



NYEA

MAIDEN LANE TIMES

December 2023

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**New York
English Academy**



DECEMBER 2023 BIRTHDAYS

HAFIZ KASHIF MAJEED: 12/03

MUTSUKO NAKAYAMA: 12/05

JUNYU CHEN: 12/05

DAYANA LONDONO YEPES: 12/07

OMER NAVEED MALIK: 12/07

JUAN ARMANDO GUILLEN BAEZ: 12/12

KRISTJANA ADEMI: 12/13

CHIKAKO KAKIHIRA: 12/17

SAMBA NDIAYE: 12/22

SYED NOOR MOHAMMED: 12/22

GABRYELLA SANTOS DA SILVA: 12/23

VIDHI HARESHKUMAR KARIA: 12/23

MOHAMMAD AHAD HOSSAIN BHUIYAN: 12/26

NERGIZ NURCAN SOYLU: 12/27

YOOSEON KIM: 12/28

PAOLA BRIONES: 12/30

HSIU YI LIAO: 12/31





IMPORTANT DATES

12/15

Unit 6 Exam (AM & PM)

12/18

Unit 6 Exam (WKND)

12/18 - 1/01/24

Winter Break (School Closed)

01/02/24

Classes Resume



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



CINDY MIRANDA

Hi there,

I'm Cindy Miranda from Ecuador, and I've spent about two years in New York, discovering countless friends, adventures, cultures, music, and some wonderfully eccentric people, too (hahaha). I've been involved in singing and acting since the age of 6 and graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Arts with a focus on performance.

Every day, I dream of gracing the big stages, aiming to make my parents proud. I strongly believe that regardless of where you come from, being a good person with discipline enables you to achieve your dreams through honesty and love. I recognize that every day brings its share of ups and downs, but that's simply part of life.

I'm confident in learning from mistakes and bouncing back to tell the world:

"I'm here, ready to make it happen."





DID YOU KNOW?

The ever-popular holiday plant known as a poinsettia was called “cuetlaxochitl” by the Aztecs. It was used to create purple and red dyes for clothing and various textiles.

It usually takes about 15 years for a tree to grow before it can be sold.

Hanukkah is an 8-day Jewish holiday celebration that is also known as “The Festival of Lights”.

Three Kings Day,
celebrated on the 12th day of Christmas (Jan. 6, 2024)
is called “El Dia de los Reyes” in Spanish.
It is most popular in Europe, Spain and Latin America.

St Lucia day is celebrated on Dec. 13th and celebrated
by many girls in Sweden.

St. Nicholas Day, a popular holiday in Europe, celebrates
St. Nicholas of Myra, the man whose life inspired the traditions
behind Santa Claus and Father Christmas.

Kwanza means “first fruits”; its origin arises from ancient African
harvest festivals and celebrates honored ideals in life.

Winter Solstice, the shortest in the year, is often celebrated globally
with many festivities.





DECEMBER WRITING PROMPT

NYEA students were asked to respond to the following prompt:

Each family celebrates different winter holiday traditions.

What is your favorite winter
holiday tradition, and what do you most enjoy about it?

My favorite winter holiday tradition is definitely Christmas Eve. After we have dinner, my mom will give my sister and I honey crosses on our foreheads for luck. It's our family Christmas tradition.

-Tamara, Slovakia

My country has many festivals in the winter. The most important festival is Chinese New Year, and this holiday lasts for a total of 15 days. There are different celebrations every day. I most enjoy New Year's Eve. Before the New Year starts, each parent will give kids yashui money in a red packet at night, which means they give you money to wish you happy holidays.

- Tao, China

My favorite winter holiday is the New Year. The tradition of my family is to gather for a big meal at night. This night is a symbol of rejuvenation for new perspectives. My favorite part of this holiday is unwrapping gifts.

I will make a wish while the chimes strike 12.

- Iryna, Ukraine

We don't have a lot of traditional or common holidays in the winter. We celebrate the New Year like everyone else, together with family and relatives. Before the year ends, we will set the table and spend time together. We don't really celebrate holidays. For us the holiday is just a reason to get together and spend time together.

- Aliia, Kyrgyzstan





My favorite winter holiday is the New Year in Ecuador. My family prepares dinner in the night, and then we go out to see the end-year puppet festival.

There are interesting puppets fr many movies or famous characters.

When it is midnight, there are many fireworks in the sky.

- Marcos, Ecuador

My favorite winter holiday is New Year's Eve. My grandmother makes delicious Soba, and my family eats it every New Year's Eve. Eating soba on New Year's Eve is a Japanese custom and we call it "Toshikoshi Soba." Soba are thin and long noodles, and we think it symbolizes a long life. So, we eat it to pray for a long life on New Year's Day. After I eat it, I can sleep as much as I want to because the New Year holidays will begin.

- Akiko, Japan

My favorite winter holiday is New Year's Day. I especially like the custom of starting the year with a delicious breakfast. In Japan, it is called "Osechi." Each Osechi menu has its own meaning. For instance, we eat shrimp because the shape of the shrimp is like an old man; people eat them to pray for longevity.

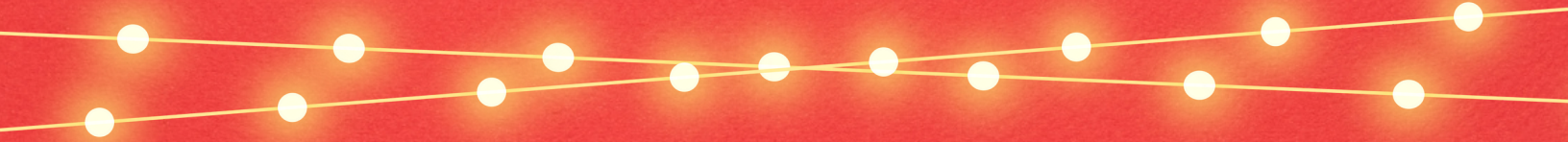
I love the time I spend with my family on the morning of January 1, eating Osechi and drinking sake.

- Chie, Japan

My favorite winter tradition is Christmas. From the beginning of December, various preparations are made to welcome Christmas by baking different types of Christmas cookies, opening the Advent calendar, and giving a small gift each day. Every year, we buy and add to the Christmas tree one ornament at a time. If we are in Germany, of course, we will go to the Christmas market and enjoy seeing many decorations. On Christmas Day, we are grateful for our health, what we have now, and we spend time with my family.

- Kanna, Japan





My favorite winter holiday is called “Shogatsu” in Japan and “Yuándàn” in China. The differences in customs between these cultures make the celebrations interesting for me. Both traditions involve cleaning and preparing delicious food, symbolizing a fresh start for the new year. Enjoying various treats on New Year’s Eve and being surrounded by family bring joy to the occasion. The chance for occasional travels during this time enriches my experiences, creating lasting memories. These traditions highlight the importance of family, good food, and renewal, making these winter holidays special and cherished moments for me.

- Linna, China

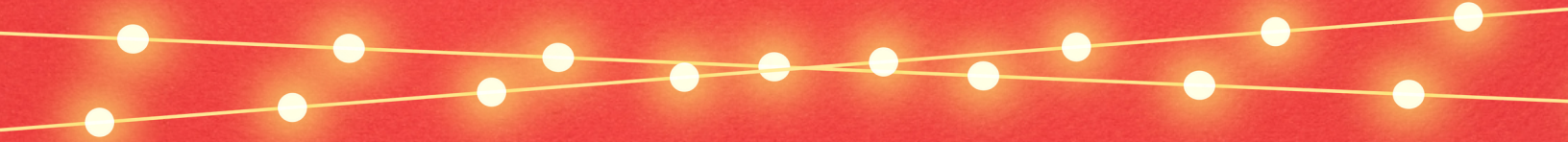
My favorite winter holiday tradition is Chinese New Year. It’s called Spring Festival in China and it’s spent on Lunar January first. On the night before this day, we have a big dinner and eat with our big family. What I really enjoy about it is that I will get lucky money and play with my friends whom I haven’t seen in a long time. We all have fun during this festival! By the way, we have an eight-day holiday during the Spring Festival.

-Yanwei, China

My favorite winter holiday tradition is making mochi. It is called “Mochi-tsuki ” in Japanese. First, we put the glutinous rice on a stone plate called usu. And then, people hit the rice with a tool called kine, like a hammer. People make a line and take turns pounding rice cakes. People make the effort together, and the rice changes its shape turning into mochi, little by little. I like that moment! After Mochi-Tsuki, we eat the mochi with many flavors. My recommendation is “Kinako and sugar mix “. Please try it!

- Masumi, Japan





I love the “end-of-year celebration” with my family. I love the food: traditional Christmas food such as pork, chicken, potatoes, carrots and meat. Often, there is too much food, but it doesn’t matter because we eat it during breakfast. I really enjoy this holiday. In addition, before the old year ends, we eat 12 grapes and make a wish for each grape we eat. We cannot tell our wish to anybody.

- Samuel, Colombia

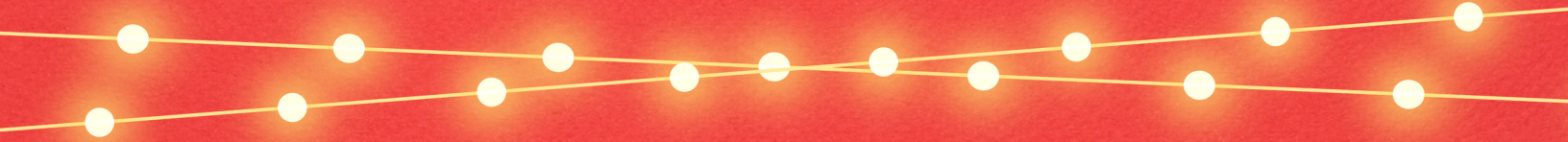
In my hometown, we don’t do anything special during winter. Because my hometown is in Southern China, the winter is short. However, in the Northern cities, people like to eat dumplings. Long, long ago, the winter was so cold, it even made people lose their ears. A doctor used flour, lamb and chilies, to make dumplings. Every person that eats dumplings can prevent their ears from being lost. So, eating dumplings became a tradition in Northern China.

- Haiming, China

My favorite winter holiday is New Year’s day. Families gather together and eat a traditional Japanese meal called” Osechi” and “Olong”. “Osechi” is only eaten on New Year’s Day. It includes many kinds of traditional foods, and they are packed together in “jubako” which is a special box that resembles a bento box. “Osoni” is a soup with rice cakes that is also eaten on New Year’s Day. The most fun part is the family gathering together and eating homemade traditional food. The process of making these foods is also fun and takes up to three days to make.

- Eiko, Japan





I really like to celebrate the New Year with my family. I've been in America for two years, but when I was in Albania it was the most beautiful period for me because the New Year brought us all together to give gifts to each other, watch movies, go to the village when the beautiful snow falls. There is a pastry shop in Albania and it gets busy during that period because they make traditional desserts for the New Year. Winter holidays are tiring but at the same time beautiful because we spend time with each other at the pastry shop and at home. I miss those times and I can't wait to be with my family again.

- Megi, Albania

In Japan, people go to visit shrines on New Year's Day. It's like a festival, where people eat food and drink alcohol at stands. My favorite way to spend the winter vacation is to eat hotpot together in a warm room with family and friends.

- Akihiro, Japan

My favorite winter tradition is to eat some traditional dishes. During winter, we watch winter-themed movies. I like to eat and watch movies with my friends. Another tradition is to make a snowman. I enjoy making one with my family.

During New Year's Eve, it is our tradition to gather with family on December 31st and celebrate the New Year.

- Ivan, Russia

In my family, I really enjoy two activities every holiday. We are Christians, and every year we make the Nativity scene together in our family. The second thing is we have dinner on Christmas Eve. It's a very beautiful moment. We enjoy the food that my mom prepares. In general, the menu is chicken with rice and vegetables, but the secret is in the sauce. After dinner, we open the gifts, and then we rest. I hope the next holiday comes soon!

- Eduardo, El Salvador





Winter holiday traditions let us remember our childhood and the value of time with our families. In my case, my favorite winter holiday tradition is Christmas.

I really enjoy sharing the time with relatives I haven't seen for a long time.

We used to have a 24th of December party putting up a lot of decorations, traditional Christmas music, and traditional drinks like Cacao or Cebada.

We dress in our best new clothes. That is so fun for me. While my grandma is cooking dinner and some tamales for December 25th, we finish our big family party with a lot of fireworks. – Elizabeth, Nicaragua My favorite winter holiday tradition is during Christmas. The whole family cooks together and we eat together at the same table. We also share the food with our neighbors and close friends and often organize some family games with our cousins.

These are my best memories of winter holidays.

- Alex, Ivory Coast

My favorite winter holiday tradition is going to the Hill Station at Manali, Himachal Pradesh, in the northern part of India. This is the famous Hill Station in India. We all enjoy our winter tradition in the hills with heavy snowfall. We enjoy a variety of food on top of the hills. This place is very crowded during winter time. There are a lot of different hillspots like Manikaran Gurudwara, Ladakh, and holy temples. Then we go on a bike trip to Ladakh. This is a famous road trip in India. A lot of foreigners come to India for this bike trip which always leaves a mark on our heart.

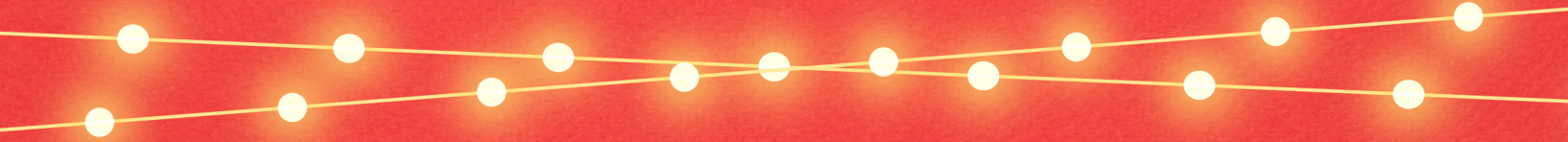
- Fnu Suryaveer, India

My favorite winter traditions have to do with snow. I'm looking for opportunities to find and play in the snow, and make good food with my family. However, as a

Muslim we cannot go to parties. The thing that I enjoy most about it is spending time with the people we love and decorating the tree. Holiday traditions are the most fun when done with cherished friends and family.

- Samba, Senegal





New Year's is my favorite winter tradition. The national lottery is played on New Year's Eve in Turkey. On New year's Eve, the family gets together and we decorate a pine tree. We buy gifts and put them under the Christmas tree. We make a wish and put a star on the tree. They set off fireworks outside. I like to go see the trees outside in New York.

- Deniz, Turkey

My favorite winter tradition is to have a raclette (a French cheese) party with my friends or my family. I like it because we're very friendly and we are all happy. For the new year, I stay with some friends and we light fireworks. – Paul, France As long as I can remember, Christmas has always been part of my life, starting the first day of December until the end. I never understood how some of us can place this day in their lives but I enjoy every single moment. Why specifically Christmas? Lights and pearls are the things that attract me the most. As a child, I liked everything that rhymes with wishes, how people can be together, how they summarize the whole entire year and the different aspects they crossed. I always feel happy at the end of year. Sometimes it depends because I feel another part of myself expressing himself. Personally, I like the end of the year because you are the only person who knows how struggling through the year has been to you. Still alive, you realize that you are valuable and all your bad or good choices have been made for your happiness and your growth.

- Zie, Ivory Coast

Winter holiday is coming soon, and I'm so excited about it. Normally, in my country, we celebrate together with family. We go out for dinner or go shopping. Usually, young people just go traveling. For me, the most interesting thing is going traveling, especially to warm island cities. I love staying around beaches and chilling, spending a few days escaping the cold and city chaos. That would be the perfect plan for a winter holiday.

- Jessie, China





My favorite traditional winter holiday is the Chinese New Year, also known as the Spring Festival in China. It's a significant celebration throughout the country, a time when my entire family, led by my grandmother, gathers together. The Spring Festival is a grand occasion that reinforces family bonds and kinship. At our home, we make dumplings together during this time and watch the CCTV Spring Festival Gala until midnight. It's not just a one-day event; we pay respects to our ancestors the next day and spend the remaining days visiting relatives. Sometimes, it's the only chance we get to meet and connect with these relatives. One of my favorite parts of the Spring Festival is playing poker with friends. It's incredibly relaxing, allowing us to share our experiences and feelings from the past year while playing cards. It's the most significant festival in Chinese culture, a vital means of cultural inheritance.

- Chloe, China

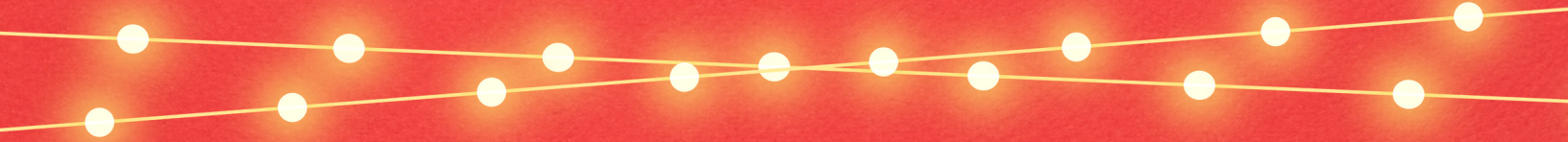
My favorite winter holiday in my country is Christmas. I like it because this is a great time to spend with family and loved ones. As a family we usually travel to my birth town and see all family from my mother's side, and we usually cook together many meals and share with all neighbors. I am so happy every Christmas to do so many fun things with my family and friends. I think that's why I am missing these special dates with my family in winter time.

- Cindy, Ecuador

Unfortunately I don't have a favorite holiday, but I do enjoy receiving money from my parents and family during Lunar New Year! I hope this tradition persists for as long as possible. I consider myself still a kid as long as I don't have children. My plan is to craft bed sheets from all the red money, allowing me to fulfill my dream of lounging in bed. I would love to enjoy the comforting embrace of my sanctuary between those sheets. Hopefully, I will make one for my parents once I have enough money.

- Junyu, China





Winters are usually rainy and cold where I come from. During this time of the year, we tend to drink more hot chocolate and indulge in plenty of food.

There's a strong Christian culture, and most people, even those who aren't religious, participate in 'novenas.' It involves singing and praying to Jesus, done in a very familial and jovial manner. The most significant day for us is December 25th, when people exchange presents, followed by a dinner that same night.

Our dinner typically includes turkey, grapes, wine, cookies, and, not to be forgotten, natilla and buñuelos—a traditional Colombian dessert. I thoroughly enjoy the entire tradition because it fosters close family bonds and brings me immense joy.

- Laura, Colombia

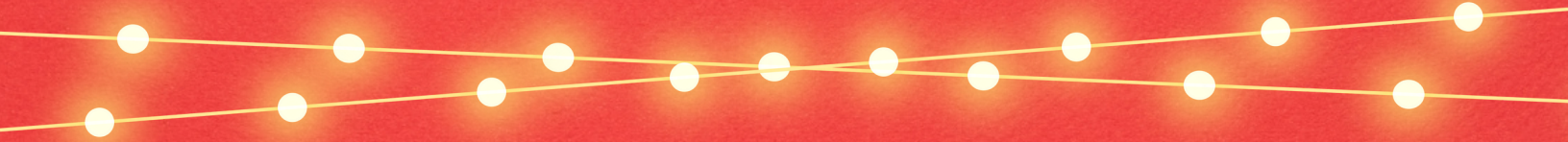
My favorite winter holiday tradition is a Christmas dinner with my family, when we can get together, eat delicious food, talk, laugh and just enjoy. The other favorite tradition is New Year feast with my family and friends. Also, I like to go and buy presents for my loved ones. Before New Year's Eve, I love to cook together with my mom and watch traditional Soviet movies. The next day which is January 1st, I like just to lay down and do nothing. I like long holidays when I can go on vacation, skiing and snowboarding.

-Eugenia, Russia

My favorite winter holiday is New Year. It's the most celebrated holiday in my country. I love to get together with my family and friends, cooking and preparing everything for the clock to turn 12. We are writing all our best wishes for the following year on paper, burning it in champagne and drinking it at the last minute of the old year. Then, we all go ice skating and snow tubing. There are so many laughs, joy and love on that day; that is why it's my favorite.


- Iana, Russia





My winter holiday tradition during my childhood was to visit a shrine with my family members. I liked the festive feelings, special New Year decorations, and interacting with people whom I usually did not hang out with. One of my favorite shrines was and still is called Myojima. It has historical and mythological stories around the construction of it, which was built around an island. During the New Year holiday, there are always various food vendors lined up along the streets. The last time I went to the island was years ago, but the memories are still vivid.

- Atsuko, Japan



May the holiday season end the present year on a cheerful note
and make way for a fresh and bright New Year.

Season's Greetings to you all.

- NYEA -

