

Rivers Chronicles

The Newspaper of Rivers International School



A SNEAK PEEK INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

'ITHOUGHT IT WAS MUCH MORE POPULAR THAN IT ACTUALLY IS. OF COURSE I DIDN'T EXPECT IT TO BE AS POPULAR AS CHRISTMAS, BUT I DEFINITELY EXPECTED IT TO HAVE BETTER RECOGNITION BECAUSE OF THE MEANING AND VALUE BEHIND IT, HOW PERSONAL IT LOOKED, AND ALSO BECAUSE THEY DON'T HAVE CELEBRATIONS SIMILAR TO THIS.'

KWANZAA P. 18

WE'VE GOT A WEBSITE!

Check out our website at riverschronicles.wixsite.com/mysite to find more information on us, our themes, publishing dates and the previous editions.

We care very much for your feedback and opinions on the content, layout or anything else in between! On the website there is a chat box where all the comments go directly to us, or you can go to the 'contact' sub heading and send us an email. We look forward to hearing from you and hopefully you enjoy the website!

Editorial: The Issue with the Worlds Issues

Dominique Wagemaker

After the last newspaper there was quite a lot of pressure put upon me to think of a new and great theme. As can be seen by the last few editions the new fundamentals of the newspaper are to voice the opinions of the students on an infinite range of topics- from light to heavier as long as they enjoy what they're doing. I sat down and thought for quite a long time about what could potentially inspire my journalists and artists to create new pieces so soon after the last deadline- and suddenly thought about the fact that this newspaper is published during the holiday season and this season is not one to stress about or to think too deeply about our own or the countries problems (unless it's at the dining table with the family). Instead I found that the holidays are one to be considerate and think about others. So what I decided to do for this editions theme was to let the creators think about the holidays on a more global perspective and see what they came up with. As you can see from the works within this newspaper, some took it quite literally and wrote about different types of holidays around the world whilst some decided to give their opinion on something happening around this season. Artists especially took the liberty to see this as an opportunity to look at the world and understand that there are issues and they can be brought to light through art.



Not everyone celebrates the holidays and certainly not everyone celebrates them in the same way. Whether someone is reading a newspaper whilst relaxing on the beach or is dodging the snow whilst running to make the last Christmas shoppingone thing's for certain; this 'break' is a time to enjoy yourself and the people who surround you. Sadly though, not everyone around the world is in the position to do so and are often forgotten at this time. Such cases can't be solved by one person and probably can't be solved by a large group of people either. And though we all wish something would change and we all wait for that one savior to come and give us all the answers to the world's problems- its not the most productive way of life to sit and wait. Therefore, though I tend to get all twined up about the fact that I can't change the world and sit around angrily grumbling about how selfish and rude people are; I always try to remember that- you can't change the world but you can always change someone's world. (And then I get all happy again and start doing too many good deeds.)

I hope that through these few weeks you can think about that too and that you can, in some way, take that advice. As the great man Michael Jackson sung so many times - it starts with the man in the mirror.

From this Id like to deduce a few aspects. 1. I hope that you enjoy this edition again and find it inspiring and 2. I hope that this motivates you to think critically when in the holiday season and that you find the ability to discuss with others how you view the world.

Kind regards and happy holidays! Dominique Wagemaker Head of the Newspaper

As a little sidetracked note - Im very happy to say that we've got our first readers-response piece in this edition by Ynzo Jonkhoff. He found that he had his own opinions on the theme for the last edition and decided to share that with the newspaper.

Besides him, we've got out very first art piece by an MYP 2 student, Lucy Nugent- whom Im very happy reached out to me to share her work.

And lastly, I would especially like to thank Akke Houtsma and Diamonique Oseana who were the very first people to join the layout team for the newspaper!



We've got a website!

RIVERSCHRONICLES.WIXSITE.COM/MYSITE

On it you can find all of the editions, the future themes and ideas and a contact page and chat box for feedback or questions.

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Culture Shock

HANUKKAH

By; Therese Steffensen

A candle holder with nine candles lit, eight days of celebration and the Jewish star beautifully decorated on the center candle. This is Hanukkah or, in its other spelling, Chanukah.

Chanukah is a Jewish winter celebration held for eight nights and days and is often referred to as the Festival of Lights. It is celebrated with fried food, special prayers, and nightly menorah lighting.



It wasn't until the 19th century that Chanukah became a significant holiday for the Jewish religion. As Christmas became much more popular in the United States and the Jews feared that they would be mistaken for Christians they wanted to distance themselves from this new and popular Christian holiday. Chanukah, therefore, started becoming a much larger holiday and grew in popularity in the religion. Despite being such a popular celebration nowadays, there wasn't much written about it in the holy text. It was not mentioned in the Old Testament and is only described in the books of Mecca.

The story of why Chanukah is celebrated is long, so here is a simplified version. It tells the story of a small group of Jews caught in a war with the Greeks, which did not approve of the belief in (one) God and in mitzvah, His precepts and commandments. This small group, led by a man named Judah Maccabeus, managed to drive out the Greek army out of the Holy Temple in Jerusalem. As they wished to light the Menorah, they found a small oil supply which would only last them one day but, to everyone's surprise, lasted for eight days instead.

The most commonly known symbol of Chanukah is the menorah, with its nine kindles. Each night one kindle is lit with the center kindle, the shamash, which is always lit. Special prayers and blessings are recited before the menorah is lit and afterward traditional songs are sung.

Chanukah always falls on the evening of Kislev 25. Kislev is the Hebrew month corresponding to November-December and in 2018 Chanukah began on the 2nd of December and ended on the 10th. There are many questions on the matter of lighting the Menorah correctly such as the place, time, and what to say before and after. The Menorah is usually placed in a visible area like in a central hallway or by the window. itshould be lit shortly after sunset and kept on for at least 30 minutes.

Before the lighting a blessing is said in Hebrew, thanking God and afterward it is tradition to sing special hymns such as Haneirot Halalu, linger around the Menorah for half an hour, and share stories of the Menorah before eating fried food.

There are many more rules and traditions within the Jewish tradition and this was just a brief overview of some of them. Chanukah is an important holiday for the Jews and is a very beloved tradition, as it brings friends and family together.

MIRELL LESKOV

Mistletoe



The Boosting Club

The boosting club is about providing free and private tutoring by and for students right here in our school.



Are you in MYP 4/5 or in the DP and need help with a subject?

Or are you a DP1 or DP2 student willing to help fellow students out with a specific subject you're good at?

(It counts as CAS)

Get in contact with me:

- at this email; jonah.smans@outlook.com
- ask your teacher to contact me
- walk up to me in school

Include the subject you want help with and make sure to share your timetable.

Jonah Smans, the head of the boosting club

ZWARTE PIET

Opinion Piece Faatimah Clarke



With Sinterklaas having come and gone, the yearly controversy regarding 'Zwarte Piet' has come to light yet again. Many people, especially those of color, have argued that the attire of zwarte piet is racially insensitive when considering the darkly painted skin, big red lips, and gold hoops which are stereotypical perceptions of the black community. To add further basis to their arguments, there are various stories surrounding the origin of Sinterklaas and his helpers- ranging from the ash of the chimneys staining their skins to them being slaves that Sinterklaas rescued. Dutch natives, on the other hand, argue that the intent is not to be racist and it is a tradition that has been present in their culture for years.

As someone who first came to the Netherlands as a child, I was exposed quite early on to the Sinterklaas celebration. In all honesty, the celebration became one that I would love for many years, especially as it was different from my own culture. It had never occured to me that the celebration could be seen in a negative light and I believe the same can be said for children all over the Netherlands. As a child, issues of racism, oppression, and discrimination are not ones that typically cross your mind unless you're in an environment that thrives on such issues. Having been exposed to such issues as I grew up though, I can definitely see where people are coming from when they say that zwarte piet is offensive.

Although I am not personally offended due to my connection to Dutch culture, I don't think that people who are white (or any other race besides black) have a say in determining whether or not it is racially insensitive. I think that people who are colored should be able to voice themselves if something offends them and those who aren't offended shouldn't be able to tell them that it isn't so because they aren't. Of course, opinions will vary and while I understand both perspectives, my main issue lies within the fact that people who aren't systematically oppressed are determining whether zwarte piet is racially insensitive or not, and I think more people should be aware of this when voicing their standpoint.



GHANA TRIP

When?

On June 22, students from Rivers and Lorentz Lyceum will embark on a life-changing journey with Fairaway tours.



What?

Landing in Accra, we will travel to Tamale and immerse ourselves within the local culture. By staying with host families in the village, we will help them in their daily routine and gage perspective of a new lifestyle. For the other duration of the journey, we will visit Mole National Park and see the exotic wildlife that inhabits the park. In our spare time at the end of the trip, we plan to explore the city of Accra before we fly home.

Why?

The enriching trip will provide us with experience that can't be acquired anywhere else. The character building will form unexpected friendships, and the trip can further our future. We could be exposed to a career with an international perspective, going into diplomacy or working with doctors across borders. The trip to Ghana will be an exhilarating-a combination of enlightenment and excitement.



You

With your help, we can all successfully experience this trip. We have numerous fundraisers planned to reach our goal over 14,000 Euros, and one of our ideas includes selling jumpers with the school logo. If any companies are willing to have their logo placed on the jumper too, please contact us at either s.stuttaford@ll.riversarnhem.org or r.arts@ll.riversarnhem.org. Any other forms of sponsorship would be deeply appreciated. Help us get to Ghana! Thank you!



AAVA MÄÄTTÄ

Disabled people are valid.



$December \\ Festival$

AENGUS SCHULTE

It's that time of year again, and people are once more getting ready for Rivers' December Festival. This annual event is a chance for students to (reluctantly) participate in various activities around the school in order to show off to their parents.

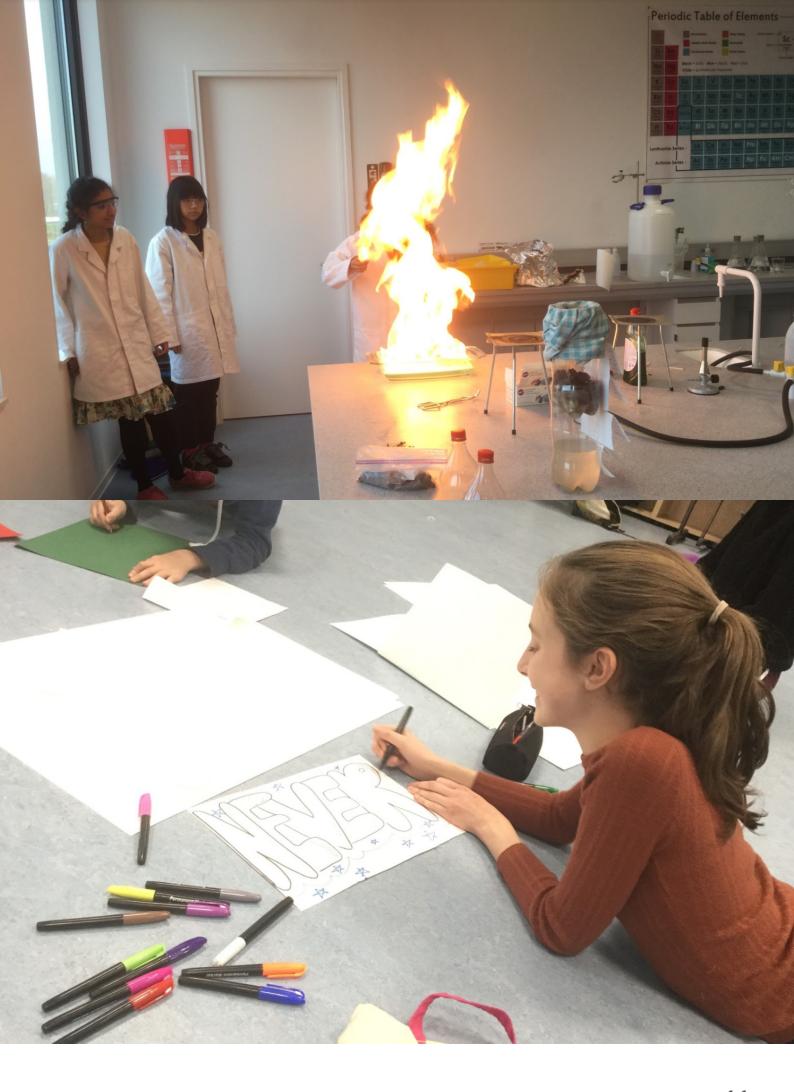
There are a range of different workshops that the students can join (whether they want to or not). These range from administrative positions to sitting in a classroom and doing ... well ... stuff, I guess.

On a happier note, there's free food.

First on the list, we have the Drama workshop, for all those drama llamas out there. The lovely people here are going to be putting on a short performance focussing around this year's theme of "Wonder". Discussing the problems of phone addiction and our generation's ineptitude, it's based entirely around music and movement. Make sure to have a look on the day.

Next up, we have the photography workshop, where people can sit down and think about how bad they look in photos. Here, you'll be shown the workings of a camera, learn how to set it up properly, and optionally have your mugshot taken and sent to you via email. It will be hosted in 3.04, if you feel like giving it a visit.

And now, my personal favourite: Creative Writing! A lovely workshop where students can showcase their writing and imaginative skills, the people involved here are also focussing upon this year's theme by writing a variety of fairy tales that shall be posted around the room for ease of reading. These can be found in 3.10.



Moving away from the arts, the Science Fair, a popular success during last year's celebrations, is back once again with even more explosions, foamy bits and generally sciency stuff. Supervised by our two resident biology teachers, the students here shall be putting on a show by setting fire to both rain and sand - here's hoping they don't burn down the building in the process.

MYP5 shall be working on their Personal Projects this Christmas, and they're showcasing their products on Wednesday night. If you would like to get an idea of just how difficult the Personal Project is, or merely want to see what they've made, feel free to have a look inside 3.05.

If you're more into technology, racing, and Lego (let's face it, who isn't), there's a new workshop being hosted inside 3.13 that combines the best aspect of all three: Lego robots! If you've wondered what driving a remotecontrolled Danish toy feels like, you can find out here. I might give it a visit myself...

Complementing the Drama workshop, there shall be a Circus performance in the entrance hall for any who wish to spectate. Including acrobatics, magicians, living statues, ringmasters and soccer tricks, there's no shortage of entertainment to be had here.

Providing the food for the evening, the catering team are doing a great job this year, with some wonderful-looking recipes to snack on whilst you look around. There'll be caprise sticks, tortilla rollups, Greek salad, mozzarella cheese balls, veggie-owls and mulled wine (alcohol-free, of course). Make sure to give some a try before you go upstairs.

And finally, joining them all together, the Apple Clips team have been going around filming everyone in sight and putting together a video for the evening. They'll be having a video-making workshop for anybody who would like to know how they did it in 3.06.

And that's just about it! If the above workshops sound interesting to you (they should), you know where to find them. The December Festival is taking place on Wednesday the 19th, so we hope to see you there.

#METOO MORE LIKE #BOLLOCKS

Guest opinion piece Ynzo Jonkhoff

I realise that this can come over as offensive and inconsiderate, however hear me out. Firstly I'd like to say that I am a proud feminist. No, not the definition you might be thinking of but the one according to the dictionary. I believe in equal rights; as a matter of fact I strongly believe that everyone should have them. However in some things we are not equal. This is simply because we are not biologically equal. We cannot be the same if we aren't. This biological inequality creates a lot of difficult and unpleasant situations. The #metoo movement is meant as a solution for this problem however it has created one of the most unequal situations in modern history. But why is the #metoo movement so unfair and what could be a solution to this biologic inequality?

Women have a difficult time. However that is not to say men don't have a difficult time,too. Women have problems that men don't have but the same goes for the other way around. For example, society puts a lot of pressure on men "to be a man" but instead woman are let off because they are softer. Women mainly have it hard because on average they are physically a lot weaker than their male counterparts. This makes it easier for women to be sexually assaulted: 1 in 3 women in the US experience some form of sexual assault at least once in their lifetime. However this also happens to men as 1 in 6 men experience the same thing. For the average woman it is very common to be sexually assaulted in a club on a weekly basis. This is a disgusting truth and there needs to be some way of catching these people and pressing charges. However the #metoo movement is not the solution.

The #metoo movement is a complete disregard of equal rights. Any woman can accuse any man and the consequences for the man will be the following: complete loss of reputation, unemployment and he could even be registered as a sex offender. This is all possible to happen without evidence. The woman stays completely anonymous and if none of the accusations turn out to be true there are no consequences. How is this fair?

Let me give you an example: Lord Lester, a Liberal Democrats Lord, has devoted his life to strive for equal rights and human rights as a barrister and campaigner has been accused by a woman of offering her peerage for sex. The woman is an English writer named Jasvinder Sanghera, as a young girl she ran away from home because she was being forced into arranged marriage. Sanghera wrote a memoir about the abuse she experienced at home and it became a Times top 10 seller. Sanghera stayed anonymous during the investigation while Lord Lester's reputation was being destroyed. After the investigation but before the vote on the proposed suspension she decided to waive her anonymity to boost her campaign against forced marriage and "honour based" abuse. This is how it all happened: she wanted to do an interview with Lord Lester and he was kind enough to give her one. After the interview had taken place she missed the last train home so Lord Lester called his wife and asked if there was a space for her to stay the night and of course she could. While driving her home Lord Lester allegedly "kept missing the gear shift and grabbing her thigh instead". When they got home he slept in his own bed with his wife while Sanghera was in the guest room. She allegedly was so terrified that she blocked the door with a chair. In the morning Lord Lester's wife left but she stayed and at this moment he allegedly "chased her around the kitchen" and offered her peerage in exchange for sex. This took place over 12 years ago. There have been so many instances where she could have left or asked for help from the Lord's wife, however she did nothing.

After the allegations were made recently she stayed anonymous while Lord Lester's reputation was getting annihilated, while no evidence had been provided to support these claims. How is this fair? Lord Lester was facing a suspension from the house of Lords until 2022, which is the longest suspension since World War 2 while he has always fully denied these claims and even provided evidence that none of it happened. Lord Lester has addressed the allegations by saying that "There has to be a fair process for investigating sexual harassment claims in parliament. Parliament is supposed to be a bastion of the rule of law but has ignored calls to reform this procedure properly for 20 years. I hope to be judged by my work over decades for gender equality, race relations and free speech." He was completely right. Woman should be heard when coming forward with sexual harassment claims, however there has to be a fair process. The procedure has to be reformed. Thankfully two weeks ago the House of Lords voted against the suspension of Lord Lester. This is a step in the right direction towards reforming the procedure of sexual harassment claims.



Lord Lester

Lately the media has been exclusively left wing. I am personally left wing as well; however, I do believe that there should be different perspectives presented. In modern society the only perspective allowed is left wing and right wing is very looked down upon. Now more than ever in modern history there is a huge clash between the right and the left, something I've personally experienced in my old school.

So how do we stop sexual harassment without the destruction of innocent lives? There should at least be a penalty for making false allegations. Women can falsely accuse any man and there will be no consequences for the woman even though by the time the man has been proven not guilty his life will already have been shattered. There should also be a way for women to gather evidence against sexual assault which can then be presented and put criminals behind bars. The #metoo movement, therefore, is not the solution for a delicate problem like this one because it can be abused far too easily.





TECH TEOM

FVERY THURSDAY 6 T H P E R I O D F I O O R 3

RUN BY JOHN MANNION



Dear parents,

RIMUN 2019 is fast approaching and we can't wait! RIMUN is River's very own Model United Nations, created by and for students. Last year we held our first ever RIMUN conference and it was a huge success. We had students and schools from all across Europe, as well as a school from Ghana, all participating in our first ever edition of RIMUN. This year, we want to make RIMUN even bigger and better than it was last year, this is where we need your assistance. As we will be having students from across the globe coming to our school to attend this event; they will require temporary accommodation. If you would like to support us in this year's edition of RIMUN you may fill in the link below. RIMUN takes place from the 22nd of February to 24th of February.

At the end of conference, we hold a party to celebrate! By housing, your child is entitled to attend the RIMUN party for FREE! Regardless of them participating in RIMUN or not.

The Email for the housing team is: rimunhousing 2019@gmail.com Feel free to ask any and all questions.

If you would like to house, you may use the following link: https://bit.ly/2CPTZ50

Kind Regards, RIMUN 2019 Housing Team



Unraveling African Roots... Emma Ajayi

It's that time of year when the feeling of that big annual celebration arouses, when the smell of cinnamon and nutmeg waft through the air, snow begins to fall and crunch beneath your boots. Multiple gifts covered up in colorfully patterned sheets of wrapping paper await to be opened as they hide beneath the tall green triangular tree standing in the living room, dressed up in tinsel and other various decorative pieces ornaments. Let's also not forget the stores and advertisements who take this opportunity to empty our pockets and piggy banks. It's Christmas. You've definitely heard about Christmas. You've most likely heard about other celebrations such as Hanukkah, too. But have you heard about Kwanzaa?

Kwanzaa is a celebration which also takes place in December. In fact, this year its taking place on the 26th of December, a day after Christmas! The celebration is supposed to last seven days and this year it finishes on New Year's Day, the 1st of January. The word Kwanzaa means "first" in Swahili, which is meant to signify the first fruits of the harvest. The festival was first introduced in the year 1996 by Dr. Maulana Karenga, when he begun the tradition of bringing the first harvests home. Although this Festival is commonly celebrated in America, it can be celebrated by anyone of African descent, as well as Africans living in the Diaspora. Even though the annual event is intended for people belonging to that background, Kwanzaa is said to be open for everyone, African or not, to celebrate.

Kwanzaa seems to have one major connection with the Jewish holiday Hanukkah, too. They also have a set of candles, seven to be precise, but instead of a menorah it is referred to as a "Mishumaa Saba" whereas the candle holder is called a "Kinara." The seven candles, one of which is lit everyday, is meant to resemble each day the celebration goes on for. The Mishumaa Saba features three red candles on the left, one black candle in the middle, and three green candles to the right: the Pan African colors. The term "Pan African" relates to all individuals of African Heritage. Their Flag shows the colors green, which refers to the vegetation of the African motherland, black, which represents its people; all people belonging to the black community, and the color red, which signifies the blood that the people have shed but also the blood that has united them.

Along with the seven candles belonging to Kwanzaa, there are also seven principles or "Nguzo Saba" behind them. The first principle is "Umoja", which is Swahili for unity. The second principle is "Kugichagulia" meaning self - determination. "Ujima", which is the third principle, means responsibility, whereas "Ujamaa", being the fourth principle, means cooperative economics. "Nia" stands for purpose and "Kuumba" stands for creativity. Lastly, the seventh principle is "Imani", which represents faith. On the seventh day, after the last candle is lit, a huge feast consisting of various dishes and, in some African cuisines crops, are prepared and laid out on the dining table, to rejoice the official ending of Kwanzaa.

In all honesty when I first heard about the celebration, I genuinely thought it was Hanukkah for black people. However, when I did a little more research I began to spot the differences between the two holidays. It was very surprising to learn how underrated the festival is. I thought it was much more popular than it actually is. Of course I didn't expect it to be as popular as Christmas, but I definitely expected it to have better recognition because of the meaning and value behind it, how personal it looked, and also because they don't have celebrations similar to this. I definitely think a celebration like this should be celebrated better and be recognizable even to audiences that don't celebrate it. On the other hand, the fact that Kwanzaa is not often celebrated also has an advantage. This way, the core principles and morals are respected and remain the main target of the celebration. Anyways, Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah and...Happy Kwanzaa!



LUCY NUGENT



Sports Insight Archery

Aengus Schulte

Sports have become increasingly popular within the past century, with most people actively participating in at least one. Whilst there are many mainstream sports, such as soccer, basketball, and tennis, there is also an abundance of lesser-known, unorthodox sports. One of these is archery.

Archery was once, and still is, a form of war and hunting. Archers would use the bow's superior range to attack the enemy from behind the safety of their own lines, and hunters would be able to maintain a safe distance from predators whilst firing at them. In addition to that, most longbows were powerful enough to mortally wound a warrior, and even pierce armour on occasion. For these reasons, the bow was one of the deadliest and most efficient weapons of war for many years.

While bows has now been eclipsed by guns in terms of power, range and efficiency, archery is still a popular sport. Thousands of enthusiasts around the world partake in the activity, and major competitions are held yearly to determine an archer's skill and concentration.

Archery is not a testosterone sport - rather than it being about pure brute force and strength, it instead requires concentration, focus, and precision. The bow is usually quite easy to draw, with the difficult part being keeping it steady while you aim, as holding it in position for long periods of time can be taxing. There are three main kinds of bow - barebow, longbow and compound bow.

Barebows - also known as recurve bows - are one of the most common kind of bows these days. It consists of three main components: the neck and two "limbs". The limbs can be attached to and removed from the neck, making it very easy to pack away and transport. Additionally, one can affix a sight, to help improve aim, a clicker, to increase draw limits, and balancers, to stop the bow from tilting unnecessarily.

Longbows are the more traditional style of the weapon. They consist of several layers of wood glued together in a slight crescent shape, and typically have a much larger draw weight than recurve bows, giving them a longer range and much more power. They tend to be as

tall as a man, which heavily contributes to their large draw weight. Last but not least, compound bows are a new and interesting kind of bow. Rather than following the traditional longbow layout of a strip of wood, the compound bow functions around pulleys. Two of them, to be exact - one at the top of the upper limb and the other at the bottom of the lower limb. The pulleys are ovular in shape, which means that while the bow is harder to draw, it allows the archer to keep it drawn with greater ease, making it easier to hold steadily. This results in a significant increase in accuracy and precision. Compound bows are the most common bow to be found in competitive archery.



So, with the types of bows now covered, let's move on to the scoring system. As you all probably already know, archery focuses upon firing at targets - but how does the scoring work? Well, targets vary depending on their diameter; the most common kinds are the 40-, 60-, 80- and 122cm ones, with the larger targets being easier to shoot at. Each target consists of ten rings radiating from the center of the target - two white, two black, two blue, two red and two yellow; with the two white rings being on the outside and the two yellow rings being in the centre. Each of the rings have their own scores, depending on which one you hit. White is one and two, black is three and four, blue is five and six, and so on, with the innermost ring being worth ten points.

A typical archery competition consists of ten rounds of three arrows each, resulting in thirty arrows in total. This means that one can score a maximum of 300 points (if they hit the center ring with each of their arrows, although this does not happen often.)

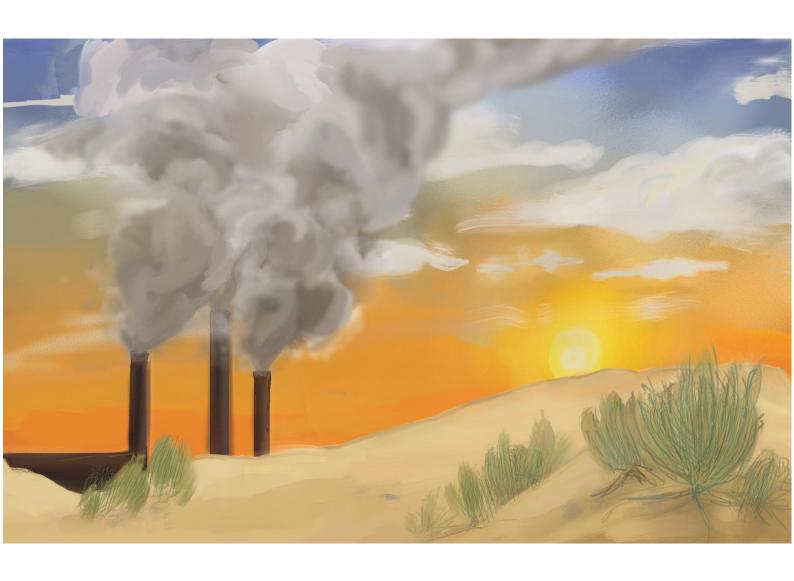
So, there you have it - everything you need to know about archery. If you feel interested in the sport, and want to give it a go, then there are a few clubs in and around Arnhem, with examples being Arnhem Archery Club Taxus and the Dutch Archery Federation. If you live a bit further afield, then there is also ACE Xclusive, which is positioned in Wageningen.

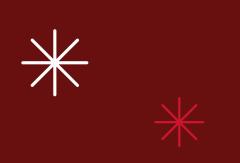
Well, I hoped you enjoyed this insight, and that you'll consider the prospect of joining an archery club (you get to look like Katniss Everdeen or Legolas. It's awesome. Seriously, try it some time).



KATA BALOGH

Air Pollution





FROM THE RIVERS CHRONICLES

Have a Jolly Holiday

And enjoy your:
Christmas
Kwanzaa
Hanukkah
and Boxing Day

& have a happy new year!

And we hope to see you again for our next edition in January







Rivers Chronicles' Members



Dominique Wagemaker, DP 2

Head of Newspaper

Faatimah Clark, DP 2

Editor & Journalist



Diamonique Oseana, DP 2

Layout & Photography



Akke Houtsma, DP 2 *Journalism, Editor & Layout*



Therese Steffensen, DP 2

Journalism

Ziyue Zeng, DP 2 *Editor*



Jonah Smans, DP 2 Editor

Maja Balogh, DP 1 *Editor*



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Mirell Leskov, DP 1

Journalism & Art



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Fleur Luttekes, MYP 4

Art & Photography

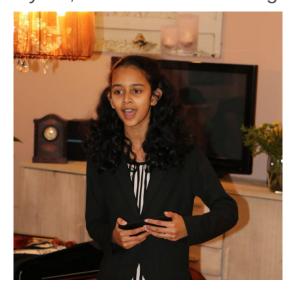


Emma Ajayi, MYP 4 *Journalism*



Aava Määttä, MYP 4 Art, Layout, Journalism & Photography





Meenal Guntuboyina, MYP 3 *Journalism*

Not Pictured:

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With Special thanks to:
Sander Hordijk