

THE BASIS SCOTTSDALE GAZETTE

BULLDOGS ARE BACK & BETTER THAN EVER

BY TANAY VEDARTHAM
& VIRAJ MEHTA

For their season opener, the Varsity Bulldogs took on Imagine-Prep Coolidge, defeating them 70-25. The victory was a testament to team basketball: three players scored double-digits and almost every player recorded an assist. They paired their selfless play with excellent defense and dominated the boards, recording 13 steals and 31 rebounds as a team. Apart from the stats (if you do care about the stats, check the Closer Look section at the end of this article), if the Bulldogs can maintain this level of play, they could potentially return to the semifinals once again. But they have bigger goals -- they have their eyes set on a championship. To see how the team plans on doing so, we interviewed some of the seniors on the roster to get their perspective on this season.



How can you carry momentum from your first win forward?

Zach: A good win to start off the season sets the tone for the rest of the season, and the team is already feeling confident in our ability to win more games. Not only that, but we also put our skills to the test and are excited regarding our ability to shoot more threes this year.

Ravi: I think that the best way to carry our momentum forward is by staying hungry. It's easy to become satisfied and thus stagnant in the way you play, but by focusing on each game, each practice, and each play, we can avoid complacency and continue winning.

What are the team's goals for this season, and how do you think you can accomplish them?

Ravi: Obviously, the goal going into any season is to win a championship, but another goal for us is to create a lasting winning culture within BASIS basketball. We want to improve on last year's 15-4 record, which set the bar high for this season.

Zach: As seniors, our main goal this year is to win a championship. We have made the semifinals before, and if we work a little harder, I am confident we can make it to

FEATURED

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SAVE THE DATE

- | | |
|----------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| December 14:
Winter Formal | December 23-
January 3:
Winter Break |
| December 19:
Alumni Reunion | January 10:
Movie Night |

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the championship and maybe even win it. We believe that if we stick to playing to our strengths, we can definitely win big this year.



As a senior, what has playing for this team meant for you and how has it shaped you?

Zach: Playing for this team has really allowed me to forge new friendships and experience some unforgettable moments -- the amazing crowd makes each game so amazing. Every time I see my friends in the stands, it brings a smile to my face and my confidence level higher. I also appreciate the impact Coach Flaherty has had on me; he has not only helped me improve as a basketball player, but also, my discipline and work ethic.

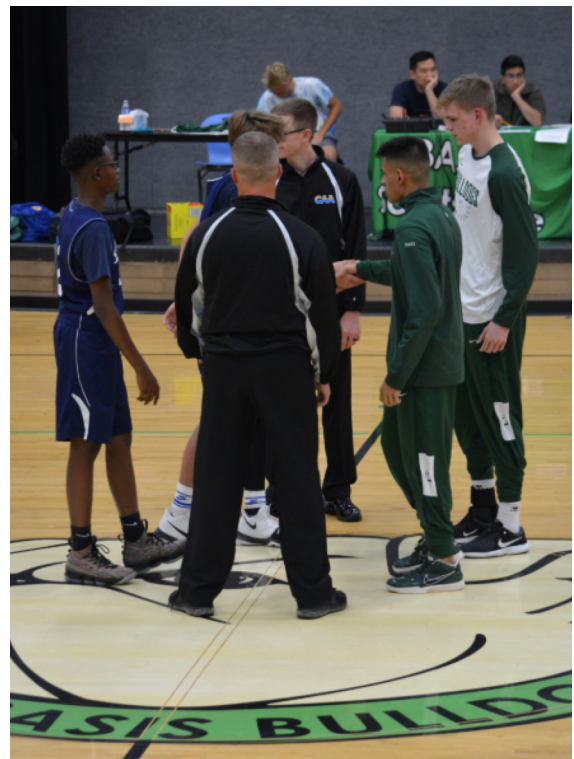
Ravi: This is my fourth year on varsity, and each year is made special by the family you forge playing together on the court. As for how it's shaped me, I've learned the importance of staying the course. From having to play games outside at Rio Montana park in 8th grade to playing in front of a packed gym on Hoopcoming as a senior is a journey that has really shown me the value of commitment and dedication.



For those of you who want to get more into the details, this season, many varsity players have been tracking advanced stats which are metrics that usually require formulas to be calculated. Using these metrics, we can take a closer look at the first game of the season. Plus/Minus (PM) is a statistic that tracks how the team performs while an individual player is in the game. For example, if the team outscores the opponent by 10 points, while a specific player was on the court, that specific player receives a plus/minus score of +10.

For this game, every single varsity player recorded a positive, double-digit plus/minus. Although the game was not the most competitive one, a double-digit plus/minus is difficult to maintain, especially as the winning team tends to ease off scoring during a blowout. The excellent plus/minus of all players bodes well for the games to come when the Bulldogs will face much tougher opponents and rivals.

After this blowout win in their first game of the season, the Bulldogs look poised for another spectacular season – a testament to how far BASIS's sports programs have come. As their season progresses, the Bulldogs' true mettle will be tested, as we see whether they can bring a championship to BASIS in the seniors' final year. Regardless, our beloved Bulldogs are back and ready to take on another season!



HOLIDAY WISHES: LOWER SCHOOL EDITION

BY RENATTA OSREDKER

The Gazette has always been a wonder only the upper schoolers have been able to experience, so we thought it would be refreshing to hear from the little ones for a change. With the holidays fast approaching, we decided to interview the lower schoolers about their perspective on the holidays.

What is your wish for the New Year?

Gloria: My wish is to spend more time with my family during the New Year.

Jai: Making 100 bottle flips in one day is my wish.

Alex: Hopefully, for summer vacation, my family and I can go to all the places that we planned on going to.

Victoria: My wish is getting expensive LEGO sets.

Maddie: I want to go to Disneyland over summer break.

Marcus: A Nintendo Switch is my wish.

What do you think of when you hear the word "holiday"?

Alex: The only thing that I think of when I hear the word "holiday" is Christmas.

Victoria: I think of presents and laziness because we get to stay at home.

Gloria: I think of not going to school and hanging out with friends.

Marcus: Enjoying time with family is what I think about when I hear "holiday".

Maddie: We get a whole two weeks of no school during the holidays so that's always fun.

Jai: Freedom for the children (which means not going to school) and having fun is a must during the holidays.

What are you looking forward to the most during Winter Break?

Alex: I'm looking forward to going to Japan during Winter Break.

Victoria: I can't wait to go to a place filled with snow.

Maddie: I'm not going anywhere for Winter Break, but my cousins are coming to Arizona for a few weeks.

Gloria: I can't wait for Winter Break because I'm going to Flagstaff.

Jai: I don't exactly know where my family and I are going for Winter Break, but we might go to New Mexico or Canada. Either way, I'm looking forward to the trip.

Marcus: My dad, my sister, my grandma, and I are going

to Missouri to spend Christmas with my aunt, so I'm excited about that.

What's the worst gift you have ever received?

Jai: In my opinion, headphones were the worst gift that I've ever received.

Marcus: Even though I like LEGO sets, one set in particular (he couldn't remember which one though) was not what I wanted at all.

Alex: This may sound ridiculous, but a \$50 hoodie didn't cut it for me.

Victoria: I really don't have a gift that I don't like because all my gifts have been either good or great.

Gloria: One year, I got socks as a gift and I did not like them.

Maddie: I really don't have one either. They've just been ones that I like or have asked for.

What's the best gift you've received?

Marcus: I really don't have a gift that I like the most. I like all of them.

Jai: For me, the best gift I've gotten was a new pair of binoculars.

Gloria: I got a new iPad for Christmas.

Maddie: Concert tickets were the best thing that I have ever gotten for Christmas.

Victoria: I got a phone and a computer, but not at the same time.

Alex: The best gift that I've gotten from my parents or Santa was a MacBook one year.

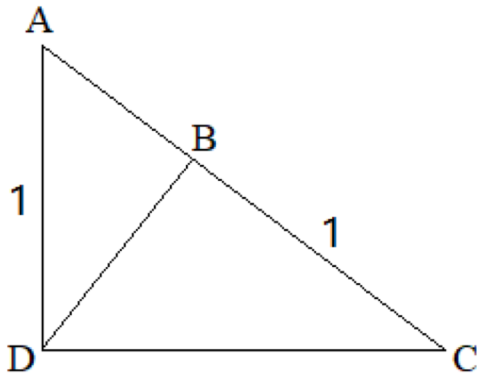
Hearing the voices of lower-schoolers is always refreshing, as they give honest opinions and bring in new perspectives. Hopefully, this helped you remember how magical the holidays are, and how important family is! Have a great winter break, and we will see you in 2020.

MATH MINDBENDERS

BY ZANDER HILL &
DAVID YIN

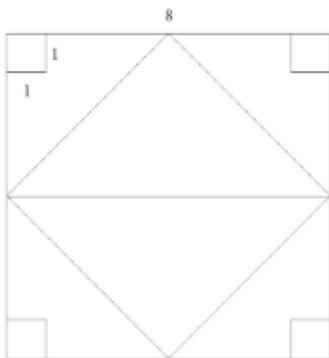
Solutions for last month's problems:

1. Given the following right triangle, what is the length of the hypotenuse?



Solution: Let the length of segment AB be x . In right triangle ABD, $\cos A = AB/AD = x/1 = x$. In right triangle CBD, $\cos A = AD/AC = 1/(x+1)$. Since $\cos A = \cos A$, then we can get the equation $x = 1/(x+1)$. Solve for x and get $x = (5^{1/2} - 1)/2$. The hypotenuse AC equals $AB + BC = (5^{1/2} + 1)/2$

2. What is the area of the largest square that can fit in the following figure?



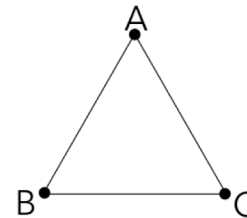
Solution: We want to find the largest square within the figure. The only restriction is that there couldn't be any overlaps between the square we want to find and the small square. The limit condition is the square is tangent to the vertex, which is located in the figure, of the smaller square. Therefore, the problem is to solve the length of the hypotenuse of a right triangle, in which a 1×1 square is enclosed. Let the length of one leg of the right triangle be

x , then $\tan A = (10-x)/x$. In the smaller triangle, $\tan A = 1/(x-1)$. We can solve for x , which turns out to be $(80)^{1/2}$. Thus, the area of the largest square is 80.

New Problems

Upper School Problems:

LinVec: In the following equilateral triangle, at any time, point A moves in the direction of point B, point B moves in the direction of point C, and point C moves in the direction of point A, all moving with equal speed. Do the three points ever meet, and if so, what is the length of the path point A takes in the process?



Category Theory: Let G be an abelian group whose order is not any power of a prime. Show that G has a nontrivial proper subgroup whose image under any automorphism is itself.

Lower School Problems:

1. What is the probability that upon rolling three standard six-sided dice, the resulting numbers all share a common factor?
2. Find all positive integer solutions to the equation $x^y = y^x$ where x and y are distinct.

Upper School Problems:

LinVec: Let f and g be continuous functions on \mathbb{R}^2 such that f is constant with respect to x and g is constant with respect to y . Show that

$$\int_a^b \int_c^d f(x, y)g(x, y) dx dy = \int_a^b f(c, y) dy \int_c^d g(x, a) dx$$

Category Theory: Find a field which is isomorphic to a proper subfield of itself, or show that no such field exists.

THE SUNS ARE ON FIRE

BY RITVIK WARRIER

The past decade for the Phoenix Suns has been a nightmare. Many consider the Steve Nash/Amare Stoudemire era to have been the last significant period in Suns' history. The post-seven-second era has plunged our hometown team into a period of chronic rebuilding and disappointing lottery picks. Suns' fans have been through the ups and downs, saying goodbye to fan favorites like Goran Dragic and Eric Bledsoe. The trend does not appear to have changed much since. The 2019 trade that sent Trevor Ariza to the Wizards was left relatively unnoticed in the NBA, especially in the midst of other blockbuster deals, such as those sending Jimmy Butler to the Philadelphia 76ers and Anthony Davis to the Los Angeles Lakers. Retrospectively, that trade was vital for the modern-day Phoenix Suns team, who now appear to be the clear trade winners. Whereas Trevor Ariza was merely one to take shots without setting himself up, Kelly Oubre Jr., who the Wizards sent to Phoenix, is a passionate guard with much to offer to the young team.

The 2019 offseason was underwhelming. The Suns' second-highest PPG scorer, TJ Warren, was dealt to the Indiana Pacers for cash. They drafted Cam Johnson, 4th year forward (the older the player, the lower their draft stock) just short of the lottery. The only notable acquisitions were Ricky Rubio and Dario Saric, two relatively low-spotlight role players who have failed to add much star-power to their names.

So how can we possibly explain the Suns' blazing success at the start of the 2019-2020 NBA Season? Three factors stood out.

Coaching: After finishing with the second-worst record in franchise history (19-63), former coach Igor Kokoskov was fired and replaced with Monty Williams. According to GM James Jones, Kokoskov lacked leadership and an ability to connect with the players. He was a great Assistant Coach, a role he took on with the Jazz, but Monty Williams has filled his gaps. A former NBA player himself, Monty Williams is able to relate to the players and has a leader's pedigree. Additionally, his fast-paced offense and his ability to bring out the best within his players has paved the way for success on the court this season, as seen in the Suns' 6-3 start.

Booker's personality change: Looking back, star player Devin Booker's various scoring records, including his 70-point game were not able to translate into team success. Apart from the glory, he actually had a negative plus/minus differential (-2.88), meaning that the team performs better when he is off the court. Recent interviews show that he acknowledges the presence of leadership on the court aside from him, especially from veterans with playoff experience such as Ricky Rubio. Booker's evident effort to play "team ball" has translated to both off-court chemistry and early success which, with this new mentality, will probably last throughout the duration of the season.

The Valley Boyz Movement: Chemistry is one of the most underrated aspects underlying success in NBA basketball. The media tends to oversaturate highlights, bringing little to no attention to the threat that a team with good chemistry could pose for the league. Although the recent additions of Oubre and Ayton went relatively unnoticed, it formed a strong bond within the organization as a friendship. They began advertising this through a movement known as "The Valley Boyz," as well as hosting numerous events to bond with the Suns' fanbase. This team chemistry has played a crucial role in the transformation from iso-ball to team-ball, particularly in the development of Devin Booker. We can only hope that this chemistry will last throughout the season.

Suns fans can only hope that the current attitude and stability can maintain the 2nd seed power ranking that the team has earned thus far. But one thing is for sure: the Phoenix Suns have a young core that brings some much-needed hope for a shining future in the Valley.



Pictured: Kelly Oubre Jr. and Devin Booker
ValleyoftheSuns.com

EAST MEETS WEST

BY DAVID YIN &
HARRY LI

As exchange students, we have been missing the delicious Chinese food we enjoy back home in China. At first, we struggled to find authentic Chinese food in Arizona. However, we didn't give up hope and continued our search for Chinese restaurants. To our surprise, we discovered quite a few places that met our high expectations. Here are a few restaurants that we strongly recommend for an authentic Chinese food experience.

Spice Spirit Chinese Cuisine and Bar

Address: 1955 W Main St #101, Mesa, AZ 85201

Can you handle the heat? If so, Spice Spirit is the place for you. Spice Spirit offers tasty, authentic Sichuan dishes, which are famous for their unique spiciness. In many of the dishes, the mouth-numbing Sichuan peppercorn perfectly complements the mouth-watering chili pepper with white rice. Although the restaurant is lighter on spice compared to the ones in China, its food still retains the savory taste of traditional Sichuan dishes. Some of the dishes we recommend you to try are the signature Mapo Tofu and Water-Boiled Beef. If you don't particularly enjoy spicy food, Spice Spirit also serves delicious mild dishes, such as Kung Bao Chicken and Cauliflower with Pork Belly.



Yu Tian Xia Hot Pot

Address: 1948 W Broadway Rd #106, Mesa, AZ 85202

For a warming experience to combat the chilly weather, Yu Tian Xia Hot Pot should definitely be your first choice. It provides different kinds of soup stocks, where ingredients are placed, in a manner similar to fondue, while a hot pot simmers. The ingredients you can choose when enjoying the hot pot are sliced lamb, goat,

and beef. In addition, vegetables, like lettuce, spinach, and napa cabbage, serve to accent the tender meat. For those with a large appetite, a buffet with all kinds of dishes costs \$25.



Shaanxi Garden

Address: 6824, 67 N Dobson Rd Suite 109, Mesa, AZ 85201

Shaanxi Garden offers a selection of classical foods that will be sure to please. The most traditional dish is the Mount Qi Noodles, containing minced pork and carrots, green beans, dried tofu, chives and potatoes in spicy and sour veggie broth. Northern Chinese cuisines such as griddle cooked lamb and braised chicken are served as well with sautéed vegetables and tasty sauces. More strikingly, you can enjoy the music of guzheng, also known as Chinese Zither, a Chinese plucked string instrument with a more than 2,500-year history, while eating the traditional food.

These restaurants are only a few of the many Chinese restaurants around the Phoenix area. Make sure to try out some of them during winter break to get a taste of China's exotic food culture.



ELECTRIC TRUCKS: ANOTHER STEP TOWARDS RENEWABLE ENERGY

BY ZAK HORI

It is quite fitting that over a decade ago, the first race to electric vehicles began. Tesla, Chevrolet, Nissan, and Mitsubishi all created models, gaining a share in the electric-vehicle market. Now in the new decade ahead, an average consumer can spot various Teslas and Volts on local freeways. The end of 2019 is experiencing another race to electrical vehicles: trucks.



Rivian R1T
Source: Forbes.com



Tesla Cybertruck
Source: Trucks.com

These new electric trucks would have the same benefits and downsides to owning a regular electric vehicle. Lower emissions, HOV lane access, more miles per gallon, and lower noise pollution create obvious benefits. However, just like a Tesla Model Y, the combination of a lack of charging stations and lower travel distances might be unreliable for truck users. Long-distance road trips would not be suitable for an electric truck due to constant re-charging.



Rivian R1T
Source: NPR Illinois

While Tesla seems like the major electric vehicle company of this decade, other companies are proving worthy competitors. Ford is planning to release the F-150s, either a hybrid or full-electric pickup truck, during 2020 or 2021. Rivian designed a futuristic sleek R1T, claiming to be able to reach 400+ miles with three battery packs. On the flip side, the Tonka Truck-looking Bollinger B2 can tow up to 7500 pounds and run for 200 miles. The combination of both distance and towing power is a balance that different companies have to consider. Is it worth increasing mileage or power at the expense of other factors?

General Motors believe that electric trucks will take time to become the norm. Some truck owners wish that the new electric vehicles would look normal, while others want to be able to use the truck with heavier loads. Right now, truck buyers are “fiercely loyal.” With consumer America obsessed over trucks, many cultural and social pressures add to the image behind pickup trucks. For some customers, pickup trucks take on a “lifestyle statement,” one that ties their identity with prosperity, that many customers buy for more than practical value. These trucks need to surpass customer expectations and also fit into the culture of pickup trucks in order to become the technology of the future.

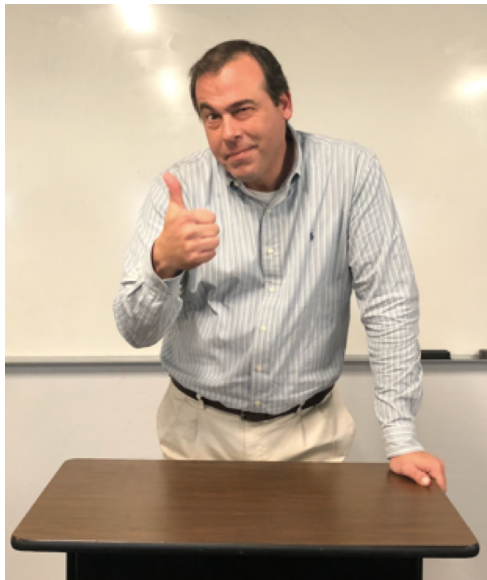
ASK M.E.

BY MALIA KUO &
ESTHER LI-CHEN

Happy Holidays, Hop Daddios:

What are some tips for writing good essays?

Throughout history, the definition of power by dictionary.com states “ability to do or act; capability of doing or accomplishing something.” Ha! Funnily, as you traipse along into your high school journey, essays are a critical piece of the puzzle. M.E. going to give you some incredible tips that you can utilize to write good. Firstly, always ensure that you appeal to the reader’s pathos using colloquial terms such as “buddy or “you”. M.E. likes leaving lasting impact on the audience because of how cool it is it really is the best techniques that I’ve heard of. Essays has been written by M.E. and M.E. has a combined essay score of 20 over the course of both AP Lang and AP Lit, with a combined AP score of 2 (E drew a picture for all of M.E.’s essays). A bad score does not M.E. deserve. M.E. does not find this score to be fair, on the other hand, as M.E has been known to have the most simplistic and concision form of writing in M.E.’s grade. M.E. is not in acceptance of this. M.E. will not be make fools. Beginning, M.E. plans revolution – nextly, M.E. enlarges army through working the ethos centers of “the brains” – Conclusion, M.E.. Don’t thank M.E.. Thank Y.O.U.. This message was approved by Mr. Witz.



What should I get my friends for the holidays?

We’re so glad we were asked this question. With a lot of the online hogwash that has been circulating the world wide web, it has become terribly clear that journalists are losing their integrity for corporate bribery. With many of the articles we read to research for this question on our Huawei laptops, a large amount included associate (?) links to their “recommended product.” But M.E. is not like that. M.E. is better. M.E. knows that the readers are smarter than that. M.E., therefore, loves the program, Honey. Honey is a great program that can give you discounts in the EASIEST way possible. M.E. clicks once at site- boom! Scandanavian mole rat eyes purchased for fifty percent off! What a bargain! M.E. loves Honey and Y.O.U. should too. Use the code “MEMEMEMEMEME2020” (6 MEs) for an extra 0.317 krone off of your first five purchases.

How should I stick to my New Year's resolutions?

New Year's resolutions -- the bane of every aspiring gym rat and bullet-journaling hopeful. As two very accountable seniors, we know exactly how to stick to a goal and follow through. Well, M.E. thinks that the most important objective for resolutions is to have a small, yet realizable goal that you can effectively follow. As long as you just remember you aim and fail to be distracted, you’ll be -

Answers to Crossword

Across:	Down:
5. Candy cane	1. Snowman
7. Hanukkah	2. Santa
8. Tree	3. Presents
9. Angel	4. Hot Chocolate
12. Ornaments	6. Family
13. Grinch	10. Stocking
	11. Dreidel

WHAT HOLIDAY TREAT ARE YOU?

BY ANGIE WONG

Welcome to Buzzfe- I mean BASIS Gazette! I'm kidding, this is a parody of a Buzzfeed quiz, but hopefully, it will be better than the real ones!

1. Pick one of the following textures:
 - A. Smooth. (1 pt)
 - B. Solid. (2 pts)
 - C. Crunchy. (3 pts)
 - D. Liquid. (4 pts)
2. What is your preferred spice?
 - A. Cocoa powder. (3 pts)
 - B. Egg. (4 pts)
 - C. Ginger. (1 pt)
 - D. Pepper. (2 pts)
3. Where is your ideal living arrangement?
 - A. In a box. (2 pts)
 - B. In a mug. (4 pts)
 - C. In a house. (3 pts)
 - D. *Is a house.*(1 pt)
4. Pick a location:
 - A. Snow. (2 pts)
 - B. Grocery store. (1 pt)
 - C. Tree. (3 pts)
 - D. The North Pole. (4 pts)
5. Pick an action:
 - A. Lick. (2 pts)
 - B. Run. (1 pt)
 - C. Chug. (4 pts)
 - D. Sleep. (3 pts)
6. What is your favorite animal?
 - A. Chicken. (4 pts)
 - B. Reindeer. (2 pts)
 - C. Human. (1 pt)
 - D. Chocolate Labrador. (3 pts)
7. Which flavor do you prefer?
 - A. Sweet. (2 pts)
 - B. Bittersweet. (3 pts)
 - C. Extra sweet. (1 pt)
 - D. Eggstra sweet. (4 pts)
8. What do you like most about the holidays?
 - A. Friends and fam time. (1 pt)
 - B. Food. (2 pts)
 - C. Gifts. (3 pts)
 - D. No school. (4 pts)
9. What is your style of clothing?
 - A. Comfortable. (2 pts)
 - B. Fancy. (3 pts)
 - C. Frosting. (1 pt)
 - D. Chicken suit. (4 pts)
10. The best part of receiving gifts is:
 - A. Eating them. (3 pts)
 - B. The box. (2 pts)
 - C. The bubble wrap. (4 pts)
 - D. Giving back. (1 pt)
11. What is your favorite color?
 - A. Brown. (1 pt)
 - B. Red. (2 pts)
 - C. Pale yellow. (4 pts)
 - D. White. (3 pts)
12. What would you decorate your tree with?
 - A. Candy (1 pt)
 - B. Ornaments (3 pts)
 - C. Nothing. I like the bare tree. (4 pts)
 - D. Pictures of myself (2 pts)
13. Favorite season?
 - A. Winter. (4 pts)
 - B. Fall. (1 pt)
 - C. The Holiday. (2 pts)
 - D. Salt and pepper. (3 pts)
14. Favorite music?
 - A. Christmas. (4 pts)
 - B. Pop. (2 pts)
 - C. Lofi. (1 pt)
 - D. Jazz. (3 pts)
15. The best mode of transportation?
 - A. Horseback. (2 pts)
 - B. Sleigh. (1 pt)
 - C. Flying. (4 pts)
 - D. Jumping from tree to tree. (3 pts)

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Results:

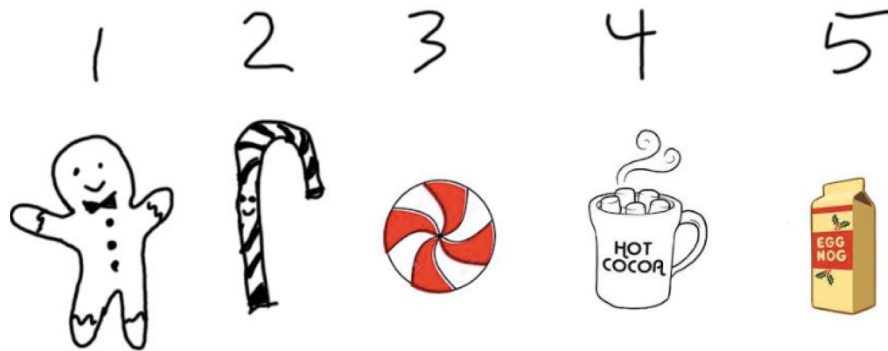
(1-11) Gingerbread: You got gingerbread! You like to run as fast as you can so people can't catch you because you are gingerbread. (Hopefully, you get that reference)

(12-23) Candy cane: You got candy cane! You like to chill out for the holiday season (pun intended) and you'd rather hang out and have a good time rather than participate in chaotic festivities.

(24-35) Peppermint: You got peppermint! You are super fresh and... minty.

(36-47) Hot chocolate: You got hot chocolate! You are a huge winter person and love the holiday season.

(48-60) Eggnog: You got eggnog! You are a little crazy – and apparently, like the taste of eggs.



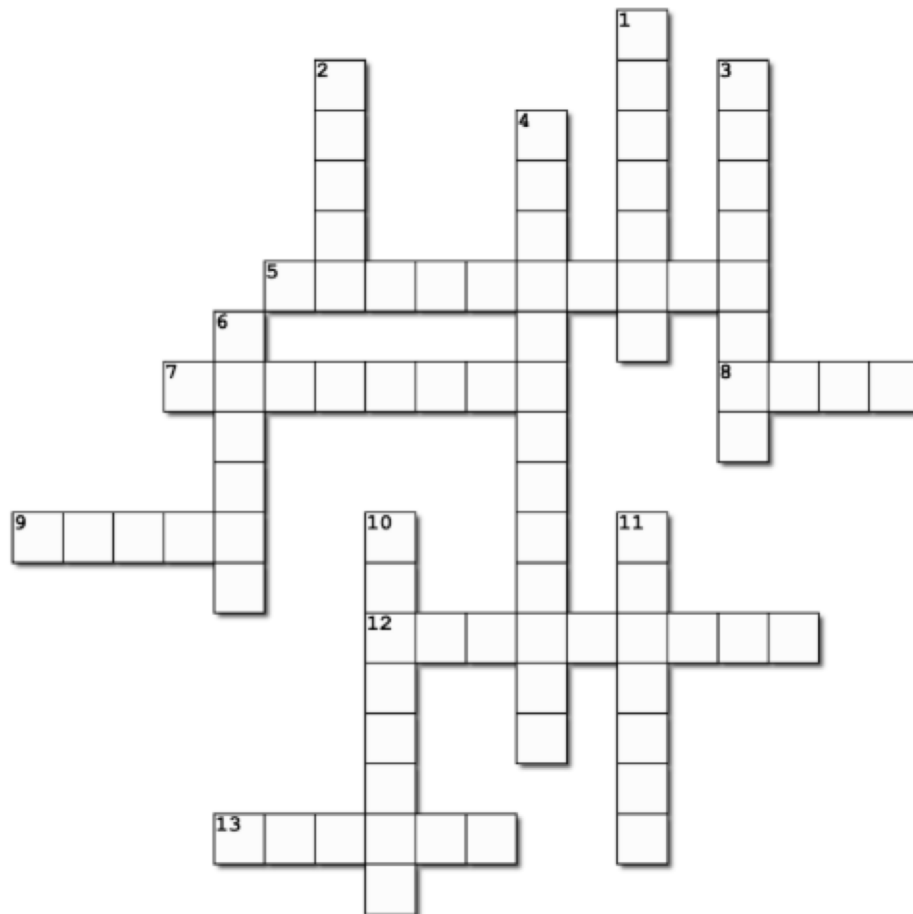
SUDOKU OF THE MONTH

BY POOJA KOLLA

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

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

BY MALIA KUO



Across

5. Red and white twist of diabetes
7. Eight day Jewish celebration
8. Large, vascular plant that is often decorated
9. Sits atop the large, vascular plant for some families, halo and wings, etc.
12. Sparkly, round baubles decorating the large, vascular plant
13. Green, bitter creature who steals presents from beneath the large, vascular plant

Down

1. Eg. Olaf is a [redacted]
2. Fat, old man who exploits elves for labor
3. Wrapped boxes given to loved ones (not coal)
4. Warm milk and cocoa bean concoction
6. Genetically-related specimens who celebrate the holidays together
10. Glorified sock hanging in front of the fireplace, yielding small gifts
11. Oh, [redacted, redacted, redacted,] I made it out of clay

Solution to Sudoku

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

Great™ Gift Ideas

By Angie Wong



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