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## STORY HOUR FIRST WEDNESDAY of the Month

10:30 - 11:15

Toddlers and preschoolers: Join us for a fun-filled morning of stories, activities, crafts. Children will learn important social interaction skills while they enjoy making new friends.



### **Bowerston Library Book Club's**

Bowerston Book Review The book club meets 2nd Thursday of the month at 10:30a.m.



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# Christmas Movies Coming Soon







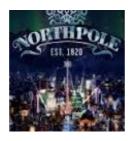
















- New Year is the oldest of all holidays, as it was first observed in ancient Babylon as many as 4000 years ago.
- Celebrating New Year on January 1 is purely arbitrary, as neither it has agricultural significance nor astronomical. Many countries still celebrate it in spring, the season of rebirth of new crops.
- The Roman senate declared January 1 as the New Year in 153 BC. Though even this date saw major tampering, it was Julius Caesar who again declared January 1 in Julian calendar as the New Year, in 46 BC.
- New Years is still observed as the Feast of Christ's Circumcision by some denominations.
- The first month of the year i.e. January has been named after God Janus (Latin word for door), in the Roman calendar. Janus is the God with two faces, one looking backwards and one forward, at the same time and marks the 'spirit of the opening'
- The Romans began a tradition of exchanging gifts on New Year's Eve, by giving one another branches from sacred trees, for good fortune. The gift phenomenon is prevalent from those times, till date.
- January 1 was revived as New Year in 1582, by the Gregorian calendar and so celebrated by most of the countries till date.
- New Year is celebrated like a festival throughout the world and everyone around is in festive mood, partying, singing and dancing to ring out the old year and ring in the new.
- In Britain, when the Big Ben clocks strikes 12, everyone gathers around to sing 'Auld Lang Syne', a Scottish song. It was written by Robert Burns in the 1700's, literally meaning "old long ago," or simply, "the good old days", to remember old and new friends.
- It was once believed that the first visitor on New Year's Day would bring either good luck or bad luck for the rest of the year, depending on who he/she was.
- Many cultures believe that anything given or taken on New Year, in the shape of a ring is good luck, because it symbolizes "coming full circle".
- Many parts of the U.S. celebrate New Year by consuming black-eyed peas and other legumes, as it has been considered good luck in many cultures.
- The tradition of making New Year resolution dates back to the early Babylonians.
- Traditionally, it was thought that people could alter the luck they would have throughout the coming year by what they did or ate on the first day of the year. It has, therefore, become important to celebrate first day of the New Year in the company of family and friends.
- The Spanish ritual on New Year's eve is to eat twelve grapes at midnight. The tradition is meant to secure twelve happy months in the coming year.
- Noisemaking and fireworks on New Year's Eve is believed to have originated in ancient times, when noise and fire were thought to dispel evil spirits and bring good luck.

January is the first month of the year, has 31 days, and is named after the two-faced Roman god Janus.

January's birth flower is the Snowdrop. Cbigstockphoto.com/PaulMaguire

January is the first month of the year in our modern day<u>Gregorian calendar</u>, and its predecessor the <u>Julian</u> <u>calendar</u>. It consists of 31 days and the first day of the month is known as New Year's Day. It is named after the Roman god, Janus.

### Naming January - Janus' Month

January is named after the Roman god, Janus, the god of doors because this month is the door to the year. The Roman god Janus represents all beginnings and possesses the ability to see all things past and future.

- Middle English Januarie
- Latin name Ianuarius
- French Janvier

Saxon - Wulf-monath - wolf month

### History of January

The month of January was added to the <u>Roman calendar</u> by Numa Pompilius around 700 BCE so that the calendar would equal a standard lunar year of 355 days. January became the first month of the year around 450 BCE, although March was originally the first month of the year in the old Roman calendar.

January originally consisted of 30 days when it was added to the 10-month Roman calendar. However, a day was added making it 31 days long in 46 BCE by Julius Caesar.

### First Month in the Year

January is the first month of the year in the <u>Julian</u> and <u>Gregorian calendar</u> that consists of 31 days. It did not exist in the 10-month Roman calendar. It is considered the coldest month of the year in most of the Northern Hemisphere and the warmest month of the year in most of the Southern Hemisphere.

January starts on the same day of the week as October and ends on the same day of the week as February and October in common years. During <u>leap years</u>, January starts on the same day of the week as April and July, and ends on the same day of the week as July.

### Birth Flower and Stone

January's birth flower is the Dianthus caryophyllus or Galanthus.

The birthstone for January is the garnet which symbolizes constancy.

# New Year's Word Search Puzzle

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