

VOLUME 1 ISSUE 1



TH **E** STUDENT  
**EXPRESS**

*Christmas  
Edition*



**The Christmas Tragedy**

# Spirit Week at a Glance

**FORMULA 1  
RACING**

DEC 2021



CHRISTMAS  
EDITION

# SEASONAL WARMTH

DEC  
2021

**Christmas is the day that holds all time together**

*-Alexander Smith*

It's that time of the year again and our spirits are as high as the fireworks can go. Christmas has always been a universally acknowledged time for festivity. Not only do we get a well-deserved break from school, but we also get a chance to spend time strengthening the bonds we have with family and friends.

Let's face it. The main reason most people get so exhilarated when this season rolls around is the gifts they anticipate receiving.

As you may well agree with me, though, a large majority of African parents brush over Christmas gifts with the usual, 'Don't you remember the shoes I got you two weeks ago?', or even the 'I raised you since you were a child, my presence alone is the gift.'

Nevertheless, I bring good tidings of great joy to you. Here are some reasons why Christmas can be a marvelously blissful time for you.



## **IT'S THE PERFECT SEASON TO SPEND WITH FRIENDS AND FAMILY**

There is no doubt about it. Many of us would not take time out of our busy schedules for the sake of some quality family time. Christmas is the season where your entire extended family can unite and bond over good food and funny experiences. From the uncles you have never met to the aunties that forever say, 'Last time I saw you, you were so little. Now look how tall you've grown.' Indeed, many happy memories that we will remember each other by, stem from these very moments.

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## **THERE'S NO BETTER TIME TO GIVE TO THE LESS PRIVILEGED**

Day in and day out, we commute between the school and home blissfully unaware of the many struggles faced by the impoverished. Amidst the celebrations, it's always worthwhile to pause and reflect on how we could brighten someone's day. This is an opportune time for us to nicely package the clothes, shoes and books we might not need anymore for the needy in society. One of the true joys of Christmas is the warm happiness we feel when we give to others rather than staying on the receiving end.

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## IT'S A TIME TO SHOW YOUR LOVED ONES THAT YOU CARE

When last did you give your parents a gift? From a young age, we learn to be entirely dependent on our parents for everything. Christmas presents you a chance to step into the shoes of your parents and realize how stressful it must be to be responsible for you all the time. Why not show that you notice their love towards you with a simple, thoughtful gift? It would amaze you to know how far a warm letter of appreciation or even a special breakfast made for them could go.

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Now, armed with the knowledge of how this Christmas could be the best ever yet, we hope you had a lovely one, filled with memories and laughter shared with family and friends. Regardless of religion, race or even age, I hope your Christmas was brought to life by that unmistakable seasonal warmth.

*Louise Fenny*

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# Christmas Around the World

It's finally that time of the year and just as the time zones differ between countries, so do the cultures surrounding Christmas. ICS embraces internationalism; the diversity in our student body echoes this fact. Embrace this diversity as you read about Christmas celebrations around the world.

Where I used to live, everyone travelled to a place where there was a beach, usually between 16-24 December.

A unique thing was party reconciliation, where we'd fix any issues, probably over a braai aka barbecue with friends and family. Listen to a lot of music and make noise during gatherings.

On Christmas Day, we go to church in the morning at least 2 services, minimum of 2 hours each. Later we'd have a family cookout with lots of food.

The general theme was spending time with family and friends; my family did that through road trips. Although the traffic jam when travelling to Cape Town was always mad.



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# Christmas Around the World

Pre- Christmas there is a lot of Christmas spirit and a heavy mood of gratitude. On the morning of the 25th, we pray and play Gospel songs, then go to church.

Nigerians know how to celebrate well. Lights, Every organisation has taken a corner of the streets and has decorated it with lights, shops decorate with lights it's a little like a competition, Lots of food, Gifts.

The easterners go home for Christmas because it's a time of the year where the celebrate their period of return where many of them have events like weddings, anniversaries, funerals because that's when a lot of people from diaspora come back. Among the west they also have festivals however they don't usually travel to their villages for that celebration. The northerners don't really travel to celebrate they just stay in the city where they are. The south as well.

We really praise and thank God for the year and life. There are outings with family, fireworks and celebrations centered around Jesus.

An ambiance of peace and unity settles, you know. Most families like to enjoy the end of the year, there are many spots to relax, but my family is partial to iMax, a cinema co-restaurant.



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# Christmas Around the World



Everywhere is decorated by the 1st week of December, even the streets. With lights and fake snow, every house outside and inside is Christmassy with a mandatory tree.

Not forgetting snow men and dwarfs.

There's a festive and joyful vibe, people seem happier plus giving presents is way more common though among family. There's loads of turkey and Christmas pudding. I don't like the latter.

Yorkshire pudding and potatoes too!

There's nothing really exceptional about Christmas in England. it's just like any other western Christmas. You know, with the mistletoes and secret Santa in school and all.

On the morning of Christmas, I don't go to church. Maybe 50% go to church but only for Christmas day. Surprisingly, most shops are closed.

The weather can be depressing with the cold and constant rain.

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# *Christmas Around the World*

For safety purposes, we were never allowed to go out on Christmas as people normally go out and get drunk.

Thus we have a huge family dinner at home with foods like jollof, fried rice, Liberian potato salad, barbecue with sauce made from groundnut paste and of course baked goods as that's our specialty, watch movies, receive many visitors and gifts.

There's this tradition where children dress up really well and move from house to house to receive money; kind of like Halloween in a way. Neighbours share food and have a joint party. It's more friendly compared to Ghana, there's lots of love.

On New Year's Eve, people go to church and head right to the nightclub afterwards. Liberia is a crazy party country so there are fireworks and there's a countdown till New Years. I love it.



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# *Christmas Around the World*



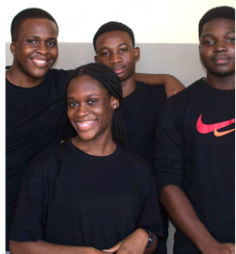
I spend Christmas with my family. Every year we switch houses, this year we'll spend it at my aunt's house, next year it will be my uncle's house and so on.

There are huge Christmas dinners where there's dancing, eating and drinking; children aged 10 and above are allowed to drink alcohol.

We pray, cut a cake and share gifts. There's also cultural dancing by the various tribes.

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# Twin Day

BEST DRESSED



*Keira and Sadia*

*at  
a  
glance*

Students from every class adhered to the celebration.

Each pair donned matching outfits to meet the aesthetic of the twinning occasion.









# JERSEY DAY

*at a glance*



Students and teachers alike showed support for their favourite teams, sporting their team jerseys to meet the active theme.









# Thanksgiving

at  
a  
glance

Donned in  
white, the  
entire ICS  
community  
gathered  
together to  
express our  
profound gratitude to the  
Almighty.









# A Christmas Tragedy

*A lie never ends well no matter the intent. He should have known that.*

This story is purely fictional and is not based on actual events. All characters and places mentioned in this story are fictional.

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A light thud resounded as an envelope was flung with the flick of a wrist and dropped on the candle-lit decorated dinner table. Ebony eyes reflected green, as mother and son gazed at each other, knowing with dread the contents of the letter presented in front of both parties.

The son, wearing a defeated expression, read aloud,

“Amira is in a war against Celeste and needs soldiers from each household.”

Holding back tears, the mother fondly held her son’s gaze and questioned with a childish hope,


“Thomas, when is one supposed to send in a man?”

Every fiber in her being prayed that at least it wouldn’t be on Christmas the next day.

“Amira is a merciful nation; they would at least let the families spend Christmas together,” she reasoned.

The little family had already planned for the celebration. A tree dressed in ornaments stood proudly in the corner as evidence of their Christmas preparations.





Thomas looked at his mother's expectant eyes, contemplated with himself what information should be shared, and then flashed a bittersweet smile.

"We have till the New Year to send someone in, so we can spend Christmas tomorrow together, Mom," he lied.

Angelica simply nodded as the two decided to devour their green beans and fish meal, persuaded by the irresistible aroma that danced throughout the atmosphere.

Later, as the pair was halfway through consuming their meal, the mother began to speak,

"I'll be going off to help our nation fight colonization," she solemnly stated.

The blond boy immediately released his utensils, letting them drop to the table, as he entered a state of shock.

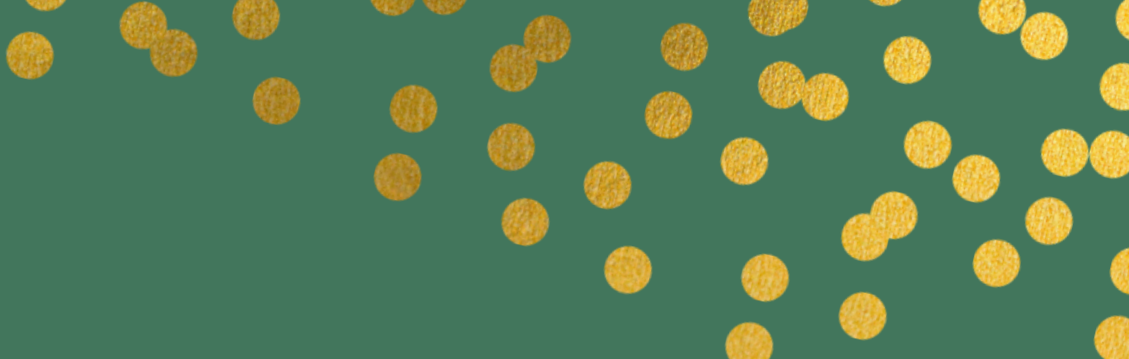
"Mother please, men are better suited for physical jobs. We can't have sentiments on the front line," Thomas reasoned as his eyes began to well up with tears.

"You could die!" he exclaimed.

"You could also die, and I wouldn't be able to live with that, as your mother I have decided to leave," the brunette woman firmly stated as she emphasized each word with hand gestures.

"Don't be stubborn and listen to me. I don't want your sacrifice. I choose to sacrifice" he complained.

"When a woman has a will, there will be a way. Unfortunately, you're not being conscripted as long as I have a say, and that decision is final," she retorted as she slammed her fists on the table, putting his sentence to an abrupt pause.



*I*n an instant, she began lifting herself from the table, preparing to clean up the area as her chair let out an unwarranted cry as it slid on the tiles.

The blond gasped and stared at his mother with a puzzled look processing the words she had just uttered; his face eventually settled into a numb expression.

“Get some rest. I’ll clean up,” The boy offered, attempting to display a joyful expression for her, as he began stacking the plates and utensils.

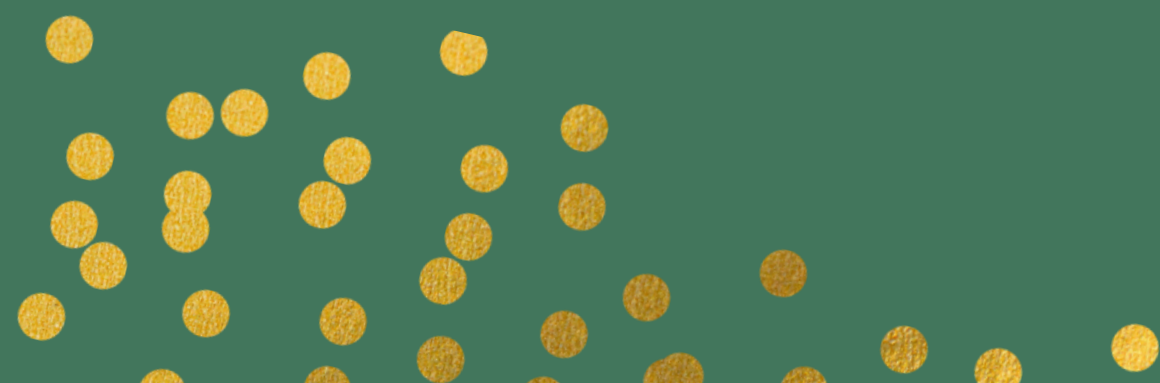
“Good night, my boy,” she said quietly, smiling sorrowfully.

“Night, Mom,” he responded as she moved tiredly to her room.

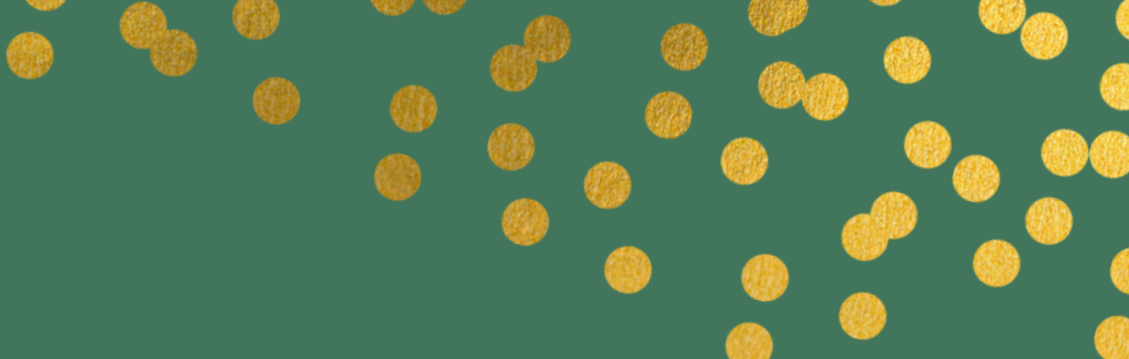
He let out tears he didn’t know he was holding and let them pour out, mingling with the sweat on his palms.

His brain didn’t have the mental capacity to process the load of information he had received in the letter. A wet hand immediately covered his belly, as another found its place over his mouth, as he could feel a rumbling occurring in the pits of his stomach and an induced sharp, bitter taste on his tongue.

The white tiles would eventually meet the acidic contents of his dinner, embedded with salty tears as his body reacted to the emotional overload. He cried and spewed as thoughts plagued the corners of his clogged mind.







*H*e wondered why the world was so beautiful yet cruel, why he had to lie to protect his mother and why the war had to be in the first place.

The thought of his mother dying was gruesome. He knew she had gone through her share of suffering and was still enduring ongoing burdens, for he was not deaf and heard how she cried herself to sleep routinely. This night under the stars was no exception. He would not allow her to go through conscription and lose her freedom.


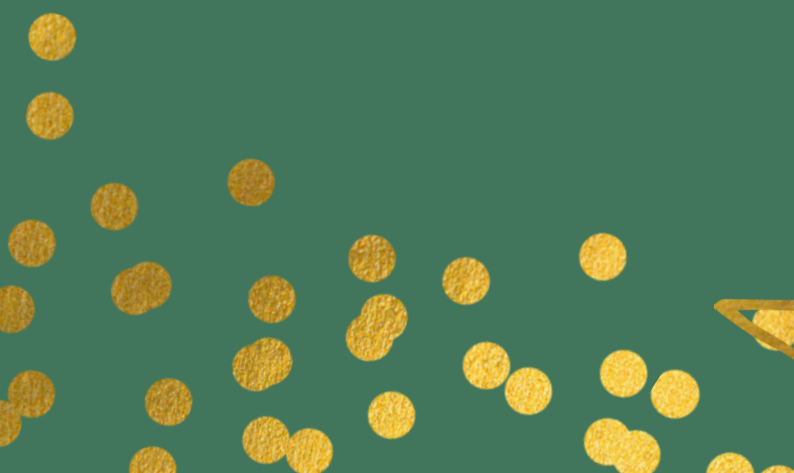
He knew the laws well. For the gain of his mother's freedom, something of similar worth must be lost, and if that had to be his freedom, he was willing to give it.


Later, he would wipe the tiles clean, clearing the substance he embarrassingly spilled.

For he knew he didn't have time to be depressed.

He had to be ready.

After all, the letter demands a man to be sent in tomorrow, on the beautiful day of Christmas.





That morning of Christmas, a son left a letter for his mother, apologizing for giving her false information and requesting that she would live her life without him. He then said farewell to his home and departed.

On that same morning of Christmas, a mother arose and made breakfast for one.

She ate in silence, comforted by the noise of her tears, as she read a pinned note, from someone she once knew.

She was grief-stricken but also angry. She didn't understand why he would conceive the idea that lying was a good solution. Should he not have known that even a white lie has its consequences?

Years in the future she would come to hear of her son one last time, as the nation paid homage to soldiers who died in the service.

As a result of a simple lie told by a boy trying to do the right thing, a mother would never say goodbye to her son. She would never give him a proper farewell.

A lie told in an attempt to help her, had hurt her even more.

*Collette Onyejiaku*





# WORD of the WEEK

**serendipity** noun

ser-en-dip-i-ty | \ser-ən-'di-pə-tē\

: the occurrence or development of events by chance in a happy or beneficial way.

## Example Sentences

### EASY

It was only through pure serendipity that I met my best friend!

### MEDIUM

Jackson seems to have followed a mixture of the serendipity approach and a search for particularly engaging or remarkable individuals.

- From the Cambridge English Corpus

### HARD

As they leapfrog from South Africa to Singapore in search of local delicacies, the authors prove again and again that serendipity is the traveler's strongest ally: many of their most memorable meals issue from the hands of generous strangers.

- Sarah Karnasiewicz, Saveur, June/July 2008

— *feature* —

## POEM OF THE WEEK



### *Love and Joy Sublime*

Busy workaholics, to and fro they glide,  
Settle at last at Christmas time.  
Spending time o'er food and reverie,  
Feel lots of love and joy sublime.

An orphaned child, with the streets for a home,  
Finds hope in the gift received amidst the grime.  
The cheerful giver unaware,  
Gives her lots of love and joy sublime.

The family drowned in luxury,  
All year long no encouragement chime,  
Seeing at last the priceless gift of unity,  
Feel lots of love and joy sublime.

*Louise Fenny*





# SPORTS SECTION

## THE UNITED STATES GRAND PRIX

### THE CHAMPIONSHIP BATTLE

SELASI SEDALO

The United States Grand Prix, the 17th race of the 2021 season, was held last Sunday [24th Oct] at the Circuit of The Americas [COTA] in Austin, Texas. COTA is the 10th racing circuit to host races in the US since 2012 and is revered among drivers for its many twists, turns, and bumpy nature.

It was the biggest F1 race of the season with a whopping 400,000 attendees and many stars such as BurnaBoy, Serena Williams, Megan thee Stallion, etc., present.



This year has proven to be the most intense season in over a decade, with the championship lead switching between Max Verstappen [Red Bull] and 7-time world champion Sir Lewis Hamilton [Mercedes] 4 times in 7 races. Max Verstappen entered the US Grand Prix with 262.5 points while Sir Lewis Hamilton entered with 256.5 points giving him a 6 point lead.



# RACE DAY



Light out and away we go! Sir Lewis Hamilton has a phenomenal start, and charges forward, with Max Verstappen in hot pursuit.



Lewis Hamilton gains a substantial lead over Max Verstappen as Max Verstappen decides to go into the pits on lap 11.



On lap 13 Lewis Hamilton also decides to pit which allows Max Verstappen to lead the race.





# RACE DAY



Max Verstappen makes his second pitstop on lap 30 whilst Lewis Hamilton makes his second pitstop on lap 38 with Max Verstappen still ahead.



It's Lap 50 and the charge is on, Max Verstappen is in the lead with Lewis Hamilton in hot pursuit.

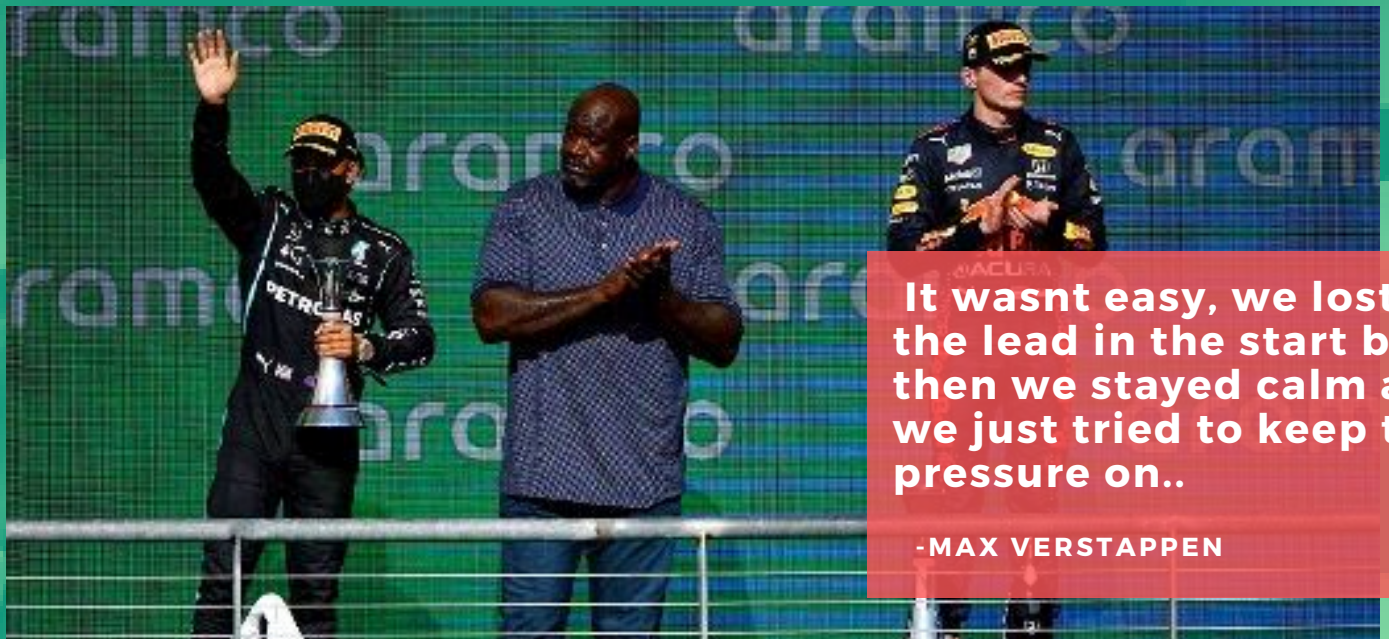


Max Verstappen just manages to win, with just 1 second between both drivers, allowing Max Verstappen to double his advantage in the world championship.





# ...AND THE WINNER IS



**It wasn't easy, we lost the lead in the start but then we stayed calm and we just tried to keep the pressure on..**

**-MAX VERSTAPPEN**

## AFTERMATH

Lewis Hamilton was visibly distraught, bumping into a camera operator and discussing the race somberly with his assistant. Max Verstappen was elated and had every right to, leading the championship and winning a race against someone double his age and with double the experience he has. He was reported to have said he had an unexpected short blackout during the race's final laps due to severe pressure from Lewis Hamilton trailing right behind him.

This goes to show the immense mental fortitude and strength it takes to be an F1 driver, bouncing back from disappointments, withstanding pressure from critics, and being away from your family for so long.

Almost 200 days a year, F1 takes a severe toll on the driver, and F1 drivers should be respected accordingly.

This season proves to be a thriller, with 5 more races; this battle may go on until the last race of the season.



submit

POEMS  
STORIES  
ARTICLES  
DRAWINGS

To Louisa  
or Louise

DID  
YOU  
LIKE  
THE  
SRC  
COVERAGE?

The student  
express was  
behind all that!

The ICS Student Express has  
launched its maiden newsletter  
: Christmas edition. We hope you  
liked it..

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