



# *One Working Unit*



*December, 2017 Edition*

## *Home For The Holidays*

**By: Diana Agbeyo, 6-124**

This year IS 303 hosted its annual holiday show, where students from the NIA after school program and students from homeroom classes got to showcase what they have been working on this year. In this year's performance there was dancing, jazz, and singing. This is my first year in IS 303 and I am in Ms. Glass's jazz band playing the drums. Playing drums is not as confusing as most people think. The drums are an important instrument because this percussion instrument leads the piano, the trumpets and the altos. Mr. Young directed the show. Ms. Azarow choreographed the dance numbers and Ms. Glass led the jazz band. One of the reasons that I wanted to attend IS 303 was because I had heard of the wonderful dramatic arts programs that the school has to offer. This was my first show, and I can not wait for the next one. One of the dance numbers was set to Mariah Carey's hit holiday song "All I want for Christmas is You". There were two shows: one was held on Saturday, December 16th for parents and friends and the second show was held on Monday, December 18th. The second show was the show that all of the students got to see. We are already planning for the next show which will take place this Spring.



## *Principal's Message:*

*Red, green - the sound of bells ringing all remind me of the colors and cheerful sounds of the holidays. What a beautiful time of the year! It's like everyone smiles and connects a little more during the holidays.*

*The smell of pine or hot apple cider all remind us of home and the value of family and friends within our lives. This year's mid year production, Home for the Holidays, will without a doubt serve as an inspiration to all of us. An inspiration and a motivation to appreciate and value those who are near and dear to us and always remember how important our school family can be. This December I invite us all to enjoy the joy the holidays may and will bring!*

*Carmen N. Amador-Rosales*



# *Kiwanis Builders Club Holds A Holiday Party For Autism Awareness*

*By: Mitchel Storman, 8-313*

*The Kiwanis Builder's Club, led by Mr. Mario Caggiano, held a Christmas Autism Awareness dance on Thursday, December 21, 2017. This was the first event that was hosted by the newly formed Kiwanis Builder's Club. The club consists of 40 students. We had some local politicians such as Eddie Mark, members of the NYPD, and the owner of Outback Steakhouse, Eric Hutter. The DJ and former IS 303 student, Steven Wofse, was spinning all of the latest hits for all to enjoy. The food was graciously donated by Outback Steakhouse. There was even a visit from Santa Claus, who gave all of the children gifts. The evening ended with a few dance numbers from "Home For The Holidays". The Builder's Club's mission is to help others that are in need. We look forward to their next event here at IS 303 which will be a Coat Drive next month.*



# *The Holidays Are Upon Us*

*By: Nelly Levin, 6-124*

The holidays are a time of peace and a time to relax with your family. There are many holidays that people celebrate during this season. The first holiday that people celebrate is Hanukkah. Hanukkah is a holiday for Jewish people to commemorate the rededication of the holy temple. They light the menorah for 8 days and blow out the menorah every single day that passes. Children play with dreidels that are sometimes filled with treats.

The next holiday is called Kwanzaa . The first day of Kwanzaa is called Umoja. It's the day of unity. The second day of Kwanzaa is called Kujichagulia. It is the day of self-determination. The third day of Kwanzaa is called Ujima. It is the time to have responsibility. The fourth day of Kwanzaa is called Ujamaa. They have to know the cooperative economics. The fifth day of Kwanzaa is called Nia. For Nia you have to have a purpose. The sixth day is called Kuumba. This means creativity. The last day of Kwanzaa is called Imani. This means faith. Some African Americans celebrate this holiday.

Christmas is a time for family. Families come home to share meals and get together. Children get presents from "Santa". They decorate the Christmas tree with lights and ornaments. Groups of Christmas-Carolers come together to sing songs like Jingle Bells and Frosty the Snowman. Kids make gingerbread houses and decorate them with candy and frosting. Some families sit around the fire and catch up on what they missed with each other over the past year. Also Christmas is an annual festival commemorating the birth of Jesus Christ, observed most commonly on December 25th as a religious and cultural celebration among billions of people around the world. The word "Christmas" comes from the old English "Cristes maesse", or the mass of Christ. It is likely that the Christmas date of December 25 was chosen to offset the Pagan celebrations of Saturnalia and Natalis Invicti. It is also possible that the celebration of the birth of the "true light of the world" was set at the time of the December solstice because this is when the days in the northern hemisphere began to grow longer.

Finally, New Years. A time to celebrate a new year coming. We are almost reaching 2018. But New Years is a holiday celebrated by many people. For New Years, many

people share a feast similar to during Christmas. Most people watch the television until midnight to see the “ball drop”. Some people go to Times Square to see the real count-down until the New Year. Everyone celebrates a New Year and a new you. So Merry Christmas, Happy Kwanzaa, Happy Hanukkah, and a Happy New Year!!!

## *Movie Review - Baby Driver*

*By Sajawal Wattoo 8-317*



*So recently I've been watching some of the great movies I've missed throughout the whole year and I've highlighted one movie that really intrigued me. A very popular movie that you may have heard of, with a 93% on Rotten Tomatoes, is Baby Driver. Baby Driver is about a boy who lost his parents at a young age in a car crash (he was in the car at*

*the time of the crash but survived). The best memory he has of his parents is the iPod that his mother had gotten him and a tape of her singing, which he oh so dearly holds in his possession. Baby (the name of the boy) then lives out the rest of his years listening to music and becoming obsessed with making his own music. When listening to music, he becomes super focused which enhances his every move.*

*The boy is an excellent driver and steals a car (very expensive with valuable assets which gives the car tremendous worth) belonging to a crime lord which gets himself into a whole lot of debt and trouble. In order to pay off this debt, Baby must participate in heists set up by the crime lord as a driver and earn only \$10,000 out of the cut of each heist which yielded much more money. Baby does not feel good about watching people suffer and stealing from them but he realizes if he doesn't cooperate, he could put the ones he loves in danger. Baby trusts his conscience over everything, eventually doing what's right and freeing himself of his guilt and falling in love with a girl named Deborah, who saves Baby's life numerous times and risks her life to help him. The movie has an extremely well paced plot and the character development is well done.*

*I would rate Baby Driver a 9.7/10. Edgar Wright managed to create such an interesting film putting together multiple personas using inspiration from many real life events and has officially directed my favorite movie of 2017.*

# *How Did You Spend Your Holiday Break?*

*By: Kyla Brown, 7-226*

*Recently, we have been on break for the holidays. It snowed, Christmas finally came, and we entered in to a new year!!!*

*First off it snowed... Although it was very cold, many of you probably played in the snow. You most likely had snowball fights, tried to make a snowman, or just threw snow in the air.*

*Whenever playing in the snow, make sure to stay warm and don't touch snow that is not white.*

*Many people might not celebrate Christmas, but for the ones that do...be grateful for what you received. A lot of kids that celebrate Christmas didn't get any presents. They might not even be home with their family for the holidays. I hope you enjoyed your presents.*

*2018 has arrived! Do you have any new year resolutions...well I do. We have come to another year and it might be the time that you can cross a lot of stuff off your bucket list. Maybe even change how your life is going...move it towards a positive direction. For example you can start learning different languages.*

*HOPE YOU ENJOYED YOUR BREAK!!!! :)*



## ***Teacher Feature, Ms. Montalvo:***

*By: Ameena Syed, 6-124*

**Q:** What inspired you to become a teacher?

**A:** “When I came to America, it was the teachers that gave me a sense of belonging. They inspired me to be myself and to want to help others.”

**Q:** We know that you love music and dancing. Can you elaborate?

**A:** “I love music, especially Latin music because it allows us to express ourselves and have a sense of freedom. I am very passionate about dancing as well. I love all forms of dance.”

**Q:** Do you see yourself as a role model?

**A:** “I do aspire to be a role model for the students that I teach. I try to teach the students that we can learn so much from each other. We should learn to celebrate each other’s accomplishments, values, and become the leaders of tomorrow.”

# ***Teacher Feature: Ms. Michaela Stone***

***By: Nelly Levin, 6-124***

***Q:*** *What is your role here as NIA director?*

*A: "I oversee the NIA after school program. I supervise all of the teachers, and make sure all of the students are having fun and learning at the same time."*

***Q:*** *Do you enjoy working with the students of I.S.303?*

*A: "I do enjoy my job. Since coming to I.S.303, I have been able to work with fabulous students and teachers.*

*We have put on lovely productions such as the latest holiday show, "Home For The Holidays"."*

***Q:*** *What do you enjoy doing outside of work?*

*A: "I enjoy cooking, traveling, and spending time with my family. I am also always looking for different programs and clubs to help the students."*

