School magazine

December 2025

RFSSNEWS

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Traditional Christmas in Czechia

From Christmas Eve traditions and festive dinners to markets, cookies, and the cozy seasonal atmosphere.

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Best Christmas markets to visit

A winter journey through Europe's most magical streets. Lights, aroma, and culture in one quick guide.

Designed by Jakub Kraus

Written by class 2.A



CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS AROUND THE WORLD

Written by Natálie G., Terka V., Naty J., Juli V. & Sabina P.

AUSTRIA

During the Advent time, specifically on December 5th and 6th, the Krampus Run (Krampusauslauf) takes place. There are marchers dressed in scary costumes resembling a folkloric figure, a half-man, half-goat. They usually perform tricks, dance, and scare the large crowd.

PHILIPPINES

The Giant Lantern Festival in San Fernando, Pampanga is a bright and colourful event held every December. Each community makes a huge lantern with lights that move in beautiful patterns. It shows the creativity and joy of the Filipino people. Many visitors come every year to enjoy the amazing displays.

MEXICO

Christmas Piñatas – in the form of a seven-point star symbolizing the seven deadly sins that are then broken by a stick to represent faith in God. They're usually filled with little treats like candy, fruits, and peanuts.

Pozole is a traditional dish served on Christmas Eve. Pozole is a thick soup made with hominy, chicken or pork, and chilis topped with greens.

CHRISTMAS IN DIFFERENT CULTURES

Christmas is one of the most well-known holidays in the world. Although it originally comes from Christian tradition, it is celebrated in many countries by people of all beliefs. In some places, children write letters with their wishes and leave them on the windowsill.

In countries like the USA, Santa Claus brings presents. Children often look for him in the night sky, imagining him flying in a sleigh pulled by reindeer. Americans celebrate Christmas on December 25th, and kids find their presents in the morning.

In the Czech Republic, people eat fish and potato salad for Christmas Eve dinner. Families often take snowy walks, and children believe that if they don't eat all day, they might see a golden pig. After decorating the tree, kids wait for Ježíšek to ring a bell, and then they rush to open their presents.

Christmas in Australia happens in the summer, so people celebrate with sunshine instead of snow. Families enjoy barbecues, beach trips, and outdoor parties, and many attend Carols by Candlelight events.

Even though Christmas traditions vary around the world, the holiday feels magical everywhere. Children are always excited—because no matter who brings the gifts, a present is still a present.



Santa Claus with his reindeers



TRADITIONAL CHRISTMAS IN CZECHIA

Written by Lucka D., Pája Č. & Viki C.

CHRISTMAS EVE IN CZECHIA

Christmas is being celebrated in the evening in Czechia. Some families place a fish scale under their plate for good luck. The traditional dinner is carp or chicken schnitzel with potato salad. After dinner, Ježíšek (Baby Jesus) “brings” gifts under the tree. A classic movie like Pelíšky often plays on TV.

THE TRADITIONAL DINNER

Carp - (Optional) To reduce the fishy smell, soak the carp in milk for a few hours, then discard the milk.
Batter - You’ll need: canned mushrooms, canned red pepper, flour, water, eggs, and seasoning. Chop the vegetables. In a bowl, mix flour, water, and eggs into a smooth batter, then stir in the chopped veggies. Heat fat in a pan until hot, coat the carp in the batter, and fry until golden.
Potato Salad - Ingredients: potatoes, carrots, parsley or celery root, pickles, hard-boiled eggs, onion, peas, mayonnaise (optionally with mustard), salt and pepper.
Boil the potatoes and root vegetables in their skins, let cool, peel, and dice. Add the remaining chopped ingredients, season, mix with mayonnaise and a bit of pickle brine, and chill before serving.



Christmas markets in České Budějovice

CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS

In Czechia, the Christmas season begins with Advent at the start of December. Many towns host beautiful Christmas markets offering chimney cake, hot mulled wine punch, and traditional crafts.

Before Christmas, families bake traditional cookies, decorate their homes, hang wreaths on doors, and prepare presents. The Christmas tree—real or artificial—is usually decorated about a week before Christmas, topped with a big star.

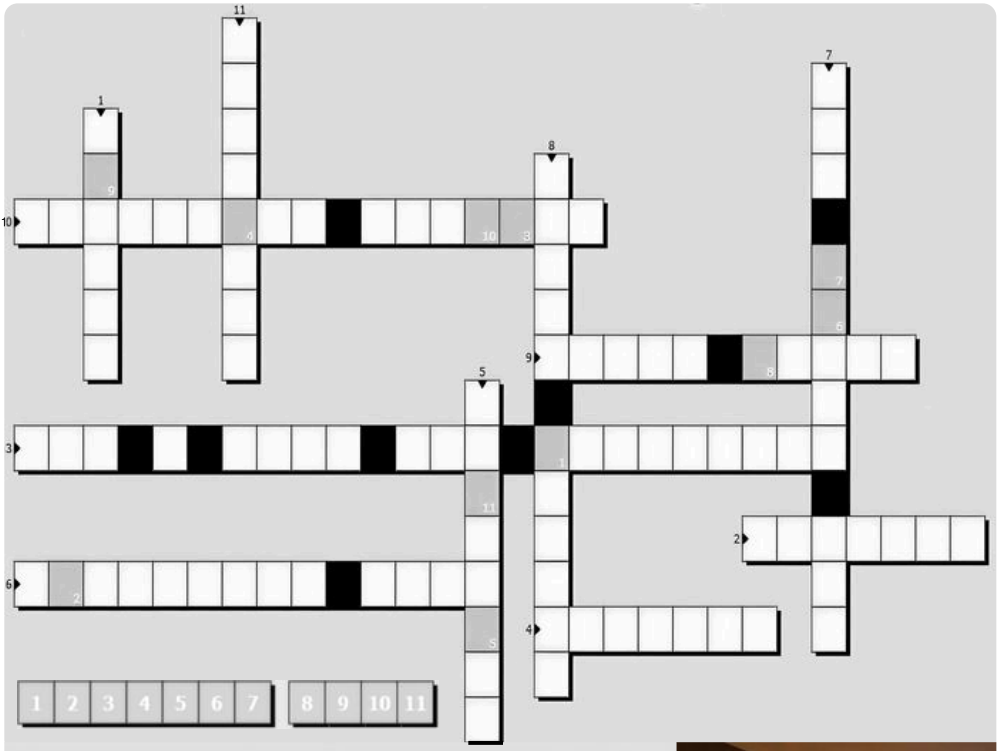
During December, we like to watch Christmas movies and comedies, singing Christmas carols, visiting families and enjoying the vibe.



Traditional Czech Christmas pastries

CROSSWORD

Made by Nastěnka, Kay Jay Pickle Rick & Šabata



1. What do we call the traditional Christmas songs?
2. What is the name of the most famous reindeer?
3. Iconic Christmas song, by Mariah Carey
4. What can be built from snow?
5. What do you get on Christmas if you behaved well all year?
6. What is the typical Christmas decoration?
7. What do we celebrate 7 days after Christmas?
8. Who was born on Christmas Day?
9. Who is the most famous person who brings presents?
10. What do we bake for Christmas?
11. What month is Christmas celebrated in?



Solution:

1. carols, 2. Rudolph, 3. All I Want for Christmas, 4. Snowman, 5. Presents, 6. Christmas Tree, 7. New Years eve, 8. Jesus Christ, 9. Santa Claus, 10. Christmas cookies, 11. december



WINTER SPORTS

Written by Josef K. & Richard H.

GOOD PLACES TO SKI IN EUROPE

If you're thinking about skiing and you already have the skills — and you're getting bored with Czech mountain ranges and ski resorts — here is a list of some of the best places to ski in other European countries.
If you don't want to spend too much money or time traveling, the best option for you is the Austrian Alps.

If you want an exclusive and luxurious experience and you're not afraid to spend some money, then the Swiss Alps will suit you best.
If you want to ski in magnificent, beautiful nature, you enjoy traveling, and you're ready to face freezing temperatures and remote, wild landscapes, then you will love Norway — especially regions like Tromsø or the Lyngen Alps.

If you're looking for lively après-ski, sunny weather, wide ski areas, and a mix of culture and adventure, then the French Alps are an excellent choice.
If you want great skiing for a reasonable price, along with amazing food, relaxed vibes, and some of the most dramatic mountain scenery in Europe, then Italy's Dolomites are a fantastic pick

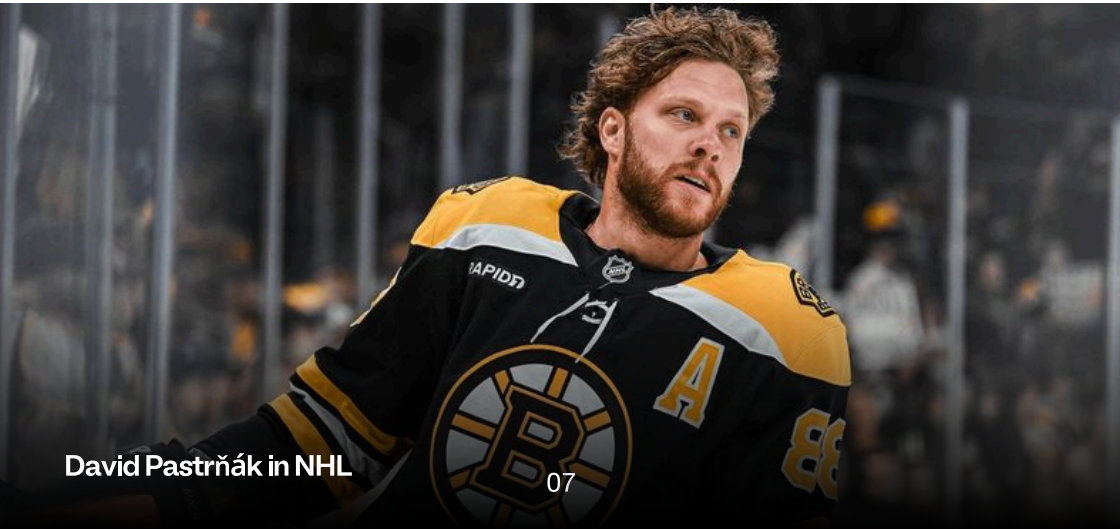


POPULARITY OF ICE HOCKEY IN CANADA VS. USA

Ice hockey is the most popular sport in Canada. When winter comes, students skate on frozen rivers or lakes on their way to school or anywhere else. This makes Canada so good at ice hockey, because people are connected to it from childhood.
In the USA, ice hockey is not even among the top 3 most popular sports. The most popular American sports are football, baseball, and basketball. However, the USA is a large country, so they also have strong hockey teams.

TEAMS IN THE NHL:

From the USA - Boston Bruins, New York Rangers and Vegas Golden Knights
From Canada - Montreal Canadiens, Toronto Maple Leafs and Ottawa Senators



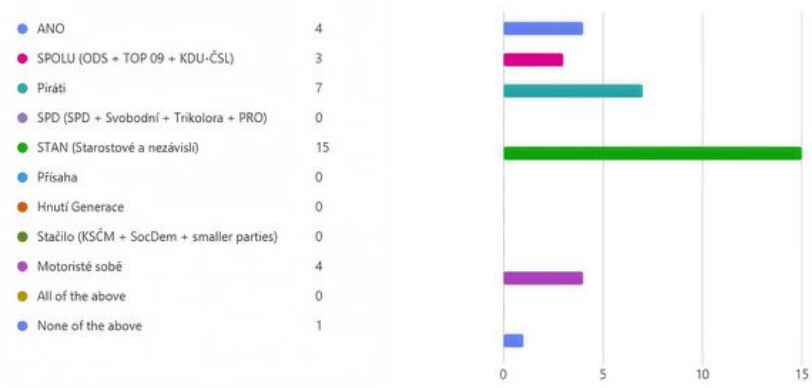
David Pastrňák in NHL



WHO WOULD STUDENTS VOTE FOR IN THE CZECH PARLIAMENT?

Written by Kryštof Š. & Seňa P.

We would like to begin by apologizing to the school community for the technical issue that occurred during this year's survey. Due to a malfunction with the QR code provided for participation, only a small number of students were able to submit their preferences.
Despite this setback, we are pleased to present the results of the survey. The accompanying image illustrates the distribution of votes among the parties or candidates. These results reflect the opinions of those students who were able to participate, providing an interesting insight into the political preferences within our school community.



We thank all students who participated and appreciate the school community's understanding regarding the technical difficulties.

CHRISTMAS QUESTIONARE

Made by Anna Ř. & Daniil K.



VIDEO: INTERVIEWS

Made by Anna Ř. & Daniil K.





VICTORIA'S SECRET FASHION SHOW

Written by Laura P. & Míša H.

On 15 October 2025, one of the world's most famous fashion shows happened in New York. The event was watched by people from all corners of the globe. Many famous models were on the runway including Adriana Lima, Bella Hadid, Gigi Hadid, Candice Swanepoel, Alessandra Ambrosio. These women are considered as the original Victoria's Secret angels.

All models represent women's underwear, pyjamas and comfortable clothes for home. The fashion show was streamed online on YouTube and TikTok. A lot of people were surprised by Jasmine Tookes because she walked the runway nine months pregnant.
This show is supposed to tell people how amazing and powerful a woman's body is and that we don't need to be shy or have a lack of self-confidence to show our bodies. Every human body is original, and no one needs to be ashamed of their body or their imperfections.

The show had a pleasant atmosphere, with models walking the runway to live music in the background. Famous singers and bands participated in the show: Madison beer, Karol G, Missy Elliott and Twice.

The interesting fact about Bella Hadid (one of the most famous models in the world) is that she has lyme disease and sometimes it´s hard for her to do her job.

Lyme disease is an illness that you can get if you get bit by an insect called a tick, but there is not a hundred percent chance that you will get it. It's difficult to get healthy again and lyme disease has several stages.

The main factor about this illness is when you find out that you are sick. If you find out at the start you will get better faster. Bella Hadid has been sick for 3 years and she is not afraid to talk about her condition publicly. Sometimes she has to skip her runway shows, because some days she feels worse than others.



CHRISTMAS MOVIES

Written by Kryštof Š. & Arsenii P.

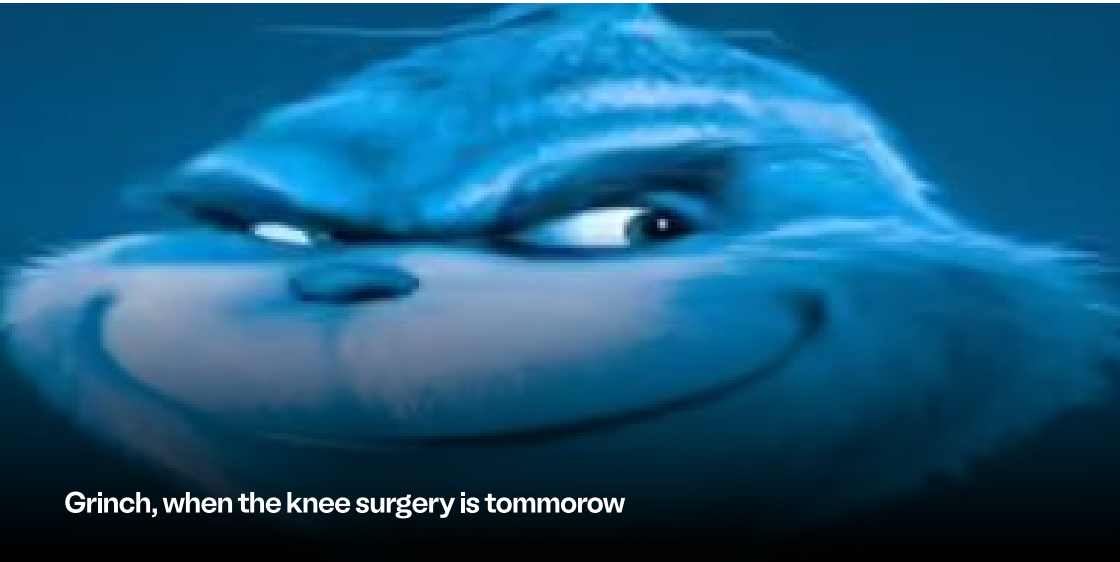
Christmas movies play an important role in creating a festive atmosphere and bringing families together. In Czechia, one of the most beloved Christmas traditions is watching the Anděl Páně films. The story of an Angel and a Devil highlights cooperation, kindness, and mutual support. The movies are broadcast for free on Česká televize and are often watched during Christmas dinner.

Fairy tales are another key part of Czech Christmas. Titles like O dvanácti měsíčkách and Popelka air only once a year, which adds to their charm. While older generations treasure these classics, younger viewers increasingly...

...prefer international productions that are frequently choose international films dubbed into Czech.

Globally, Home Alone remains a Christmas staple. Kevin's adventure of being left home alone mixes comedy with a reminder of how important family truly is. The Grinch is also widely popular for its humor and message about empathy and understanding.

Together, these films shape the Christmas mood and create shared memories that families enjoy for years.



Grinch, when the knee surgery is tommorow

Anděl Páně





CHRISTMAS GIFT GUIDE

Written by Mariana H., Sofi L. & Tereza N.

Not sure what to wish for or what to give this Christmas? We put together a simple guide with ideas for girls, boys, family, and friends — for all budgets and styles.

GIFTS FOR GIRLS

Popular choices include Zara or Bershka clothes, Carhartt jackets, Polo hoodies, make-up from Sephora or Douglas, hair products, sneakers like Nike or Uggs, and affordable home decor from Pepco, Action, IKEA, or Jysk.

GIFTS FOR BOYS

Great options are Carhartt or Stussy clothing, Polo and Tommy Hilfiger sweaters, Nike or Adidas sneakers, Timberlands for winter, stylish bags, belts, and denim from brands like Carhartt, Guess, or Zara.

UNIVERSAL GIFTS FOR ANYONE

Home decor (Zara Home, Butlers, Woodwick candles), books, electronics, sports gear, tickets, trips, gift cards, money, socks, candles, and personalized items are always safe and loved choices.

HOMEMADE GIFTS

For something personal, try handmade decorations, candles, baked goods, or DIY crafts.

NEED MORE IDEAS?

If you still haven't found the perfect gift, social platforms like TikTok, Pinterest, and YouTube are full of inspiration.



GINGERBREAD COOKIES

Written by Matěj D.

December is mostly associated with the most important holiday of the year, Christmas. It is a time of celebration, singing and, of course, really great food. In this article, we will show you some typical British sweets and even include a recipe. In the British Isles, Christmas is taken more seriously than in the Czech Republic, especially when it comes to sweets. These recipes are deeply rooted in both culture and history. For example, shortbread, a traditional Scottish biscuit, dates all the way back to medieval times.

RECIPE FOR BRITISH TRADITIONAL GINGERBREAD COOKIES:

Ingredients: 3 cups all purpose flour, 1 tablespoon ground ginger, 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon, 1/2 teaspoon ground cloves, 1/4 teaspoon ground nutmeg, 1/2 teaspoon salt, 1/2 cup unsalted butter, 1/2 cup granulated sugar, 1 large egg, 1/2 cup molasses and 1 teaspoon vanilla extract.

1. First, mix and whisk together all 3 cups of flour, ground ginger, cinnamon, ground cloves, ground nutmeg and salt. Then set it aside.
2. After that, put the butter and sugar into another bowl and mix until fluffy (about 2 to 3 minutes).
3. Into the second bowl, add the beaten egg. Then stir in the molasses and vanilla extract until well combined.
4. Combine both bowls and mix gently. Don't overmix.
5. Divide the dough into two small discs and let it chill for at least one hour.
6. Preheat the oven to 175°C and prepare the baking paper.
7. Cut the cookies into thin slices and place them on the baking tray.
8. Bake for 8 to 10 minutes, then let them cool down.
9. Your cookies are ready.



BEST CHRISTMAS MARKETS TO VISIT

Written by Kája H., Kája K. & Nela F.

Christmas markets began in the 13th century. Early forerunners included Vienna's December Market in 1296 and the Saint Nicholas Market in Munich in 1310. They started as practical winter markets where people could stock up on food and goods before the harsh winter months began.

GDAńSK, POLAND

Winner of the Best Christmas Market in Europe 2025 competition, Gdańsk's market is set along a vibrant historic street in the heart of the Old Town. It is famous for its colorful, beautifully preserved townhouses. Its popularity comes from the mix of history, architecture, and a magical festive atmosphere.

VIENNA, AUSTRIA

A famous and fun activity to enjoy in Vienna during Christmas is skating on the large ice rink decorated with lights and festive ornaments. Vienna has many markets, and the most visited one is the Christmas Market at Rathausplatz, known for its grand decorations and lively atmosphere.

STRASBOURG, FRANCE

Known as the "Capital of Christmas" for its long tradition and strong Alsatian spirit, Strasbourg is renowned for its beautiful Christmas decorations, especially around its famous Marché de Noël. The city offers many hotels around the huge Christmas market, though they tend to be very luxurious and quite expensive.

PRAGUE, CZECH REPUBLIC

Prague is famous for its Christmas market at Old Town Square, known for its magical atmosphere. Visitors can buy many Christmas decorations, enjoy delicious chimney cakes, and sip wonderful mulled wine. It's also the most accessible market on this list for people living in the Czech Republic.

COLOGNE, GERMANY

Set against the backdrop of the stunning Gothic cathedral, Cologne's Christmas market features over 150 beautifully decorated wooden stalls offering handmade crafts, ornaments, toys, local delicacies, and traditional treats.

All texts were originally written by students. Articles were corrected and polished with AI. Created for educational use only.



DID YOU KNOW?

Santa's red suit became popular thanks to Coca Cola's advertising.

Rudolph was originally created to help sell coloring books.



Written by class 2.A

December 2025



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Designed by Jakub Kraus