

*Northwestern Middle School*

# Northwestern Monthly

**JANUARY**  
Edition

2020



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# Editorial

Recently, someone I knew passed away. It was very sad but it made me remember something: life is short. No one has any idea what the universe is going to do so you have to live every day like it is both your first and last. Try something you have been meaning to try. Face your fears. Tell that person you like them. Make that food you wanted to eat. What would you want to be remembered as? Would you be the kind one, or the smart one, or the brave one, or the great one? While this might sound like a question in a Harry Potter Sorting Hat quiz it does apply to real life. You don't need to be a Harry Potter fan to be kind, or smart, or brave, or great. Get your head out of your screen and live life to the fullest. There has never been someone who got their fame by being not living their life to the fullest. Actors did what they loved and acted, singers sang, monks devoted their lives to their faith, live your life to the fullest. You don't need to be famous but you can still be remembered.

January is the perfect time to remake yourself. Finish your resolutions instead of watching them collect dust. If you don't make resolutions then you can always start. So get your head out of the screen or the book and do what you want to do. Finish that story you wanted to write. Get that job you wanted to get. Finalize that art you were working on all year. Try that recipe you wanted to eat. Join that team with whom you have aspired to play. Tell that person that you like them. Face that fear you have. Lose or gain that weight you wanted. Apologize for that wrong you committed. Forgive the person you need to forgive. Do whatever it is you want to do because you never know what life will throw at you and when that obstacle comes hurtling your way you can say you are ready and you will be able to dodge that obstacle or accept it knowing that you have done all you needed to do. This January, do what you resolved to do. I will end this month's editorial with a quote. Think about it and live life to the fullest. Happy New Year.

“That is will never come again is what makes life so sweet.” - Emily Dickinson

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Are you good at math, science, history, literature, or current events? We need YOU in the Academic Bowl! Join this club where you compete against other teams all over the state in an exciting quiz bowl! The meetings are on Mondays after school until 5:20. They take place in Ms. Gillespie 's room in the 7th grade hallway. Students in 6th, 7th, and 8th grade are welcome. We hope to see you there!

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This is a fictional story by Valeria Santamaria, a 6th grade student who is the winner of the December short story contest. Great job Valeria!

“Stapler... stapler... stapler...” I muttered. Three weeks to Christmas. School project. I was in desperate need of a stapler. And yet, one was nowhere to be seen in this house. I headed into my mom's office. I looked around the small space. Bagged Christmas presents from my grandmother and perhaps my parents lay in a corner. I searched the desk. Something caught my eye. A medium sized Amazon box sat on a shelf. *Don't look at it... don't look at it...* I commanded myself. My curiosity won over. I looked anxiously around. My dad was at work. My mom was feeding my brother. No one would be here for a while.

I lifted the flaps of the box. Every scrape, every creak, caused me to wince. *You have to be quiet!* I scolded myself. *You don't want to get caught!* I stared into the box. I shifted the contents ever so slightly. The first object was a blue and orange package reading Poetic, I wondered what that was. I lifted the package out and checked the box for anything else and... my heart skipped a beat. My eyes widened. I had to cover my mouth to stop myself from screaming. I very, incredibly gently lifted up the two white boxes. One large, one small. My hands shook. Santa knew exactly what I wanted. The only two things on my Christmas list. Now I knew my wish was going to be true.

I placed the packages carefully (I cannot emphasize how careful I was) back into the Amazon box in the same order they originally were. I made sure everything was identical to when I discovered them. I quietly crept out of the room.

“You'll be mine soon, presents...”

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*Shivering*

*Nippy*

*Ornamental*

*White*

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Join the Lego star wars army just change your profile picture on any social media.

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## History of New Year's

In order to understand the modern new year, one must first understand calendars. The new year has no additional significance beyond the simple fact that is a new year. What decides which day is a new year? Calendars. The modern calendar is the Gregorian Calendar. The calendar popular before Gregorian was Julian. The Julian calendar was put in place by the Roman Empire. The Gregorian calendar was put in place by Pope Gregory XIII. The Gregorian calendar has a 365 day year.

Everytime these 365 days pass, we celebrate the new year. Celebrations occur all around the world. These include a ball drop in New York City, watching a countdown on TV, and creating fun new goals.

The new year is a fun celebration and I hope that you enjoyed this new year and you continue to enjoy all of the new years to come.

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[New Year's Quizizz!](#)

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[Winter Poll](#)

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[January Survey](#)

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## 3 recipes, 3 countries, 1 tradition

January is here, It is cold outside and it is time for some fun family activity and comfort food.

What about some quality time spent cooking delicious snacks to share while watching a movie, playing a game or even studying (like really!)?

We have a fun hands-on and savory "compare & contrast" for you!

Germany, France and America are very different countries, but they share a common tradition: cookies!

Here are 3 different traditional recipes for you to try out over the cold days...

### 1. Kokosmakronen (aka. German Coconut Macaroons)

#### Ingredients

- 2 cups shredded coconut (200 g)
- 3/4 cup sugar (200 g)
- 1 tsp lemon peel
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 3 egg whites



#### Instructions

- Beat egg whites. While beating, add sugar, vanilla extract and lemon peel. Fold in the shredded coconut.
- Using a teaspoon place scoops of mixture on a greased cookie sheet.
- Bake 10-15 minutes at 350 degrees F.
- Makes 40 macaroons

### 2. Palmiers (aka. French Palm Tree Cookies)

- Prep Time: 20 minutes + freezing bake 10 minutes
- Yield: Approx. 2 dozen cookies
- Ingredients
  - 1 cup sugar divided





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- 1 sheet frozen puff pastry, thawed
  - **Instructions**
  - Preheat oven to 425°. Sprinkle a surface with 1/4 cup sugar; unfold puff pastry sheet on surface. Sprinkle with 2 tablespoons sugar. Roll into a 14x10-in. rectangle. Sprinkle with 1/2 cup sugar to within 1/2 in. of edges. Lightly press into pastry.
  - With a knife, very lightly score a line crosswise across the middle of the pastry. Starting at a short side, roll up jelly-roll style, stopping at the score mark in the middle. Starting at the other side, roll up pastry jelly-roll style to score mark. Freeze until firm, 20-30 minutes. Cut into 3/8-in. slices. Place cut side up 2 in. apart on parchment paper-lined baking sheets; sprinkle lightly with 1 tablespoon sugar. Bake for 8 minutes. Turn pastries over and sprinkle with remaining sugar. Bake until golden brown and glazed, about 3 minutes longer. Remove to wire racks to cool completely. Store in airtight containers.
  - **3. American sugar cookies**

Ingredients:

- 5 cups all-purpose flour
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 1/2 cups (3 sticks) unsalted butter, softened
- 2 cups granulated sugar
- 4 large eggs
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract (or almond extract)



Steps:

- In a small bowl, whisk together flour, baking powder, salt. Set aside.
- Combine the butter and sugar together in a standing mixer or by hand-held mixer. Mix until light and creamy.
- Beat in eggs one at a time and add vanilla. Slowly pour in the flour mixture and mix until combined. Cover and chill in the refrigerator for 1 hour to overnight.
- Preheat the oven to 400°F. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper.
- Roll out dough to 1/4 to 1/2 inch thick on a well-floured surface. Cut into shapes with a variety of [cookie cutters](#). Place cookies 1 inch apart on baking sheets.
- Bake 6 minutes in the oven, or until golden. Cool completely on a wire rack.

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<https://www.allrecipes.com/recipe/230238/gingerbread-men-cookies/>

<https://www.tasteofhome.com/recipes/palmiers/>

[www.agardenforthehouse.com](http://www.agardenforthehouse.com)

<https://www.smartertravel.com/american-cookie-recipes>

## Friendship Day

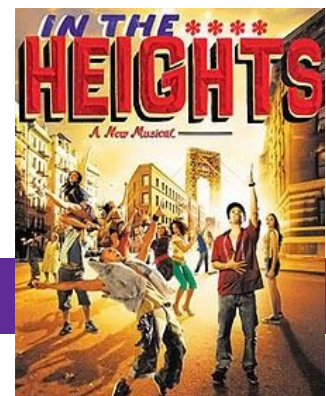
Friendship. Friendship could be one of the most important things in one's life, from being there for one another to being crazy with each other. Yet, while friendship seems like something everyone has, some don't. Friendship is something that some people take for granted, and while some don't notice it, friends can help us with stress, and help us make better lifestyle choices. Friendship also improves the quality of our lives. Those conversations that one shares with another and the memories that we share can really make someone's day brighter. While friendship helps with many things mentally, it can also help with things that can help someone in the future. The conversations one has with their friends can help them talk to future colleagues and employees easier. So, anytime you see someone who looks like they could use a friend, why not go over and talk to them. Who knows? Maybe it could help them greatly, and maybe even you!

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## In The Heights

By: Georgia Davidson

In The Heights is a Tony Award-winning musical starring Lin Manuel-Miranda, Chris Jackson, Mandy Gonzalez, Karen Olivo, and many more. The musical takes place in the early 2000s, in a Manhattan neighborhood named Washington Heights, where Usnavi (Manuel-Miranda), Benny (Chris Jackson), Nina (Mandy Gonzalez), and Vanessa (Karen Olivo) all live. The neighborhood is a very lively place, with lots of different people. With a chance of a winning lottery ticket, sweltering heat, and a potential blackout, all of these peoples worlds and lives start spinning around them. With new and horrible changes coming to the barrio, will these people be able to get through it?



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Late last year, a trailer for a movie adaptation has been released and is coming into theaters in the Summer of 2020. This movie stars Anthony Ramos as Usnavi, Corey Hawkins, as Benny, and Lin Manuel-Miranda as The Piragua Guy.

## Garnet- The Birthstone of January

Garnet is a beautiful and most commonly deep red mineral that represents the month of January. This might just seem like any other mineral with a pretty color; however, the gemstone is one of the most exquisite in the world. Garnets inspire truthfulness and are said to symbolize friendship; in fact, in ancient times, garnets were interchanged between parting friends. 2 of the rarest types of garnet are Demantoid Garnets and garnets with an asterism. A Demantoid Garnet is the rarest and most valuable variety of January's birthstone and has a vivid green color \*From DalesJewelers.com. Though the Demantoid is the rarest and most valuable of January's garnets, a garnet with an asterism is the rarest of ALL garnets. This variety has a star-shaped image when held up to a light and shines a burgundy color\*From the Chicago Tribune. A star garnet (garnet with an asterism) can be worth anywhere from \$10 to \$125 a carat \*Information from the Chicago Tribune.



Garnet (most common color)





Demantoid Garnet



Star Garnet

## (retake) Sleeping Beauty

I yawned. I wake up and my royal assistants are patting my forehead with a wet cloth, watching me intently, and waving a fan in my face. Apparently, when you sleep for 1 whole year your parents want to make sure you wake up every single time you go to bed.

"Thank you, but I'm fine!" I say to the assistants to shoo them away. They go out of the room curtsying and bowing. I don't need them acting like this anymore. I have told them not to do it, I just want to feel regular.

I am now in high school and want to be independent, but it is hard when everyone is whispering about me, the princess who slept for 1 year. My friends have the same struggle, but we all agree I have it the worst. With the whole sleeping thing, the name-calling and whispering has only made the humiliation worse. Also, Cinderella is wearing Converse now and that doesn't help either. We princesses stick together but it has gotten hard to stick together when the whole world seems to humiliate you in all ways possible. Tiana is still making beignets, Snow-white still sings to the birds, and Merida still does archery. I trudge to school knowing it will be a long day. I talk, brag, gossip, and whisper about random things. Trying to make the topic off of my group of friends. I drag on through the day, through my classes, through lunch, and all the way home.

"How was school?" My parents inquire, looking up from the long, long, long to-do list.

"It was okay," I mumble not wanting them to hear my tone. I go to my room thinking of things I should do, homework, text Moana on our oceanography project or try to figure out ways to resolve our teasing. I choose to text Moana. I flop on my bed and put on music to my speakers after I close the door. I would not want my parents finding out my trouble at school, they would go crazy. I hum to the music while texting back and forth with Moana. We are almost done and I wish I didn't have homework next. I finished my math, reading, and science homework in 34 minutes. Social Studies was harder and took me just under 30 minutes. Next on my list was to create a resolution to our problem. "I know," I thought aloud. "We could all... hide and become an awkward grandma with 1,000 kitties, and always knit. That probably wouldn't work out. Most of Cinderella's best friends are mice. I put my homework aside and went to the kitchen to get a snack. My parents, thankfully, didn't notice me. I got a cookie from the fresh batch. Taking a few back to my room without dropping any.

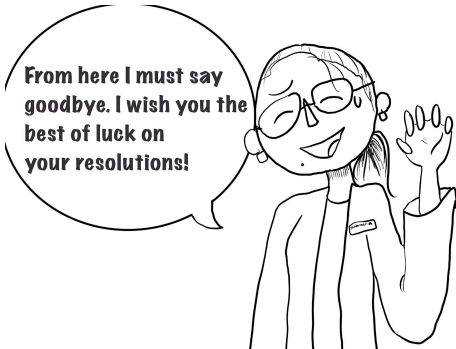
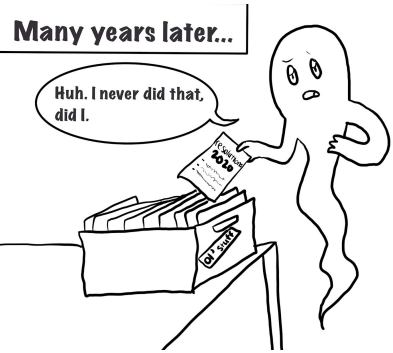
I went to my room and jotted down a few ideas, only a few were good. I still put the grandma thing as an option, just in case.

The rest of the evening went smoothly, dinner, and finally time to go to bed. I turn off my lights and close the curtains. I fall back on the bed thinking of tomorrow. I feel good, refreshed. I wake up to the daily routine of the servants at my bed, a big breakfast of pancakes with syrup and berries, and the long walk. Thankfully Merida is walking with me today. I tell her my plan and she agrees. I get to school and tell my friends my plan.

"Did you hear about Sleeping Beauty?" Someone whispers really loud on purpose as we past. We walk by briskly smirking and laughing. My big plan wasn't so big, it was to just ignore the rude kids, but it worked. As some fairytales GO...

**THE END**





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## Defense of the Slytherin House

Often times when one reads Harry Potter, they get the feeling that among the four houses of Hogwarts, Slytherin is an evil, malevolent, and antagonistic house. While the Slytherin House has produced its fair share of dark wizards and villains, it is not an evil class. First, let me explain what Slytherin is to people who either do not remember or haven't read or watched the Harry Potter series. According to the official Harry Potter Wiki, Slytherin is one of the four houses of Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry. The traits that one must have dominantly are, in no particular order: cunning, ambition, fraternity, resourcefulness, determination, and leadership, to name a few. The symbols of Slytherin include the colors green and silver, the serpent, and water. We Slytherins understand that we have had some bad wizards but a little known fact is that Merlin, the great man himself, was sorted into Slytherin. Slytherins strive to be the best, a trait they share with Ravenclaws, but, unlike Ravenclaws, Slytherins stand for their fellow housemates at all times. Therefore, Slytherins clearly are underappreciated and victimized. In the books, the movies, and other media, Slytherins are shown as villains and not victims, unlike how it should be.



In the original series, Draco Malfoy, a prominent Slytherin, was depicted as a cruel bully. It is my personal belief that Malfoy was simply looking for friends to help him through his difficult life when he offered Harry his friendship. Draco was the same age as Harry and he went through worse ordeals. Draco's father was a terroristic cultist who was sent to a prison that sucked the life and happiness out of humans. Draco's mother was never around and was forced into the Death Eaters as a villain. Due to Lucius Malfoy's neglect and lack of love, Draco was constantly trying to gain attention from his father, even if it meant joining the Death Eaters. Upon being faced with murder, Malfoy chose not to kill anyone. In the Battle of Hogwarts, Malfoy killed no one and ended up being the reason that Harry lived.

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