

December 2025

the BULLDOG BARKER

Williams Bay High School • 500 W. Geneva St. • Williams Bay, WI

The Darla Thiel Chapter of National Honor Society Induction Ceremony

Wednesday, November 12, 2025

To honor Ms. Thiel for her forty-seven years of teaching at Williams Bay, the chapter pays homage to her. Her legacy has left a standing impact, and she will always be remembered.

Five new members were inducted into National Honor Society: Noah Cornella, Lauren Schnobel, Brynn Reinhardt, Gracie Pils, and Lauryn Sikes.

Congratulations!!

Picture: (left to right)

Noah Cornella, Lauryn Sikes, Brynn Reinhardt, Gracie Pils, Lauren Schnobel



What are High School Students and Teachers Going to do for Winter Break? by Renata Hernandez

Ms Evans: "I'm going to force my daughters to join me in having what social media has coined a "Little Women Christmas" although I prefer the moniker of "A Laura Ingalls Wilder Christmas." Basically, we will be cooking, baking, crafting, playing card games, sitting by the fireplace, and reading."

David Cabajal: "Skiing and Sleeping"

Liam Beth: "Skiing"

Ms. Schicantek: "Baking and reading so many books"

Brynn Reinhardt: "Going to Italy and Slovenia"

Keller Cook: "Buying clothes"

Cameron Keith: "TBH, I'll probably play Geometry Dash or snowboard, but for Christmas, my family will come to my house."

Olivia Beth: "I hope there will be snow! I will be outside and spending time with my family!!"

Josten Karcher: "Probably going to play video games and going sledding at my mom's house."

Rori Hayes: "I am going to be traveling to Michigan to see both my mom's and dad's side of the family. I'll have three Christmases in total this year."

Avery Kimmerly: "I'm planning on going to Puerto Rico!"

Lauren Schnobel: "Spending time with family, playing basketball, working."

Lauryn Sikes: "I am staying home and spending time with my family and friends."

Regina Hernandez: "Watching the last season of Stranger Things and probably spending time with my family."

Isabelle Chamberlain: "Celebrating Christmas with family."

Ms. Anderson: "I'll be going to the Milwaukee Zoo Lights event with my siblings and their children! It's our yearly event."

Ms. Majercik: "My family has a cabin in Northern Wisconsin that we head to after all of our holiday celebrations. While we are up there, we try to ski, ice skate, snowmobile, and partake in other fun winter activities (as long as there is snow)"

Mr. Burchfield: "Watching Stranger Things while skiing."

Gracie Pils: "I'm hanging out with my friends and family and celebrating Christmas!"

Kaydence Warrenburg: "Working and spending lots of time with family."

Sasha Koledova: "Eating candy"

Maggie Clair: "I am spending time with my family and friends."

Mrs. Terrill: "Relaxing, reading, and running. (And spending time with friends and family.)"

Landon Ross: "Being at Alpine skiing"

Evan Welsh: "Spending time with my family and friends"

Ethan Weigel: "Going to Florida for Christmas"

Forest Burbank: "Going to Connecticut to see my grandma"

Will Sorensen: "Celebrating with family and friends"

Finn Pecht: "Celebrating with family and friends"

Mr. Servin: "Coaching a lot of hockey"

What Do High School Teachers Want For Christmas?

by Brynn Reinhardt

Mrs. Terrill: Running shoes and pink glitter

Ms. Evans: Another subscription to The New York Times cooking app

Ms. Schicantek: Golden retriever puppy

Ms. Torres: Vacation to Greece

Mr. Burchfield: Willy Wonka Lego set

Mr. Servin: More ties

Ms. Soskich: Dinosaur Lego set

Ms. Anderson: Nintendo Switch 2

Mr. Yanko: Spend time with family

Mrs. Pelnar: Be on a beach somewhere

Ms. Durkin: A new car

Mrs. Kavanagh: Spend time with family or 2026 World Series trip for the Brewers

Ms. Majercik: Free flight anywhere

2025-2026 Winter Forecast Predictions

by Sasha Koledova

These last few years, Southeastern Wisconsin has experienced slightly below average snowfall, and so has the United States as a whole. The reason for this limited amount of snowfall is primarily because of climate change and the El Niño pattern. El Niño is a weather pattern that includes below-average temperature patterns with above-average precipitation levels. This year, we are expecting to have a La Niña weather pattern. This pattern is quite the opposite from El Niño; it involves cooler than average temperature patterns (What). This article will be looking at predictions for the 2025-2026 winter in the Great Lakes region. The three weather sources that will be reviewed are: Accuweather, The Old Farmer's Almanac, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

Accuweather predicts that we will have an above-average snowfall this winter. Because we are part of the Great Lakes region, the La Niña pattern's cold temperatures will "fuel heavy lake-effect snow" during the month of December (Lada). They also predict that we will have a period of thaw but will return back to cold temperatures. These conditions are also expected in regions such as the Midwest, Ohio Valley, Northeast, and mid-Atlantic areas (Lada).

The Old Farmer's Almanac predicts the opposite from Accuweather. They say that the Great Lakes region will experience a slightly warmer winter. They predict that there will be below-average precipitation and snowfall. Temperatures are predicted to be above-normal, resulting in a mild and dry winter. They did state that lake-effect snow is probable, meaning we'll potentially get more snow than predicted (Farmer's).

NOAA's Climate Prediction Center (CPC) predicts that our region will experience wetter-than-average precipitation levels as well as below-normal temperatures. But, they also state that our region's winter droughts are expected to improve. Thus, it supports their statement that we will have above-average precipitation levels since drought levels are decreasing (U.S. Department of Commerce). Their predictions seem like they are leaning towards more snowfall this winter for our region.

Overall, these three sources have their own different predictions about our winter this year. Though it's difficult to predict winter conditions this early, two out of one sources predict above-average snowfall; however, these predictions can change at any time.

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WBHS Girls Basketball Program

by Lauryn Sikes

The 2024-2025 girls basketball season was a big success. The program had a brand new coach, Mr. Paul Schneider. With only nine girls on the varsity team, twelve big wins were accomplished. Within the twelve wins, there was a winning streak of seven. The team chemistry was the best it had been in a long time. With a mix of everyone's incredible skills and communication, the team was beyond successful. The basketball program believes that having good culture leads to a good team. Hopefully these characteristics of the team carry to other years in the future.

The 2025-2026 girls basketball season started on November 10th, and so far it's been a success! All of the returning players are excited about new plays and advancing their skills. Coach Schneider explains that the team's growth from beginning of last year to beginning of this year is off the charts. The girls had their first scrimmage on November 15th against Big Foot and Faith Christian. Both games went pretty well! The team's defense and communication was great! But as always, there is so much room to grow.

Gracie Pils, the girls basketball manager, states "I can't wait for what the season has in store!"

Come and see the girls dominate this year!

Forensics 2026

by Gracie Pils

If I were to tell you that 75% of the population suffers from a fear of something, what would you guess? Spiders? Heights? Small spaces? Unfortunately, it's none of these. The correct answer is public speaking, a skill used everyday in the typical day-to-day job. Many people find fear in getting up in front of people and using their voice, which ultimately leads to procrastination in ever getting over the fear of it. Forensics helps participants prepare for public speaking, while still being fun and having a wide variety of options. In Forensics, students perform in front of one judge and a room of perhaps six other people, who all perform as well. Each meet has three rounds of competition, so there are three chances to earn top scores. The entire experience is super comfortable and you meet many new people while there.

For the 2026 season, there are four competitions. The season will start on February 2 with the conference meet at Fall River. After conference, WBHS will participate in the sub-district meet at Burlington on Thursday, February 19. If students earn two scores of 13/20 or more, they move on to District. District is held at Westosha on March 14. If students earn at least two scores of 17/20, they move on to the state meet at UW-Madison. (The judging criteria were revamped for the 2026 season, so this year will be a learning curve as we navigate these new guidelines and rubrics.)

There are multiple categories for different interests including poetry, prose, acting, and so much more!

Talk to Mrs. Terrill if you have any questions about Forensics and are looking to join.



The Best Holiday Songs

by Kaydence Warrenburg

"White Christmas"-Bing Crosby 35%

"Run, Run Rudolph"-Chuck Berry 10%

"Last Christmas"-George Michael 25%

"It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year"-Andy Williams 30%

When it comes to the best holiday song, there is no absolutely correct answer. Everyone likes different songs. I believe that "Santa Claus Is Coming to Town" is the best Christmas song, but someone else might believe that "Last Christmas" is the best song.

Based on my data collected from students and teachers around the school, "White Christmas" by Bing Crosby is one of the most popular songs. Everyone has their own taste in music and believes that the song they like the best is the best.



Plato's Tripartite Theory of the Soul

by Nik Anagnos

Disclaimer I: This is a denser topic than last time, so this is only for the real philosophy heads out there (shoutout Mr. Burchfield). If you don't feel as if that applies to you, I encourage you to move along to the AI-generated crossword puzzles & word searches.

Disclaimer II: Plato wrote down conversations Socrates had, so it's Plato's theory that Socrates is arguing for; just know that they will be used in regards to the same exact idea here.

First, let's establish what it is, and after we'll examine the arguments that support it.

Essentially, Plato's theory of the tripartite soul is the idea that the soul is made up of three distinct parts. He divides the human psyche into three categories: logic, spirit, and appetite, each being subordinate to the part(s) left of it. Appetite, called the money-loving part, represents fundamental biological desires, such as food, drink, and pleasure. Next is spirit, the victory-loving part, which represents emotion/passion; things such as courage, honor, and pride. Socrates claims that these two are unfit to lead the soul, as they are not rational. This is where reason/logic comes in, known as the wisdom-loving part; it must exercise the virtue of moderation on the aforementioned irrational parts. Composing these three into the ideal soul appears as such: reason at the top, guiding the soul; spirit acting as an ally to reason, executing on things deemed worthy; and desire, only acting within the bounds that reason permits. In other words, the rational part is to act as the moderator and ruler of the irrational parts.

(Plato continued)

So now that we have uncovered what, let's look at how Plato reached this conclusion. Socrates begins by stating the law of noncontradiction (if something is true, the opposite is not true) in a very unnecessarily long way, "It's plain that the same thing won't be willing at the same time to do or suffer opposites with respect to the same part and in relation to the same thing" (Plato 115). In plain English, it just means that the same thing cannot be x and not x at the same time. Socrates then asks if there is such a man who desires a drink, yet does not pursue one, to which Glaucon (Plato's brother) answers yes. Due to the law Socrates just stated, we know that there must be at least two parts within the soul: one that desires to drink, and one that desires to not yet drink —for any number of logical reasons (not an appropriate time, water is not clean, water is boiling hot, etc). This establishes the calculating and non-calculating parts, but leaves us without spirit. Socrates contemplates if spirit is part of the desiring part, due to spirit including the desire for fame/honor, yet they conclude it is separate. They use an argument similar to the following: often, heroes ignore their desire for food and comfort in the pursuit of glory, being driven by the spirit. Since the spirit (the drive for fame or glory) acts in opposition to their appetites, it must be a separate section from appetite, and it is separate from the reasoning, as it is irrational. This implies that spirit is the middle section of the soul, residing below reason yet above appetite.

And there we have it, the framework of the soul. Socrates tells us that the good man, "Harmonizes the three parts, exactly like three notes in a harmonic scale, lowest, highest and middle" (Plato 123). This idea of harmony is a constant theme throughout Plato's writing; he believes that the intrinsic harmony one achieves by arranging and operating their soul in such a way is beyond any material reward.

One of the main purposes of this theory, I believe, is that it serves to reinforce Socrates's rhetoric about self-examination, encouraging citizens to determine what is ruling their souls. By telling citizens how to adjust their souls to be more harmonic, he helps them in this process of reflection; reminding them that balancing the soul with respect to reason, spirit and desire will lead to a more fulfilling and virtuous existence. He preached this to Athenian citizens thousands of years ago, yet I think it applies to modern life just as much, if not more.

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The Tuck Rule Game

by Sawyer Normington-Slay

On January 19, 2002, a game between the New England Patriots and the Oakland (now known as the Las Vegas) Raiders took place at Foxboro Stadium in Massachusetts. It was an AFC divisional playoff match and went down as one of the most influential and famous NFL winter games ever.

On the day of the game, snow fell from six in the afternoon to two the next morning. The heaviest snowfall was recorded around eight to ten at night, starting at the same time that the game kicked off. Foxboro Stadium is an open-topped stadium, and even with many attempts from the staff trying to clear the snow off the field, it just kept coming. In the middle of a snowstorm, the game had not been called off. In the first quarter, Raider's quarterback Rich Gannon passed for eighty-seven yards on ten of fourteen attempts. After a small bit of back-and-forth yardage between both teams, Rich ended up throwing a thirteen-yard touchdown pass to wide receiver James Jett.

In the second half of the game, the next score occurred. The Patriots stopped running the ball and started solely relying on young Tom Brady's passing to get them some points on the board. They were stopped near the red zone and scored three points from a twenty-three-yard field goal, kicked by Adam Vinatieri. The score is now seven to three, and the Raiders now have the ball. They marched down the field but were stopped short of the endzone and ended up taking a field goal to make the game ten to three. Then, towards the end of the third quarter, with two minutes left, Raiders receiver Jerry Rice caught a twenty-two-yard reception to set up their kicker, Sebastian Janikowski, for a forty-five-yard field goal to give them the lead of thirteen to three going into the fourth quarter.

The fourth quarter arrived, and the snow was still coming down faster than ever. With all hope lost in the Patriots winning the game, due to the conditions and score difference, Tom Brady was not ready to lose just yet. Brady marched down the field in ten plays for sixty-seven yards, and the Patriots ran the ball in for a touchdown to make the score ten to thirteen. The Patriots were down by only three with a little under eight minutes left in the game. Later in the quarter, the Patriots returned a punt from the Raiders with two minutes left in the game. After a quick pass to running back Kevin Faulk and a short run out of bounds by Tom Brady, the clock had stopped, and one of the most controversial calls in NFL history was going to happen.

Brady hiked the ball and dropped back in the pocket. After searching the field for a receiver, he pulled his arm up to throw, but changed his mind and began to bring his arm back. As he is doing this, Raiders safety Charles Woodson comes from a blitz and punches the ball free as he tackles Brady.

(Tuck Rule Game continued)

Raiders linebacker Greg Biekert pounced on the ball, and it seemed that the Raiders had just sealed the ball game, but they were very wrong.

According to the official NFL rule book, if an offensive player initiates a forward movement with the ball, even if they begin to bring it back towards them, and the ball is dropped or comes out of the player's hand during this time, it is ruled an incomplete pass. Additionally, if the ball is successfully tucked into the player's body, it can only then be ruled a fumble. Because referee Walt Coleman knew this rule, he reversed the call and made it an incomplete pass, allowing Patriots kicker Adam Vinatieri to hit a forty-five-yard field goal in the snow with twenty-seven seconds left on the clock. This tied the game and sent it into overtime.

Now in overtime, the Patriots won the coin toss and elected to start with the ball. Tom Brady drove down the field, gaining sixty-one yards in fifteen plays and allowing Adam Vinatieri to have a chance to win the game in the final seconds of overtime. He stepped up, ready to hit the ball into the uprights at the twenty-three-yard line. Going against the wind, Vinatieri sank the field goal to give the Patriots the win.

After this game, the Patriots went on to beat the Rams in Super Bowl XXXVI (36), with Adam Vinatieri winning the game with a forty-eight-yard field goal to give the Patriots the victory.

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Flat Earth VS. Spherical Earth

by Cameron Keith

(This is not a serious argument and should be taken as a joke. If you do not wish to read an article about how earth is a sphere, then skip this article.)

What is the flat earth theory?

Flat earth is a theory saying that the earth is not a sphere, it is a flat disc. This theory has been more and more popularized through the use of social media.

Is there any proof?

No, there is no evident or true proof that a flat earth exists. However, because it's a theory, there are beliefs that people hold closely. One of these beliefs maintains that people stay on the earth and don't fall off when they are on the bottom. Another reason why some people might believe the earth is flat is because they have a distrust of science.

The Simple Truth

The truth is that the earth is a sphere with an overwhelming amount of evidence. Such as gravity or the earth's curvature. Gravity pulls things down toward the center of the earth. The earth is a sphere and this is why things do not fall off. The earth's curvature can be measured using multiple methods such as using the sunlight or mathematical formulas.

This overwhelming amount of evidence is clear proof that the earth is not flat.

A Review of the Duke of Edinburgh Award by Will Sorensen

Have you ever heard of the Duke of Edinburgh Award? If not you need to listen up! This is a great opportunity for all high school students.

The Duke of Edinburgh (abbreviated DofE) is an internationally recognized award that focuses on the growth and development of skills in teens and young adults. Anyone between the ages of 14 and 24 may participate and work their way through the award. DofE consists of three levels: Bronze, Silver, and Gold. The requirements get increasingly more difficult for each level. The award levels consist of increasing amounts of work in three sections: community service, physical recreation, and skill building.

Bronze, the easiest level, requires at least six total months to achieve. One must invest an average of one hour a week over three months on two of the aforementioned sections, six months in the third category, a practice adventurous journey (AJ) of one night and one day, and finally an AJ of two days and one night is required. This is the highest level of the award that I have achieved, and I am currently working towards my Silver. I had an absolutely amazing experience with the Bronze level of this award. In practice, it is extremely difficult to completely finish all sections, in addition to all of the requirements for the AJ, within a six-month period. When I completed this level, it took me about nine months.

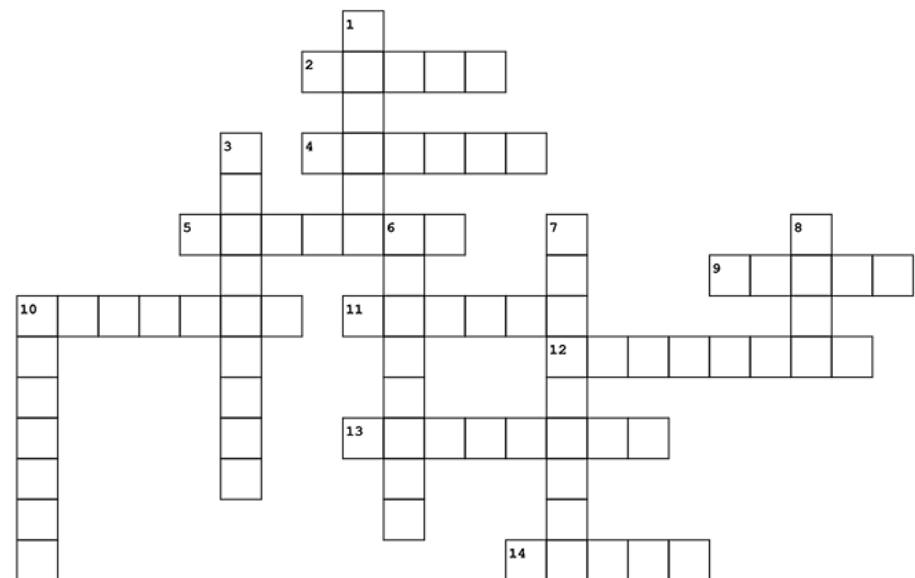
Silver, the second most rigorous level of this award, is more challenging and intensive. The requirements are as follows: six total months, six months of community service, six months of either physical recreation or skill building and three months of the other, an average of one hour per section per week for the duration of that section, and a qualifying AJ of three days and two nights.

Gold, the most rigorous and prestigious level of this award, is the most intensive level and requires the most time, planning, and determination. The requirements include twelve total months, twelve months of community service (averaging one hour a week), twelve months of your skill or physical recreation and six months of the other (averaging one hour a week), a four day three night AJ, and (unique to Gold) the residential section. The residential is only a requirement for the Gold level and is quite the undertaking. It entails a five day, four night stay in a place away from home in an unfamiliar environment, with mostly unknown people. The goal of this specific section is to build flexibility in participants; it also helps build social skills and confidence in unknown situations.

My experience with this club/award has been amazing; the award is more of a club at our school and is led by Mrs. Soley-Johnson, Ms. Soskich, and Mrs. Mielke. I completed my Bronze award in the spring of 2025 and had an absolute blast while working my way through it. The best part, however, was the AJ. We completed ours with a team of four in August 2024 along the shores of Geneva Lake and it was an amazing experience for me. Over the course of our 5.8 mile trek from Chapin Road to Bigfoot Beach State Park, we took measurements of pH at high interest areas along the lakeshore path. We arrived at the state park and set up our camp, made dinner, and slept; the next morning we hiked about two miles along the south shore of the lake to gather a more diverse range of data. Then we compiled our data and presented it to our award advisors and the Geneva Lake Environmental Agency.

The award taught me quite a few lessons. I learned how difficult it is to teach yourself an instrument, I learned the value of persevering through hardships, I learned how to work with a team to plan and execute a AJ, and most importantly, I learned how to set a solid goal for growth and then actually execute and achieve that goal.

Thanksgiving Crossword



Across

- 2. Another word for corn, a traditional crop
- 4. A group of people related to one another, typically gathering for the holiday
- 5. A time for gathering in the crops
- 9. A word that is equivalent to a large meal
- 10. A key ingredient in a popular holiday pie
- 11. A large gallinaceous bird, often the main course
- 12. A team sport often watched on TV on Thanksgiving Day
- 13. A forked bone in a bird, broken for luck
- 14. A sauce made from the juice and fat that drips from cooking meats

Down

- 1. A ceremonial procession, like the one in NYC
- 3. The quality of being thankful; readiness to show appreciation
- 6. The most popular side dish for Thanksgiving
- 7. The ship that brought the Pilgrims to America
- 8. The season when Thanksgiving occurs
- 10. A person who travels for religious purposes

by Daniel Gaylord

“Alright Gang, Whiplash.”

By Nicholas Kwiatkowski

Disclaimer: Guess what? A movie about a jazz band is VERY heavily jazz band based. If you don't dig jazz bands, or abusive bald men, don't read this review. Although, like my father says, never be afraid to learn new things.

The movie Whiplash centers around an ambitious young jazz drummer, Andrew Neiman, who strives to be the best jazz musician in his school. Terrence Fletcher, an instructor, meets Andrew and transfers him to his jazz band. As happy as Neiman is, he doesn't know the terror of Fletcher's teachings. Neiman starts to learn how vigorous Fletcher's rehearsals are, and he starts to become obsessed with his passion for jazz as Fletcher pushes him to the brink of his talent and sanity (2014).

Although this movie is inherently radical and not realistic, it still shows some good ideas throughout the course of the movie. There was one point where Neiman and Fletcher are talking at a bar, and Fletcher tells him the reason he is so pushy is because, “I was there to push people beyond what's expected of them. I believe that is... an absolute necessity. Otherwise, we're depriving the world of the next Louis Armstrong” (Whiplash). This quote shows that he isn't really a bad person; he just wants his students to become the next hit player (Shreyas). It creates character building in Fletcher and makes him look less unreasonable. In that same scene, he also states, “There are no two words in the English language more harmful than 'good job'” (Whiplash). With this quote, he directly calls out those directors who don't want to hurt their student's feelings by saying that a 'good job' speech holds students back from what they can truly be. So, while Fletcher's teachings were without a doubt radical, there was always an underlying reason for how he went about his teachings. He didn't just yell at his students for the fun of it; he yelled at them in hopes of pushing them to become the best that they can be (Orellana).

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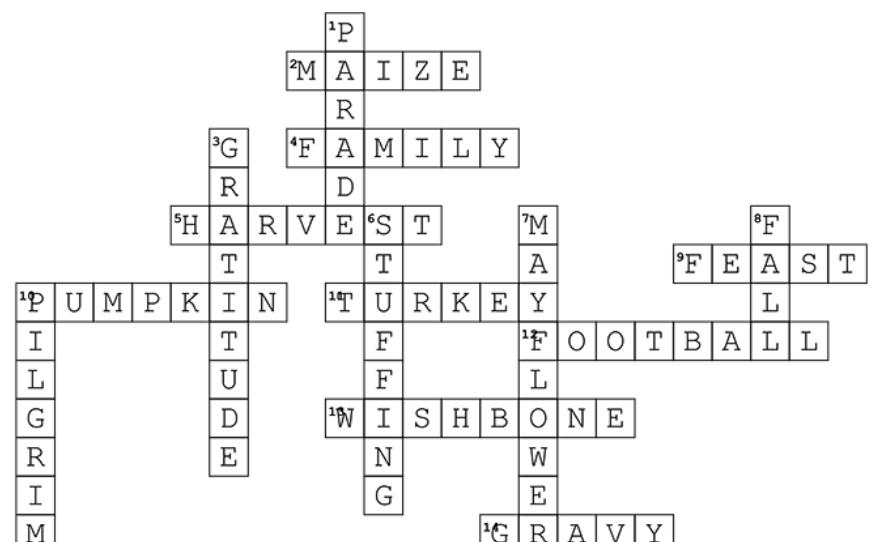
Winter Word Search

By Josh LeBaron

y d r z n v l j g s y g z d v
k o l e y v e x n w t u l j o
n u f h b s f o t o z w c x f
m a j c l m w t t f k r x e n
x m m e o g e u n g t e t e o
s i b w l o n c t o a a i n u
k d y o o t k k e e t t q t d
g h b e s n k i k d n h w l q
g e s e c e s a e v a s k v c
h n h g q m l q o s s e a g x
q c i p l f h b u f i v p i v
c g b q w v e v e m p l h t r
l h w o j k w k v o o e h l s
n m n c h r i s t m a s i z y
a s l l e b f p z c j i z g e

Bells	Chestnut	Christmas
Cookies	December	Elves
Santa	Snowflake	Snowglobe
Snowman	Wreath	

Thanksgiving Crossword

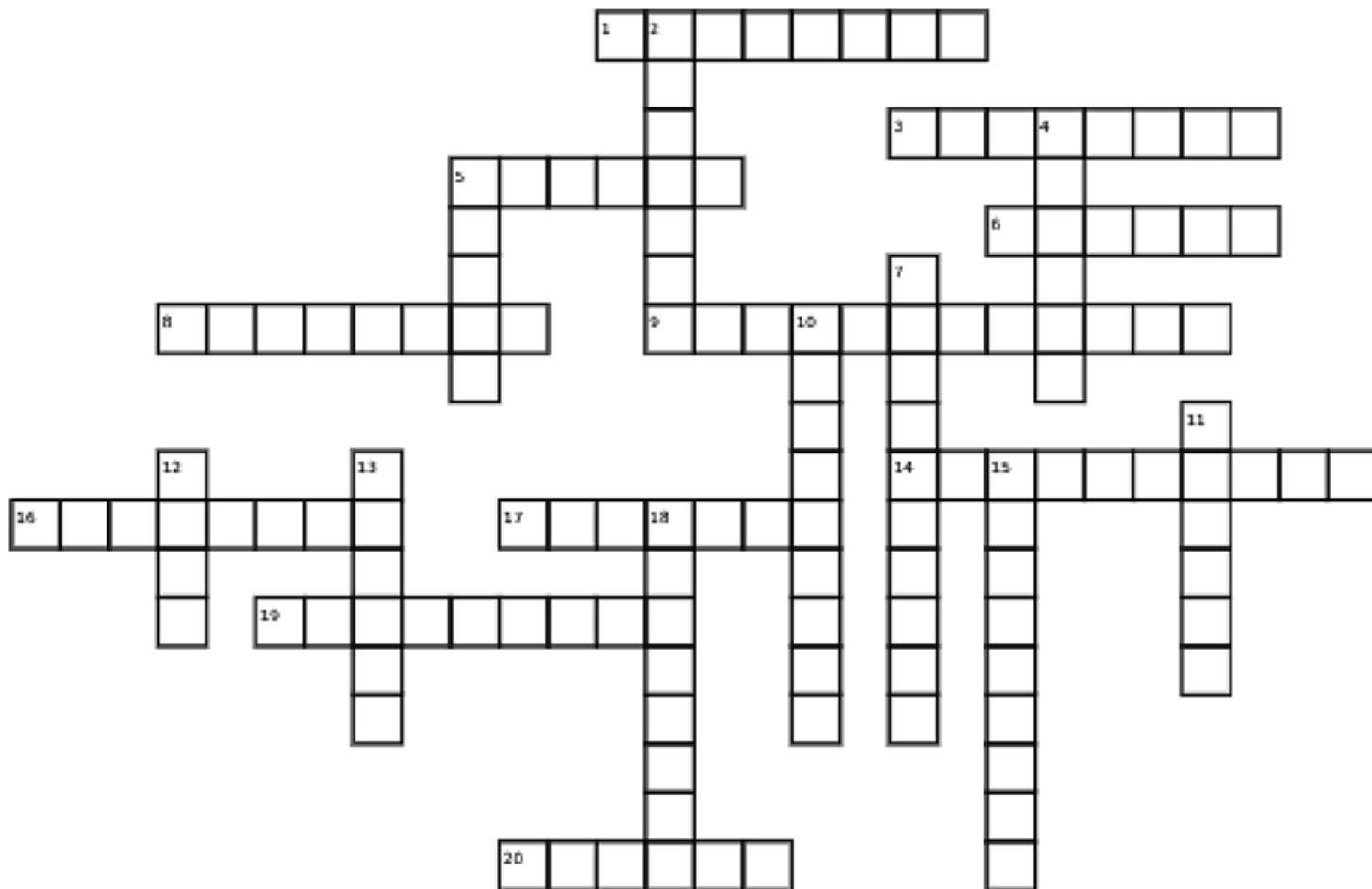


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Down

- A ceremonial procession, like the one in NYC
- The quality of being thankful; readiness to show appreciation
- The most popular side dish for Thanksgiving
- The ship that brought the Pilgrims to America
- The season when Thanksgiving occurs
- A person who travels for religious purposes



Down:

2. the reindeer with a red nose
4. songs people go around and sing during Christmas time
5. Santa's helpers
7. a popular red Christmas flower
10. a red and white candy, popular around Christmas time
11. what Santa drives on Christmas Eve
12. ice crystals that fall from the sky
13. a green creature who hates Christmas
15. where Santa lives
18. Santa's wife

Across:

1. things you receive on Christmas
3. something that is hung on the fireplace
5. a popular Christmas drink
6. a circular arrangement of flowers, leaves, and other things
8. the month Christmas takes place in
9. a popular winter drink
14. the man who brings presents on Christmas Eve
16. the animals that pull Santa's sleigh
17. what Santa goes down to deliver presents
19. what you hang on your Christmas tree
20. a well-known snowman

by Izzy Chamberlain