

# The Viking Chronicle

DECEMBER 2019 EDITION

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# 1

## COLLEGE APPLICATIONS

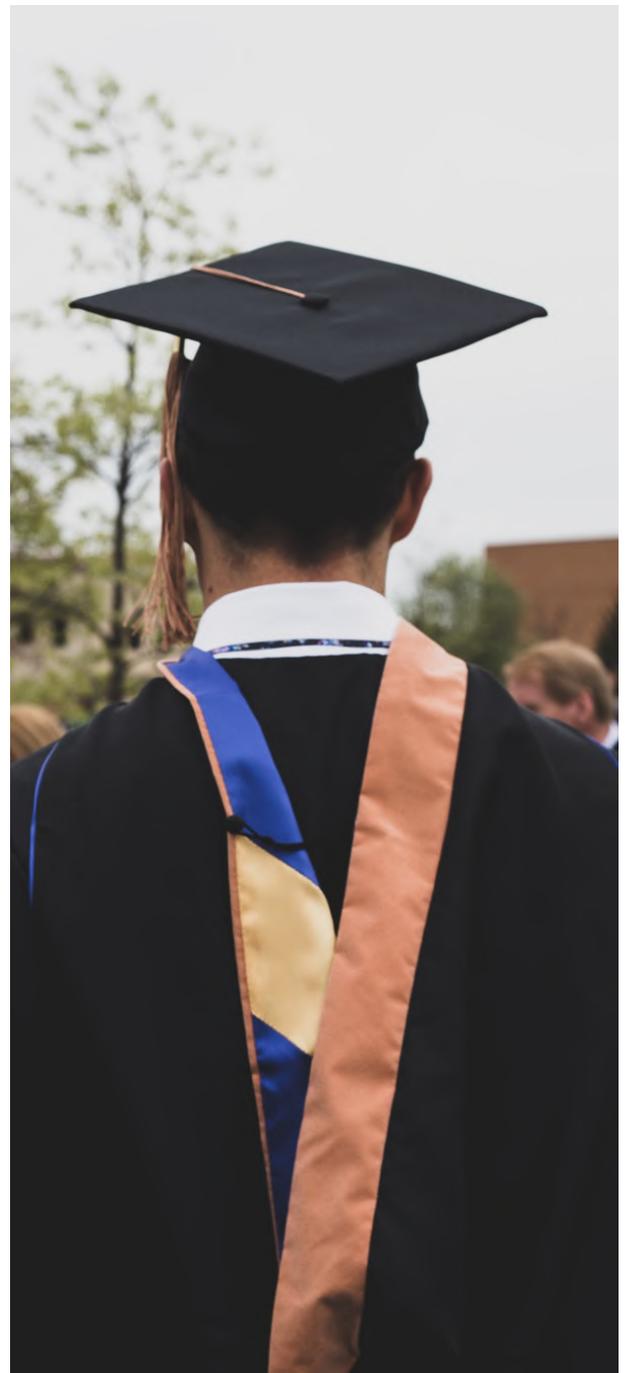
Written By: Casey Meisel

Senior year is highly anticipated, they get to be at the front of the student section, get cheaper prom tickets, be on homecoming and prom court, and much more.

However, for some seniors there's one detail that falls to the wayside when discussing senior year hype: college applications.

They hit you full force at the beginning of the school year and don't let up until January for the most part.

The bright side to that is seniors should have that second semester stress free of applications, the downside is, well, the actual application.



There are 3 ways to apply to a college: Common Application, Coalition Application, and through the college itself.

If you're applying to multiple colleges Common App and Coalition App are the way to go; they allow for you to fill out the general information through them and they provide that to each college so you don't have to tediously fill it out for every application.

They also provide an organized place where you can see the deadlines and exactly what is needed.

Deciding between which one to use solely depends on which colleges you're applying to because some of the colleges on Common App aren't on Coalition and vice versa, so I recommend looking into that before you choose one.

Occasionally, a college is on neither of those websites and you will have to fill out all the information again through their undergraduate admissions tab.

A helpful tip is if you've already filled out the general information on Coalition or Common App, pull it up on a split screen and just copy the information over.

Something to keep in mind though is you will need to alert your recommenders ahead of time for these applications as well since they are separate from the Coalition and Common and therefore require their own recommendations.

Filling out the applications can seem stressful, but with proper organization and time management they're really not that bad.

For any underclassmen or juniors reading this here is some advice from senior Jenn Nyguen that is extremely helpful, "Start visiting the schools you're interested in when you're a sophomore or a junior, take the SAT or ACT as a junior, and make sure you know when the deadline for applications is. Also, have multiple people look over you're application to make sure its as great as possible."

I can personally vouch for that last piece of advice, make sure you're not missing something important, have someone look it over.

Good luck to everyone, and don't be scared to ask for help from your counsellor if you need it. You've got this!

# 2

## CLUB UPDATE

Written By: Autumn Grant

Newspaper club -  
Our newspaper's very own club!  
Join in to help write articles with  
us! To join our remind text  
@hoggardne to 810-10.

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Drama Club -  
Drama club's meetings are held  
every Monday after school till  
4:30. Come for improv and other  
possible outside opportunities! If  
interested, school talent show  
applications are now available in  
the front office or the drama room  
and are due to Mrs. Collins in the  
drama room on December 18th.  
The talent show will be held at  
the Minnie Evans Art Center on  
January 31st! To join the Drama  
club remind, text @hplayers to  
810-10.

Academic Tutoring -  
Academic Tutoring takes place  
after in room 221 on Tuesdays  
and Thursdays. This form of  
tutoring is to provide peer help  
for those that may be  
struggling and mostly revolves  
around math help. If interested  
you can apply to be a tutor as  
well!

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Girls Learn International -  
G.L.I focuses on women's  
issues within education. The  
club discusses human rights  
issues and chooses a school to  
fundraise throughout the year.  
They meet Monday's  
afterschool in Herman's room  
223. To join the GLI remind,  
text @hoggardgli to 810-10.

Ultimate Frisbee Club -  
Play ultimate frisbee! Meetings  
are held afterschool on  
Thursdays from 3:40 to 5 pm  
on the practice fields behind the  
stadium! To join the Ultimate  
Frisbee remind, text  
@hoggardu to 810-10!

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iRescue -  
Meetings are held every  
Thursday after school in room  
116. For anyone interested in  
animals! iRescue is holding a  
drive to help collect donations  
for New Hanover Rabbit  
Rescue, they are asking for  
paper towels, Clorox wipes and  
trash bags. These donations  
are to be given to Mrs. Loeber  
in room 116. To join the  
iRescue remind, text @iresc to  
810-10!

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Legacy Club-  
Legacy club promotes our  
school spirit! If you are  
interested in helping to raise  
money, helping with school  
events or helping with the  
upcoming Relay for Life event  
then see Ms. Noble in room  
235!

Investment Club -  
Join to learn how to make wise  
financial decisions and invest your  
money. The first meeting will be held  
in room 104 on December 16th from  
3:45 to 4:45 after school! If interested  
stop by room 104 to sign up. If you  
have any other questions about  
Investment club you can text 910-294-  
1610!

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Fashion Club -  
The Fashion Club is holding a clothing  
drive November 6th to December 6th!  
They are in need of new or gently used  
clothing, these donations should be  
delivered to Mrs. Maida in the library.  
All donations will go to the domestic  
violence shelter. To make monetary  
donations contact Bella Clucas at  
isabella.clucas@student.nhcs.net.

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Spanish Club-  
If you're interested in getting tutoring  
for Spanish or overall improving your  
Spanish skills, join Spanish club. To  
join the Spanish club remind, text  
@b8g2e4 to 810-10!

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Art Club -  
Meets in room 107, Ms Hunt's room.  
Meets on Tuesdays twice a month! Art  
club is currently holding a donation  
drive for an outreach project. They are  
in need of toiletries such as  
toothpaste/toothbrushes, band-aids,  
mouth wash, tissues, chapstick etc.  
Anyone interested in the arts are  
welcomed to club meetings and if you  
have donations see Ms Hunt.

# 3

## Disney Plus Takes Off, Marking the Beginning An Era For Direct Streaming Services

Written By: Andrew Braun

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A new player has emerged in the streaming service battle. Your favorite Disney shows and movies, both current and past, are now available on Disney Plus' single streaming platform.

The Walt Disney Corporation officially kicked off its direct-to-consumer streaming service on Tuesday, November 12, making it one of the first major corporations to offer its networks' shows directly to viewers through its own service. Movies and shows from franchises such as 'Star Wars,' Marvel, Pixar, and Disney are available to subscribers on the platform. To compete with other streaming services, Disney Plus has priced its service at the fairly low price of \$6.99/month.



Consumer's, however, should still keep an open mind when deciding who to sign with in this great battle between companies for market share that is to come.

Though Disney is one of the first major corporations to launch its own streaming service, it certainly isn't the only. Numerous other corporations have launched or are planning to launch similar streaming services. All wanting to establish a presence in a growing industry, most mass media companies like Comcast, AT&T, and CBS are introducing a far more direct way for customers to access their product. Even companies like Apple and Amazon have debuted streaming services to try their hand in an evolving and lucrative industry for major players.

With that said, Disney has put itself in a very good position to start off in. Most of these companies' announced services are not set to launch until a few months into 2020, so Disney has gotten a good head start. In fact, the service picked up 10 million subscribers in only its first two days of being available to customers. Disney's extensive mix of movies and shows from various decades and networks gives it a leg up in the eyes of potential subscribers as well.

Disney is also now giving customers the option to pay for a bundle deal which includes two Disney's subsidiary streaming services, Hulu (ads included) and ESPN+. This bundle option is priced at \$12.99/month.

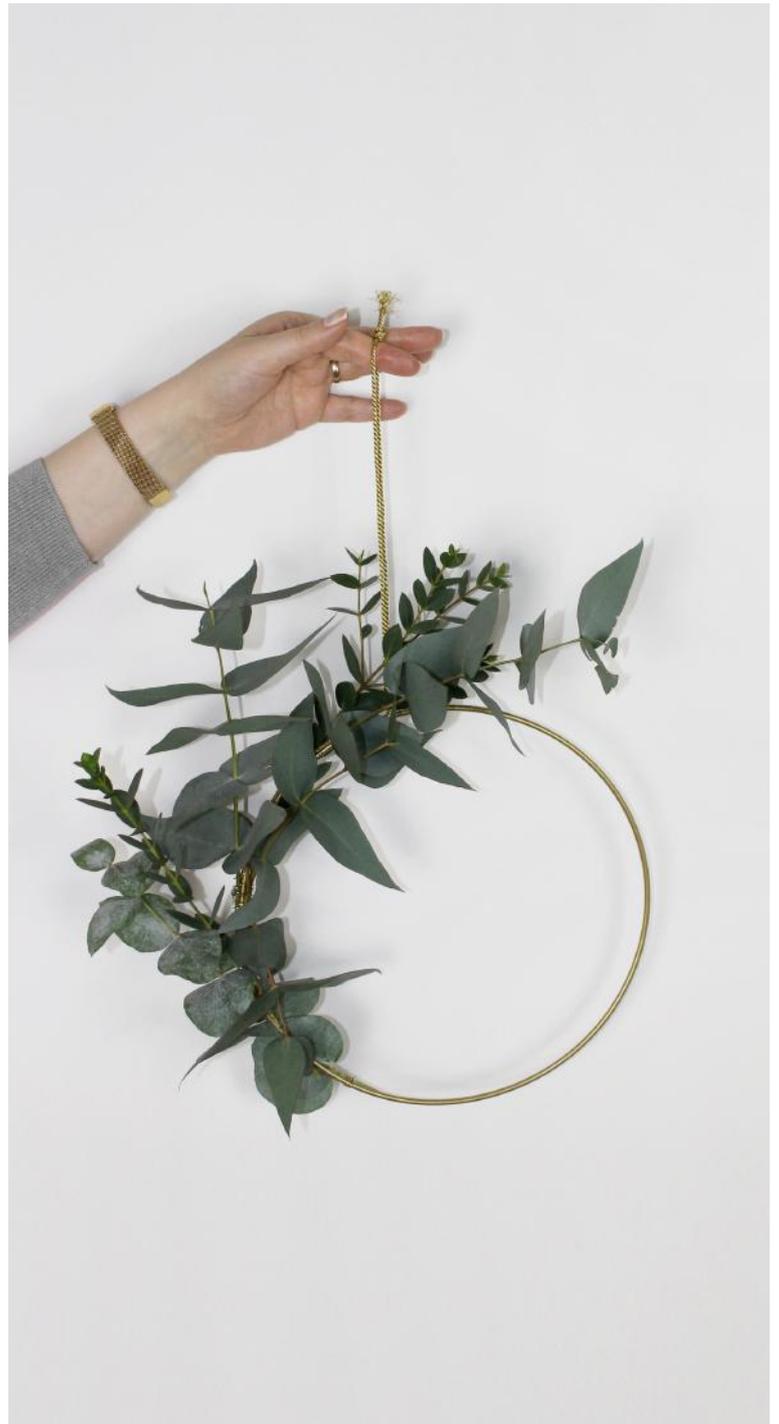
# 4

## D.I.Y YOUR CHRISTMAS

Written By:  
Mikala Kontometros

Seasonal crafts are probably the best crafts of all, and December themed ones take it to a whole new cutesy level! We've got red berry votives; color correct mini wreaths; suspended cloud lanterns; and of course: delicious festive foods! And that's all just on one Instagram hashtag(#decemberdiy)! And I followed three for this article.

Moving on, #decembercrafts! Deck your tree out with wooden homemade ornaments like you did as a prepubescent, but with(hopefully) more control and skill. They give your holiday a rustic feeling which is quite the aesthetic.



Want to evolve your wrapping presentation?

Take a post from @markersmess and @honeyhoneycalligraphy and use some plain brown wrapping paper and write meaningful calligraphy all around your gift. What about the Block Printed Wrapping Paper station also from @markersmesses? A cute little set to put colorful shapes like stars and ornaments on your full packaging.

That's all for this article. I want you, whoever you are, to check out the following three hashtags and get some ideas of your own: #decemberdiy #decembercrafts and #diydecember. Happy crafting, Vikings!



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# 5

## HOLIDAY FOOD

Written By: Olivia Allred & Michael DiCenzo

As the holiday season kicks into gear, so does the inevitable baking frenzy encompassed by cakes, pies, cookies and more. Thanksgiving in particular hosts a multitude of pies, whether it be pumpkin, pecan, sweet potato, or apple.

To pay homage to the unofficial season of the pie, we decided to make a lemon meringue pie while also adding in a fruity twist with some added strawberry. This recipe began as a standard lemon meringue pie made with a lemon curd filling baked in a typical, pre-made graham cracker crust. However, the star of the show was the strawberry meringue.



Through a process of blending freeze dried strawberries, incorporating the blend into a boiling sugar syrup, and ultimately mixing with a developing meringue, this light whip provided the perfect topping to the pie.

When paired with the lemon curd and the crust, the strawberry added an airy, summery sweetness that held it's own against the tartness of the lemon, solidifying a spot as a classic pie while also including it's own unique spin.

The recipe itself was rather difficult to follow due to the small range of temperature the sugar syrup can reach before burning, causing a very messy situation that is not fun to clean.

However, the difficulty experienced was well worth it, as this pie was out of this world amazing. Would absolutely recommend, a true 10/10 treat!



# 6

## WINNER OF THE HOLIDAY SHORT STORY WRITING CONTEST!

### THANKSGIVING

Written By:  
Mia Escalera

I can not tell you what happened last Thanksgiving, nor the one before that. I can't recall what exactly I ate or who was there. Not much about the repetitive holiday ever seems to stick with me for more than a week, before its forgotten and replaced by the blithe anticipation of Christmas.

However, there was one happening on a particular 28th of November that adhered to my collection of memories and gave a realization that has stuck with me since.



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For years I always looked forward to one item on Thanksgiving. I remember pushing past my line of relatives, eager to pile my plate high with the sea foam colored mush gathering flies at the end of the table.

While the rest of my family seemed to avoid it like the plague, it was always the first thing that caught my eye in the plethora of food spread before me.

I never did know what it was called, to be completely honest I'm not sure what it was even made of, I never ask who brought it and I never questioned where it came from.

All I knew was it was slimy, green, semisolid and absolutely divine. I can't remember what I was wearing, or who I was with, but I can almost still feel the way it melted on my tongue.

It was sweet and tangy, soft clumps grinded into a smooth paste under my teeth.

One year, right before my 11th thanksgiving, my great grandmother passed away.

We weren't very close. I can't remember how she smelled, or the sound of her voice. I don't recall us ever completing a full conversation or if we ever started one to begin with.

Although I was aware of the toll this would take on my family, I knew thanksgiving would still be somewhat the same as it had all the years before.

At first I was right. We gathered together, same people, same clothes, same topic of conversation. I hardly even noticed the absence of my great grandmother along with others who chose to flake out that particular year.

It wasn't until we lined up to fix plates that my holiday shifted. There at the end of the table, tucked away in the corner, was an empty spot on the white linen cloth. My heart sunk deep in my chest.

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Pushing past plates of meat and casseroles, weaving through the salad bowls and tins of pumpkin pie.

Defeated, I settled for the basics and slowly swallowed each bite despite the quivering mass forming in my throat. It was finally clear who brought the one item that never failed to occupy my plate.

Thanksgivings passed, each just as routine. Every year I would retreat to the corner only to be left more disappointed than the year before.

My special dish left the world with my great grandmother. I can't help but grieve the fact I never took the time to ask her what it was.

What exactly gave it that dusty green color? what ingredients created that unique, beautifully unsettling texture?

Each year as I stand in the corner, clutching my empty plate, the once sweet, blissful taste is replaced with bitter regret.

Not because the secret behind the unpopular dish was never revealed, but because I never thanked her for creating something I looked forward to each and every year.

Forever will my soul crave the delectable mystery that followed my grandmother into the grave and the chance I let slip away to show my appreciation.



# 7

## HOLIDAY TRADITIONS AROUND THE WORLD

Written By: Olivia Fey

All around the world, two billion people celebrate Christmas, making up around 160 countries! Let's take a look at how these countries celebrate Christmas in their own unique way.

### Argentina

Paper lanterns called globos are released on Christmas Eve after midnight to welcome Christmas day.

### Belgium

On December 5th and 6th, children lay their shoes out in front of a fireplace, hoping to get paid a visit from Sinterklaas. Children leave Sinterklaas an assortment of chocolates and cookies. Christmas day is a religious observance, separate from Sinterklaas.



## Egypt

The month leading up to Christmas is called “Coptic Month” or “Kiahk”, and during this month a special vegan fast takes place and praises are song on Saturday nights.

## Israel

Over the course of eight nights leading up to Hannakuh, the “Festival of Lights” is celebrated. On each night, a candle is lit to light the menorah until the day of Hannakuh.

## Greece

“Kalandas”, or, carols can be heard throughout the streets of Greece on Christmas Eve as children sing for money or sweets. Many families bake pastries called kataifi or theeples that will be eaten on Christmas Day.

## United States

Here in the United States we are fortunate to celebrate a plethora of December holidays such as Hannakuh, Christmas, or Kwanza. Donation boxes, food drives, and Salvation Army Santas are seen lining the streets all month long. No matter what holiday you celebrate, everyone in America is in agreement: December is the season of giving!

# 8

## ROAD TRIP

Written By:  
Emma Johnson

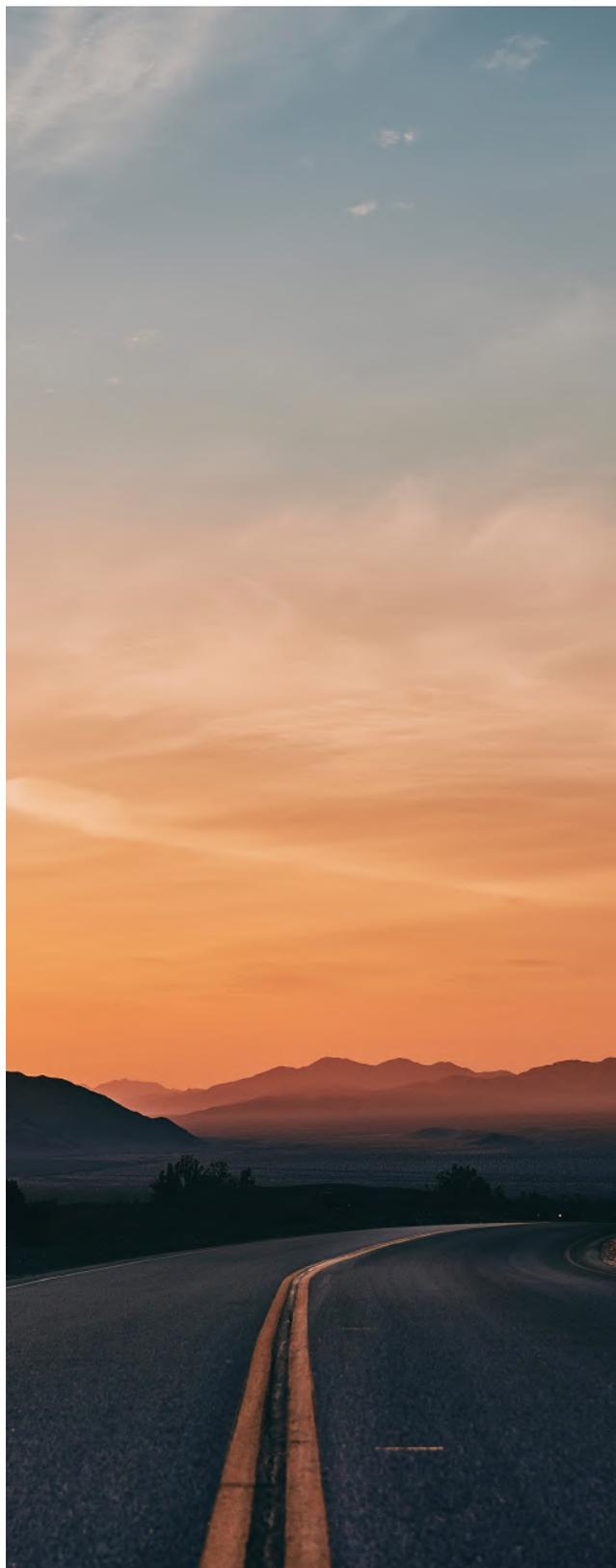
Every year, we hear the same opening line.

“We’re so glad to see you!”

And then the follow-up: “We’re so glad you made the trip!”

Missing only a few Thanksgivings, my family makes the eleven hour journey to Alabama to spend the holiday with a side of the family that we rarely get to visit more than once a year.

The few days that we spend there are always memorable and appreciated, but the twenty-two hours that my parents and siblings and I end up spending together hurtling down the interstate in our beige minivan are part of what colors the holiday season.



Sometimes starts with a movie. This year, my brother and I plowed through five episodes of our latest show while my sister slept.

However, a few hours in, someone's head will perk up to listen to the conversation going on in the front seat, and before we know it, a debate has sparked that will end in laughter or tears (sometimes both). Or we are subject to a full-length recount of a memory travels abroad or college experiences, or maybe a story from the office just last week.

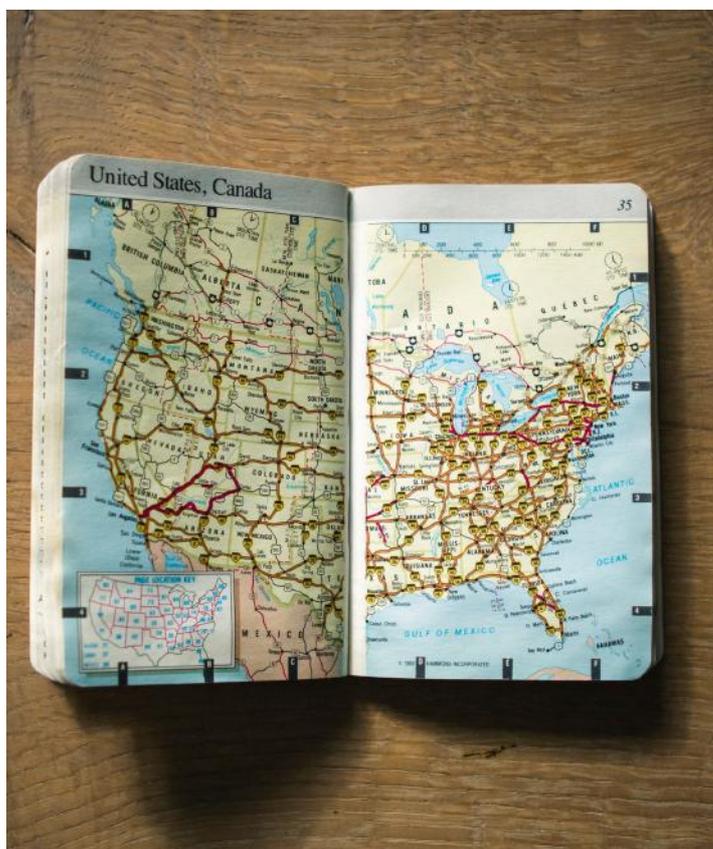


Sometimes the conversation morphs into a planning session: laying out the days and weeks ahead of us and getting everyone on the same page.

But often, that leads us down the road of daydreaming. Sometimes the daydreams progresses into aspirations, which are consequently discussed and embellished by passengers in the front and backseat.

When we pull into the driveway, and the car beeps for a split second before the driver turns off the headlights, the familiar task of unloading and unpacking commences, the process running like a well-oiled machine.

However, the hours that I spend bickering and discussing and listening and yelling are hours that I spend getting to know my family better, and I wouldn't trade the "are we there yet"s or the "when are we stopping" for the world. Take advantage of your road trips.



# TAKE A PLUNGE LIKE A POLAR BEAR

Written By:  
Mikala Kontometros

# 9

Brr...  
Salutations,  
Vikes!

Hope you enjoyed the warmth of Summer and slight humidity during Fall because Winter is about to kick your butt! But there's of course so many things you can do to counter the cold for this frigid season. Sweaters, fires, hot cocoa— the list goes on. But I have a new hobby suggestion! Now it won't make you any warmer, it'll actually do the exact opposite, but it also sounds like fun.

How would you like to take a plunge like a polar bear? Now hear me out! I know it may sound a little weird, but it's actually pretty cool.



This is the gist: the polar bear plunge is usually an event held during where participants enter a body of water (usually the ocean) despite the below-freezing temperatures. Events like these are typically held to raise money for a charitable organization, but that's just in the United States. In Canada, the polar bear swim is held on New Year's Day to celebrate the new year.

But of course being a polar bear isn't restricted to just charity or a new year: do it for fun! I know, swimming in ice-cold water isn't number one on your Winter bucket list, but it's definitely something you try! Then you can enjoy all the carbs and warm drinks afterwards. Good luck surviving the Winter, Vikings!

# 10

## PEARL HARBOR REMEMBRANCE

Art By: Ellie Hannum



# 11

## WHAT THANKSGIVING MEANS

Written By:  
Katherine Bruins



## EATING TURKEY 'TILL YOU BURST!

In recent years Thanksgiving has been largely overshadowed by Christmas, and few people seem to see that as a problem.

We all know someone who loves Christmas—-that one friend who turns Christmas carols on in the car and who probably already had their Christmas lights up.

But that was never me.

I'm a Halloween kind of gal, but Thanksgiving for me feels like fall and family—-good food and laughter—and for whatever reason, Christmas just can't replicate that.

I'll never forget the Thanksgivings spent around the dining room table, chatting and laughing with my cousins and eating turkey until I felt I was going to absolutely burst from the sheer happiness of it all.

Sure, there were always some problems—like the time my uncle took it upon himself to grill the family turkey—-but we all laughed about it, and I look back on that memory with a fond sort of chagrin.

It's not that I haven't had lovely Christmases---it's simply that Christmas for me was always tinged with a sort of sadness, knowing that the holidays would soon be over---New Year's Day does not count as a holiday in my book---but Thanksgiving carries a sense of anticipation for what is soon to come.

But not everyone feels this way. Christmas music, like I've already stated, is already on the radio. Stores already have their Christmas decorations up, and their Christmas specials going on, and it leaves a bad taste in my mouth. Thanksgiving is a holiday that has its own merits, and I think it's wrong that more people don't see that.