, partly due to companies and general cultural shifts. According to the PEW Research Center, 87% of atheists interviewed said they still celebrated Christmas.

The spread of Christmas can be attributed to a couple of things. One of them being Western mission trips in the 19th century and colonization. Another factor could be the general spread of Western culture, through popular media among other things. Taking an example of China, Christmas is celebrated heavily in large cities despite a very small proportion of the population actually being Christian. Christmas has also morphed and integrated with other cultures to create traditions that are unique to each country. In China, apples are handed out as Christmas gifts because “平安夜”(what Chinese people call Christmas Eve, but when translated is more similar to “Silent Night) sounds like “苹果” (apple).

Christmas, instead of being seen as a celebration of the birth of a religious figure is seen as a time to give back to the community, spend time with friends and family and give gifts. Although Christmas has become more secular and distanced from its origins, it is still a time filled with joy and warmth for many people around the world.



**Coca Cola's debut of Santa Claus in 1931**



**First drawing of Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer**







The air seemed to glisten as snowflakes began to fall, the first snow of the year. Year by year, school consumed so much of my time that I didn't realize it was Christmas once again. I walked into my little apartment and started packing for the long trip that lay ahead...

Last call for gate 283!" I sped up in the empty airport, knowing that I shouldn't have gotten that cup of hot chocolate when I knew that time wasn't on my side. I flew into the line for my flight just as they were about to close it, making it in the nick of time. Handing my ticket over to the lady at the desk, I impatiently checked the time, the plane was leaving soon.

After finding my seat in the crowded airplane, I settled myself down and buckled my seatbelt. My bag went under the seat and the headphones on my head. I played some quiet music and closed my eyes, relaxing for the first time in what seemed like forever. All the events leading up to this moment were tiring and energy consuming, but the result makes it all worthwhile.

The engine roared to life as the plane made its way towards the runway, eager to be in the air again. It took waiting for three other planes before we too, set flight into the air. The plane circled, gaining altitude to start the long journey. I stared out the window the whole time, watching as the airport dwindled out of sight, leaving only the brilliant flashing of lights before it disappeared completely. Taking this moment for myself, I turned my music up and shut my eyes, making the most of my flight by gaining some much-needed sleep.

I woke up to the airplane flying over the city, bright and beautiful in the winter nighttime. It was reminiscent, almost nostalgic, of the car rides that our family took just to see the lights put up by our neighbors on Christmas Eve. And now, I'm back to visit my family for the first time in 3 years.

The airplane began its descent as I stared out once again, in childish awe of how it looked as we flew closer and closer to the earth, the lights of the runways slowly coming into view. When we landed, the rush of the plane landing brought me to a realization that I had just sat through my entire flight without feeling nauseous. This itself brought me into a lighthearted mood, knowing it's impossible for the feeling to go away, at least for now.

I walked through the airplane, taking my sweet time to grab my luggage and walk out the gates. Waiting outside for me was none other than my family, all of whom were eager to see me again. I paused, anticipating the moment where they see me and all rush towards me. Like expected, I was embraced tightly with the hugs of my mom and my siblings patiently waiting for their turn with grins on their faces. It was not until then that I noticed, there was one very important family member who was nowhere to be seen. Where was my pop? Where was the familiar bear hug I was so longing for? Upon further inspection I realized something wasn't quite right. It may have been the fading look of excitement on my mother's face or the way that my little sister kept on shuffling around, a nervous habit of hers. But nothing could prepare me for what was coming next. It might not be such a merry Christmas after all.

• • •

Until Then  
By Alex





# Human Rights

by Bayley Heath



Not only is December a month full of holiday festivities but it is also considered to be Human Rights month according to the United Nations. Human Rights Day is celebrated yearly on December 10th. In today's world, although you might like to convince yourself otherwise, human rights aren't always granted. In many areas around the world, human rights are denied, and people are mistreated for being different. There are 30 articles of human rights that the United Nations tries to protect. The United Nations believes that all of them should be a common standard achievement for all peoples and all nations. Scan the QR code on this page to become familiar with some of the articles and the Human Rights Movement.

All around the world people in the LGBTQ+ community are discriminated against because of their sexual and/or gender orientation. There are many challenges of being associated with or in LGBTQ+ community. Some consequences for LGBTQ+ youth can be that they are more likely to suffer from verbal and physical abuse, as well as sexual abuse. There are also other challenges to identifying as LGBTQ+ such as, there is an increased risk to homelessness it can also limit future employment options for LGBTQ+. There are also more challenges in receiving proper sexual health services. Sometimes because there is not enough expertise, as most sexual education is heteronormative, and this can lead to neglecting the LGBTQ+ youth.

But it can go past being LGBTQ+ as well because a person might also be discriminated against for such as, age, race, religion, and gender. Sometimes harmful views are promoted to young people by people in their life such as, peers, parents, teachers, or religious leaders. However, these groups can also do the exact opposite and influence the youth to become more inclusive no matter the age, race, religion, and gender. Women's rights while getting better are still not what they should be. It is also easy to tell that there are still many flaws in the system when all around the world women are being put in danger just dressing up. In the Middle East "honor killings" are still practiced. These honor killings are brought on by homosexual acts, sexual acts outside of marriage, and even just dressing too provocatively. In Turkey there is no protection for women being abused, Yemeni women are some of the least empowered women, and in Nepal if a woman is raped the perpetrator isn't punished at all.



## *#Standupfor humanrights*

Even though there have been improvements over the years, human rights are still something that must be given instead of owed. In the end, no matter if a person is different from the rest of society, there is something that everyone has in equal.





"Her." Khushi R.





# 'TIS THE SEASON TO BE JOLLY

REMEMBER TO BE KIND TO EACH  
OTHER THIS HOLIDAY SEASON!



# END OF AN ERA

10 EVENTS THAT  
DEFINED THE DECADE  
2010-2019

## HOW WILL THIS DECADE BE REMEMBERED?

It's hard to believe that in only a few weeks, 2019 will be over. It is even harder to believe that the end of 2019 also marks the end of the 2010s decade. The 2010s was a decade marked by change: from politics to social media, culture and technology. It might be hard to realize that we are living through history, but it is imperative that we remember these events and people as we move forward. As the decade comes to a close, let's look back on some of the **world events**, **pop culture moments**, and **people** that defined this generation and remember that as we move into 2020, that the past is full of ups and downs; triumphs and tragedies. While it's important for us to acknowledge the areas in which humanity has fallen short, we must look for to the areas in which we have progressed as well. What moments will define the next decade? How are you going to be apart of them?





# 2010 HAITI EARTHQUAKE



With estimates of 220,000-300,000 deaths and 1.5 million displaced, the 7.0 magnitude Haiti earthquake was a disaster that shocked the world. Haiti suffered immensely, both economically and socially. It was one of the most intense humanitarian crises of the decade and Haiti is still recovering from the disaster today.

# 2011 OSAMA BIN LADEN'S DEATH



Osama bin Laden was the founder of terrorist group Al-Qaeda, who were responsible for events such as 9/11 and other terrorist attacks. In the early hours of May 2nd, 2011, US forces descend upon his compound in Pakistan and a fight ensues. In the midst of the fight, bin Laden along with his son, another man and a woman are killed.

# 2012 END OF THE WORLD



December 21st, 2012, was the day that millions around the world believed would be the end of the world as we know it. The Mayans developed something called the "Long Count" calendar. They believed that the end of one period of the Long Count would lead to the beginning of a new period. However, this was interpreted in a much more dramatic manner with people believing that some sort of cataclysmic event was going to wipe out the entire population. People around the world hoarded food and water in preparation of an event that never happened.

# BURJ KHALIFA

## OPENING

Sitting high at 829.8 m tall, Burj Khalifa is the tallest building in the world



## "FRIDAY"

"Friday" was a song by Rebecca Black that became sensational overnight. The internet's obsession with the song's terrible but catchy tune and would come to define a decade of music that became popular simply for being bad.

## "GANGNAM STYLE"



"Gangnam Style" was a viral hit by K-pop rapper and singer PSY that became spread like wildfire overnight. It contributed largely to the K-wave across the world, and helped pave the way for later K-pop sensations.



## DEATH OF NELSON MANDELA



Nelson Mandela was the first black South African president from 1994-99. He helped to end racial segregation caused by the apartheid and was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. He is remembered as a revolutionary and will serve as an inspiration for generations to come.

## MH370 GOES MISSING

On March 8th, 2014 flight MH370 from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing disappears. Pieces have been found, but it's still unknown what happened.

## THE DRESS



The Dress broke the internet on February 26th, 2015, with heated debates as to what the true color of the dress is. Black and blue or white and gold: what do you see?

## 2013 SNOWDEN NSA LEAKS



Edward Snowden was a whistleblower who revealed classified information showing that the National Security Association (NSA) was spying on American citizens via their phones, foreign leaders, amongst others. Snowden's legacy has left American citizens and people around the globe divided on whether or not he was a hero or traitor.

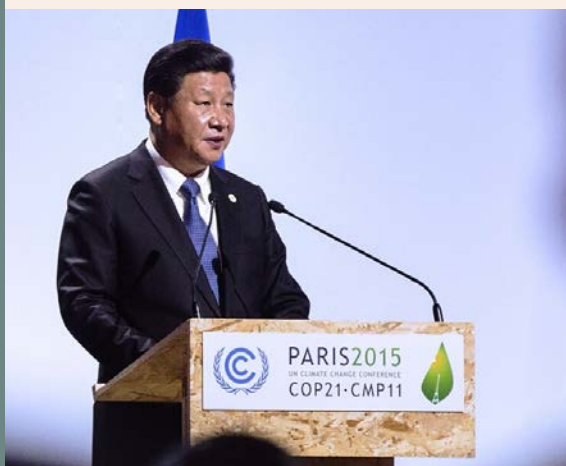
People in Hong Kong protested in support for Snowden, while the UK warned its airlines to not let him fly into the country. Snowden's story has since been the topic of many movies and conversations as to how much information the government should have access to.

## 2014 EBOLA BREAKOUT



The Ebola outbreak of 2014 was "the largest, most severe and most complex epidemic" in history. By 2015, there were 28,457 recorded cases and 11,312 dead. People were affected worldwide, and the outbreak caused major rifts in the socioeconomic structure of West Africa. However, Ebola is now more treatable. Vaccines have helped immensely in New Guinea, and more research is being done into finding a cure.

## 2015 PARIS CLIMATE AGREEMENT



The Paris Climate Agreement was the first global agreement whose goal was to fight climate change. This was the first universal, legally binding climate change agreement. It allowed countries to set their goals and develop their own strategies to reach these goals. 195 countries were apart of the agreement such as the US and China, who account for 40% of the world's carbon emissions.



# 2016 TRUMP'S ELECTION



Trump's election of 2016 marked a historic turning point in American politics. His run for presidency was seen by many as a joke: not only did Trump have no political experience, he also made numerous discriminatory and questionable comments on women, China, immigrants, and even his own daughter. However, on November 8th, 2016, what was once the subject of numerous internet memes and jokes became real. Trump's presidency triggered nationwide unrest, prompting the Women's March in D.C. after his inauguration and causing many heated political debates. Now, Trump is being investigated on charges of abusing power and obstruction of Congress. Both crimes which could lead him to possibly being impeached, though that has yet to fully unfold.

# 2017 #METOO MOVEMENT



The #MeToo movement started off over 10 years ago by Tarana Burke in an effort to raise awareness about sexual harassment and assault and to give survivor's a voice. The movement didn't start to take off until 2017, when actress Alyssa Milano tweeted the hashtag in a tweet about her own experiences with sexual harassment. By the end of the day, the hashtag had been used more than 200,000 times. The #MeToo movement helped to expose those in powerful positions, such as Harvey Weinstein, Larry Nassar, R. Kelly amongst many others. The movement has since gained an international footing, with the MeToo hashtag being used in different languages and global protests fighting for more awareness about sexual violence.

# BREXIT

After a referendum on the question of whether or not Britain should leave the EU, the choice to leave won by a narrow margin with 51.9% for and 48.1% against. The reasons for Britain leaving the EU have to do with economics, immigration policy, and national identity. Britain has yet to leave the EU, with the official deadline of their departure set for January 31st, 2020.

# ROHINGYA GENOCIDE



The Rohingya are a minority group in Myanmar and have been the target of large-scale violence from the Myanmar government: of whom have been accused of genocide. An estimate of 687,000 people were been placed in refugee camps in 2017.

# WOMEN'S MARCH



The Women's March was a worldwide protest after Trump's inauguration. Women all around the world took a stand against Trump's discriminatory beliefs. It was the largest single-day protest in history,

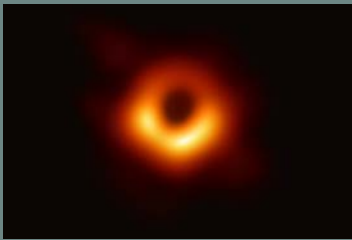


## MARCH FOR OUR LIVES



After the tragedy of the Parkland school shooting, thousands of students across America marched in protest for stronger gun laws.

## FIRST EVER IMAGE OF A BLACK HOLE



## GRETA THUNBERG



Greta Thunberg is a 16 year old climate change activist. She has spoken in front of the UN and become the face of the new anti-climate change movement. She has been named the Time's Person of the Year for 2019, becoming the youngest to do so.

## 2018 NORTH AND SOUTH KOREA SUMMIT



The historical Inter-Korean Summit took place on April 27th, 2018, which marked the first Inter-Korean Summit in 11 years. There were discussions between South Korea's president Moon Jae-in and North Korea's Kim Jong-un on topics such as denuclearization and improving diplomatic relations. The Korean War was also declared to be officially over after 65 years of its initial end. Both countries agreed to building peaceful relations and are working towards re-starting Inter-Korea economic activity. While this event was a huge step towards a new hope of peaceful relations between these two countries, much of what was discussed at the summit was incredibly vague on North Korea's side. Many are still weary as to what can progress from this summit.

## 2019 AMAZON RAINFOREST FIRES



According to National Geographic, the Amazon Rainforest saw a staggering 76,000 fires ravage its grounds. Rainforests are essential to our environment. They are often called the "lungs of the world" as they produce oxygen and absorb toxins in the atmosphere such as greenhouse gases and carbon dioxide. These fires are usually started by humans in order to clear land for farming or beef cattle grazing. These fires have a devastating impact on the wildlife and tribes that use the rainforest as a habitat or a way of finding resources.



# Semester 1 Recap

2019

## Groundbreaking Ceremony



## Welcome Back BBQ



## China Trips



China Trips was held from September 16th-20th. Students were able to engage in learning outside of the classroom while also building closer bonds with each other.

## Athletics



## West Lake MUN

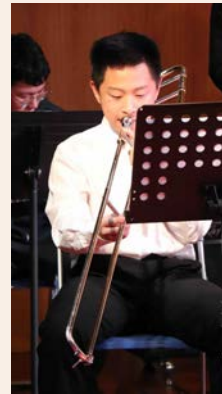


West Lake MUN was hosted from November 9th-11th and was organized by the MUN Secretariat of HIS. WLMUN helped to provide old and new delegates alike with MUN experience.



---

## Arts Night



Arts Night is an opportunity for students in grades 6-10 to showcase their learning from their drama, music, and art classes.

---

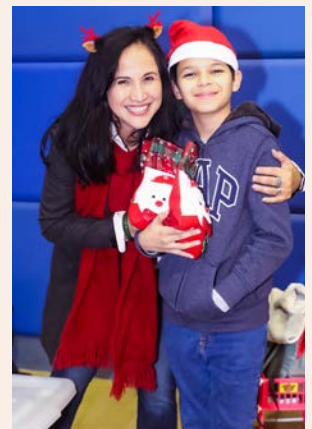
## Living Library



The Living Library was a school-wide event that allowed members from the community to come tell and listen to stories from a diverse group of people.

---

## Winter Fair



---

## Looking Forward

CNY Celebrations - Jan. 24

ACAMIS Basketball - Feb. 12-16

DP Visual Arts Exhibition - Mar. 9-11

Dragon Run - May 9

Film Festival - May 22

HS Prom - May 30



# WHAT DO YOU WANT TO READ ABOUT?

**The Journalism Club  
Needs Your  
Suggestions!**

Please scan the QR code  
and take the short survey  
to help us know what your  
interests are.

**Scan Me**







# EDITOR'S NOTE

The Dragon's Breath is run by the **Journalism Club** at H.I.S. Our goal is to provide a space for student's to read and write about topics they are interested in and to showcase the artistic or creative side of H.I.S's student body. This is only a taste of what can be done in journalism, and as it is our first issue, we are interested in student feedback as to what articles you want to see. If you are interested in writing an article, placing an ad for a club or event, submitting art, photography, or want to join the team, please email **briani@his-china.org**.

THANK YOU FOR READING AND  
YOUR SUPPORT OF THE  
JOURNALISM CLUB  
SEE YOU IN 2020!

