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THE AICS BULLETIN

Monthly newspaper of Amsterdam International Community School



WHAT IS THE BULLETIN?

The Bulletin is AICS very own press, for and by students. The club aims to provide an environment that motivates students to develop and enhance their talents and skills. AICS Bulletin creates a safe space for students to learn and teach in a community made up of people who can agree on one specific viewpoint, the importance of storytelling. Whether that be through design, writing, editing, or operating, our unique and diverse team are all dedicated to keeping the AICS community informed.

CONTENTS

ENTERTAINMENT April Fools' Day	03
CURRENT EVENTS Earth Day	04
FACES OF THE AICS Student Leads	06
ART & DESIGN Celebrating a Day of Creativity	08
LITERATURE Is the Novel <i>Pride and Prejudice</i> still worth reading today?	09
SPORTS “It’s more than just a game”	10
COMMUNITY Easter Traditions Across the World	11
IN AMSTERDAM Kings Day and its Impact on Amsterdam	13
CREATIVE WRITING A Short Story: The Cell Tower	15
WORKS CITED	16
MEET THE TEAM	17

April Fools' Day

Written by: Shakti Aggarwal

Edited by: Ava Damen

Unfortunately, AICS will be shutting down this school year, after 22 delightful years... April Fools!

April Fools' day is celebrated all over the world every year on April 1st; a full day of playing harmless pranks on friends and family. The purpose of this day is to have fun and make people laugh, without upsetting or hurting anyone. April Fools day is filled with jokes, hoaxes, and playing silly pranks, with the prankster revealing the prank by saying 'April Fools!'.

The origin of April fools remains unknown but historians do have several theories. The leading theory suggests that this tradition began in 1582 when France switched from the Julian to the Gregorian calendar, and those that continued to celebrate New years around April 1st were mocked as 'fools'.

Another theory suggests that it is linked to the first day of Spring in the Northern Hemisphere, where mother nature 'fools' people with unpredictable weather. Although the origin may forever remain a mystery, the day will always be celebrated with smiles and laughter all over the world ("April Fools' Day").

Every country has its own traditions, for example in the United Kingdom pranks are strictly allowed until midday.

Anyone playing a joke after is considered the 'April Fool' themselves.

In France and Italy it is known as 'poisson d'avril', where children pin paper fish on the backs of their victims, as a prank. In Scotland it is traditionally a two day event, where the first day is 'Hunt the Gowk' which is when people are sent to run fake errands, followed by 'Tailie Day' which includes pranks such as putting 'kick me' signs on other people's backs. While in Greece, there is a superstition that if you trick someone successfully it brings the prankster good luck for the rest of the year ("*April Fools' Day*"). Everyone joins in on the April Fools fun! Many brands even release fake announcements. McDonald's for instance said they created milkshake flavored fry sauce, or when the BBC released a documentary on how to grow spaghetti from trees, which resulted in an alarming amount of follow up calls.

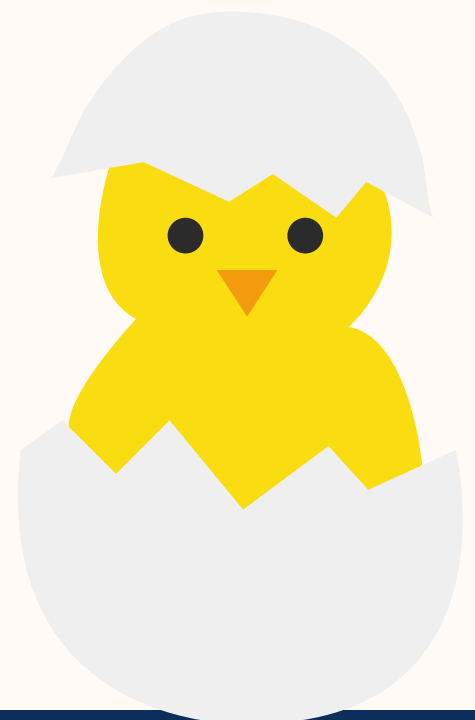
This day is full of harmless pranks and jokes, and aims bring a smile to everyone's face, however over the past couple years many pranks have gotten out of hand and have resulted in injuries and severe emotional distress. To keep the day light and fun, avoid sensitive topics like health, jobs or safety, avoid any pranks that could cause bodily harm,



Figure 1: Child pranking their father; Encyclopedia Britannica, 'April Fish', 1 Oct. 2025

and stick to the Golden Rule of ensuring the victim is laughing once the joke is revealed.

April Fools' day remains a fun memorable worldwide tradition that brings people together through laughter. From small jokes between friends to creative pranks by companies. No matter how it is celebrated, it continues to be a memorable part of the year for many people.



Earth Day

Written by: Luna Terenzi

Edited by: Chloe Higson

Long before the noise of traffic, the bright glow of city lights, the heavy smoke from factories, and us humans, came the earth itself. From the waves of the ocean, swaying with the pull of the moon, winds that carry rain across continents to the animals, migrating and adapting in different corners of the world. These natural processes have shaped life for millions of years, yet remain unnoticed. However, once a year, on April 22nd, global attention is focussed focus global attention back to these natural systems through Earth Day, an international celebration dedicated to environmental awareness (*Poynting*).

Earth Day was first celebrated in 1970 in the United States, during a time when environmental degradation became increasingly difficult to ignore (*US EPA*). Around 70% of water bodies had continuously become polluted (*PBS*), with over 300,000 tonnes of global oil spills contaminating oceans (*Sayed*) and a thick smog covering major cities. The population grew concerned especially after a major destructive oil spill off the coast of California in 1969. This build up of events led the US senator, Gaylord Nelson, to organise a national event dedicated to the environment (*JRBP*).



FIGURE 1: THE SLOGAN OF INTERNATIONAL EARTH DAY (MACIAS)

On April 22nd, of 1970, around 20 million Americans participated in numerous community clean ups and educational sessions, making it one of the largest citizen actions in US history (*Library of Congress*). Earth day is now celebrated in over 190 countries and engages over 1 billion people annually (*About Us*), with the purpose of shaping a better world for the future of humanity (*National Geographic*). As Nelson put it, “The ultimate test of man's conscience may be his willingness to sacrifice something today for future generations whose words of thanks will not be heard”. Ultimately, the United Nations officially recognized April 22nd as International Mother Earth Day in 1971 (“*International*”).

Once environmental awareness had expanded over many decades, and became an established date in people's calendars, Earth Day's focus slowly shifted. Even though initial Earth Day celebrations focused on visible pollution in areas like rivers and cities, new scientific research started to draw attention to a larger issue, climate change. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has concluded in its most recent reports that overall human activity, specifically the burning of fossil fuels, are the primary source causing rising global temperatures (*IPCC*). Since the late 19th century, global average temperatures have increased by approximately 1.1 degrees celsius, with the years 2015 - 2025 being the warmest on record (*WMO*).

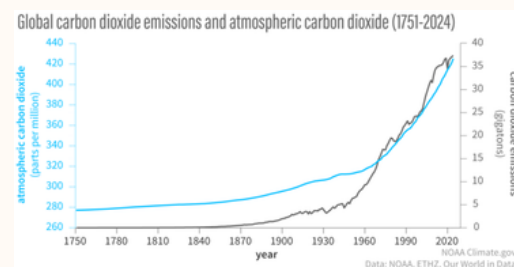


Figure 2: Graph depicting Global Carbon Dioxide Emissions (*Lindsey*)



Earth Day holds a lot of importance. It acts as a yearly reminder of the environmental challenges we face and reminds us to take action. Furthermore, to guide global participation, each Earth day adopts a specific theme that reflects the current environmental priorities. This year, 2026, the theme is “Our Power, Our Planet” (Earth Day). The theme revolves around our ability and responsibility, as individuals, communities and nations, to create a sustainable future. Ana Paroni, a former Eco club member and MYP5 student here at AICS, claims that this theme is of great importance “because this theme shows how we as humans are the only ones that have the power to make choices that will positively affect our planet, so we need to start making those decisions now”.

Besides the shared theme, Earth day further consists of a series of shared, global activities which bring communities together. Schools organize science projects and sustainability workshops, local governments host environmental fairs, and community groups coordinate clean ups alongside tree planting initiatives. These actions aim to translate global scientific findings into more practical, learning experiences as a way to create a change to everyday life

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For students in particular, Earth Day provides an opportunity to explore how global environmental trends connect to daily choices, from transportation to energy consumption. At AICS specifically, many activities coordinated by the “Eco Schools” teach students about what small decisions they can take in their lives in order to contribute to a change. As Prisha Kapoor stated, another former Eco Club member, “we would usually organise activities with the primary students like planting a small plant or making art out of plastic bottles for example”.

Now, more than 50 years after the first Earth day, the significance of this date is stronger than ever. It is not only about celebrating the wonders of our planet, but acts as a reminder to all of us that the future of our planet is not something we inherit, but is something we help shape, together.



Figure 3: Primary students planting plants with Eco Schools



Figure 4: Eco Schools clean up day initiative



Student Leadership

Written by: Matilde de Almeida Pereira

Edited by: Chloe Higson

Behind all of the school's events, committees, and councils that boost the school's community, and opportunities for the development of your skills and learning is a team of dedicated students that excel in leadership and work hard behind the scenes. From the Student Council and Yearbook Team, to the Eco Team and Graduation Committee, the leads behind all of these clubs play a vital role in shaping the student experience at AICS. The capabilities which enable these clubs to thrive and be successful are being especially celebrated this year. Including the motivation and leadership, which this article will highlight.

Have you ever bought from the cotton candy stand in the atrium? Or attended a school dance? Shelly Cohen, a student council executive is the planner behind the events, who organizes and facilitates “the events and fundraisers happening in our school”. In the student council, Shelly says that the main reason her team works so well together is because they understand each other's weaknesses and strengths, and work together accordingly which is important for team work. Shelly understands her team, which enables her to distribute tasks effectively because she knows “which role to give to each member, whether that is booking rooms, or contacting relevant people”.

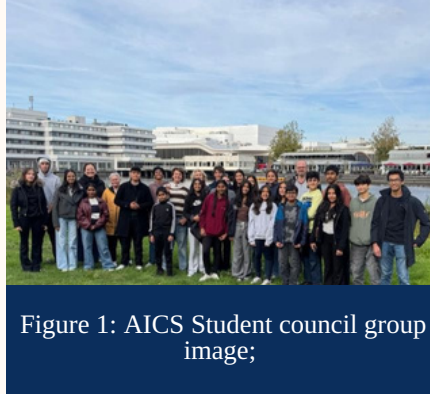


Figure 1: AICS Student council group image;

Knowing your team well is key to good leadership ensuring that working experiences run smoothly. Shelly, similar to other students, has dealt with difficulties of confidence, which is a helpful quality to have when being in a position which requires “pick[ing] ideas and lead[ing] discussions”. Shelly overcame this issue by learning to view the challenge as an opportunity for improvement. This mindset enabled her to improve her decision making skills and confidence in general. Her advice to students taking on leadership roles is to “use any mistakes as a learning opportunity, and don't be afraid to accept feedback!” Siann Rana, another one of the student council leads, along with Viraj Rao, Lia Tortigue, and Joshua Zisserman, advise people that are taking on leadership roles to “Step outside your comfort zone, the experiences and memories you gain with your teammates and friends are worth the effort and time. The positive outcome and achievements will only encourage you to work harder for the school community.”

The yearbook summarizes an entire year of memories and achievements for students to look back on. Luna Terenzi, the lead of the Yearbook Team is in charge of the communications, deciding on the design of the of its pages and contents accompanied by Anna Polak and Sri INSERT LAST NAME. She also manages a small group of students helping with administrative tasks. Luna became a lead after the previous ones recognised her commitment and asked her to take on a leadership position. Luna says that “the Yearbook team has definitely made a difference at the school” and that it “acts as a time capsule, capturing all the fun memories, academic achievements, and journeys we as a community have undergone”. Luna believes that she has developed leadership skills through managing the team, while using respect and open mindedness. Moreover, she ensures that she is open to all ideas which is “particularly important when working on such a creative process”. As advice for any student that would like to take on a leadership role, Luna advises that “as long as you are committed, engaged, and determined to make a difference, becoming a student lead is always possible”. Thus, when going through the yearbook, and reminiscing on old memories, remember the hard work put in by the Yearbook team leads.

Viraj Rao is another student lead of the student council committee. He has been a member of the student council for 7 years, acting as the co-chair (chair of the South Campus) with Christine Bassey chair of the Senior Events Committee. The committee's purpose is to organise all DP2 events including; graduation, prom, prank day, spirit week, and other senior specific school events. Viraj says that because the responsibilities are extensive, “the largest challenge has been keeping myself constantly updated about what is being worked on”. When asked what advice he would give a student taking on a leadership position, Viraj advises students to delegate early and often. Most people that take on leadership roles are people who enjoy doing things effectively and thoroughly looking into all of the details of a team's work. However, when it becomes too late and too much time has been spent dwelling on the small details, they will realise that this will only disrupt the team's efficiency. “It is far better to guide from a distance and accept that while the results might not look exactly like your personal vision, the team becomes stronger and more capable because of that trust” Viraj says. “Especially when leadership needs to be balanced with schoolwork because “a strong leader's success is not measured by how much they do, but by how much they inspire others to finish”. Therefore, whether you'll be enjoying your last year at AICS or simply celebrating another year completed, ensure to be appreciative of this council's committee and their hardworking leads.

Finally is Daksh Prasad, the sole Eco Team lead, where his role primarily consists of coordinating student-led sustainability initiatives across AICS. Daksh works on planning projects, hosting events, and ensuring that sustainability is actively embedded into school life. The slogan “Green Minds, Bright Futures” that he and his team enforces, reflects the goal of sustainability and acting responsibly about environmental issues. After 5 years of being an Eco Team, Daksh decided to take on the leadership position, where over time his commitment to sustainability “has only grown stronger”. The project of the AICS EcoVision 2026 in January welcomed over 100 attendees from 15 different schools for a day of sustainability focused workshops, activities and guest speakers. With support from Vodafone, Eco-schools, the European Pizza Company, and sponsorship from New York Pizza “The event encouraged meaningful collaboration between schools” Daksh says. He reminds students taking on leadership roles to “Take initiative, stay committed, and remember that consistent effort is key to creating change” Thus, next time you attend a graduation, or have fun at a school event, remember all the hard work and dedication put in by our AICS student leads. As you step into a leadership role, take inspiration and use the advice from these student leads - commit to what you're passionate about and strive to make a meaningful impact at AICS.



Figure 2: AICS Student council during a meeting;



Figure 3: Eco Club group photo;

Celebrating a Day of Creativity



Figure 1: Picture of Pablo Picasso; ("Spanish artist Pablo Picasso (1881 - 1973) in front of one of his paintings at home in Cannes in 1955"). 29/11/10, (Stroud)

Written by: Aarushi Goyal

Edited by: Annika Wende

Especially in an era of technological dominance, our lives are becoming increasingly digitalized, art still brings people together to discuss, share and understand different perspectives and opinions upon what people interpret.

One of the main, attractive aspects of art is how it keeps evolving over time, experimenting with new techniques and materials. In the very same example of technological advancements, the art industry is exploring tools like AI, 3D printers and even virtual reality in order to create unique, expressive pieces of works (*Pedro et al.*) ("*Impact of Digital Technology on Art*").

In order to celebrate this beauty of art, the International Association of Art proposed a day dedicated to the celebration of art, which was happily accepted and hence, from April 15, 2012 onwards, the entire world knows this day as the international World Art day, which coincides with the birthday of infamous artist Leonardo da Vinci ("*World Art Day 2023*").

Over time, the celebration of World Art day has gained significant traction due to its affiliation with UNESCO's, and many people have come to know about this day and even celebrate it.

Through various activities like "debates, conferences, workshops, cultural events and presentations or exhibitions" ("*World Art Day*") taking place all over the world to commemorate art, this occasion is rapidly gaining additional popularity.

Kimaya Ramdas, an art enthusiast from MYP5B, explains that; "I have only recently discovered World Art day and its existence, but I really liked knowing that organisations like UNESCO are working on making art international." She also explained how she "never took any art classes in my life but since I was a kid, I always enjoyed painting and other creative, hands-on activities. Now I realise that art actually helps me calm down, especially during times when I have a lot of school work and just need a break to refocus." To her and many others, art is a very unique language that has had a positive impact on all of our lives, and this designated day of celebration only enhances its effect! Art is universal, meaning that it is not limited to a specific age group or gender. It is accessible and open for everyone to enjoy. So, mark your calendars for the 15th of April 2026 and celebrate World Art day, a day dedicated purely to creativity, artists, artworks and beauty.

"Learn the rules like a pro so you can break them like an artist."

Does this sentence ring a bell? Well it's no surprise if it does! A very famous artist Pablo Picasso, explained the true and basic guide to creativity in just this one line. As World Art day is celebrated by people all around the globe this April, we honour this ideology, reminding us to not only celebrate the final outcome, but also the process and energy required to reach it ("*PICASSO*").

Art is a universal language all around the world. It not only acts as a medium for people to express themselves freely, but connects people from different backgrounds as well. World Art Day is celebrated on April 15th, a day in which we are able to honour and celebrate some very famous artists and their revolutionary works ("*World Art Day*").

In a time when innovations are changing our ways of thinking and living in day-to-day life, art still works as an effective manner for human connection.



Figure 2: Long Process of Creating an Artwork; De Masi, Louise. "Wanting to become a professional artist? Here's how." 11/07/23, (de Masi)



Is the Novel *Pride and Prejudice* still worth reading today?

200 years ago, Jane Austen wrote *Pride and Prejudice*, one of the most beloved novels in the English language, with over 20 million copies sold. Over the centuries, the book continues to win the hearts of generations of readers around the world, captivating them with its vivid descriptions and a historical love story (*"Pride and Prejudice"*).

Jane Austen, was an English novelist in the early 18th century, known for her novels which critiqued themes such as social class marriage, as well as portraying female independence through her witty dialogue, use of irony and descriptive writing. In her short life she wrote many famous titles such as *Sense and Sensibility*, *Emma*, and *Persuasion*, with many of her books having been adapted into hit, award winning films (*Southam*).

The story begins with Elizabeth Bennet, a smart, witty and independent young woman. She meets her love interest, the highly sought after and wealthy Mr. Darcy, but it isn't love at first sight. Elizabeth and Mr. Darcy form negative opinions of each

other due to various misunderstandings and, as the title suggests, their pride and prejudices.

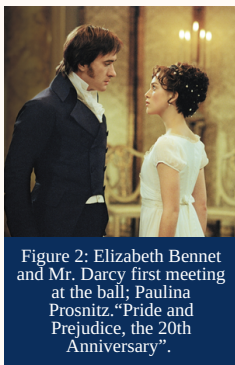


Figure 2: Elizabeth Bennet and Mr. Darcy first meeting at the ball; Paulina Prosnitz, "Pride and Prejudice, the 20th Anniversary".

Written by: *Emilija Ignataviciute*

Edited by: *Ava Damen*

Without spoiling too much, the book explores themes of love, marriage and status in eighteenth century England (Dillon).

A quote from the book states "It is a truth universally acknowledged, that a single man in possession of a good fortune, must be in want of a wife." (p.1) Quotes such as this show the perspective of people at the time, highlighting how wealth was tied to marital status and marriage was largely an economic institution. Elizabeth had also said "He is a gentleman, and I am a gentleman's daughter. So far we are equal." (p.249), showing society's view of status at the time, you could marry someone only if you matched their 'rank.' Equality was not based upon merit but upon your family and lineage.

Although it was written during a time where marriages were convenient, mostly loveless, and women were seen as less than their husbands, this novel challenged those beliefs. Austen wrote this book stating that only marriages based on mutual respect and love, such as Elizabeth and Darcy's marriage can be truly successful. While marriages only for money and societal pressure often lead to problems as seen for Lydia, Elizabeth Darcy's younger sister.

Luckily, the world is very different now, allowing women and men to have more freedom in making their own decisions about if they want to marry, or even who they want to marry. However, family expectations and financial troubles still affect relationships in the modern world, showing how even though societies have progressed, some challenges remain the same.

The novel has had lasting impacts, shaping the literary world of today. Mr. Darcy's cold and reserved personality which fits the "misunderstood hero" archetype mirrors many modern characters, such as *Twilight's* Edward Cullen or *The Great Gatsby's* Jay Gatsby. *Pride and Prejudice* is more than just a literary work. While it might seem like a light love story, it is a commentary on themes of marriage, class and societal views that have shifted throughout the last two centuries but still remain quite relevant to this day. Reading the novel can expand readers' horizons, prompting them to reflect on the value of love and passion versus security and status in their own lives.

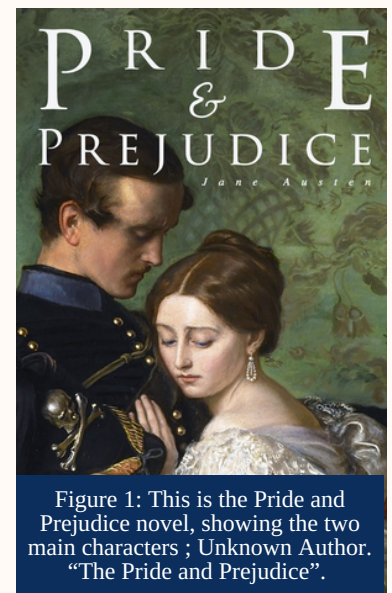
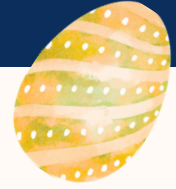


Figure 1: This is the *Pride and Prejudice* novel, showing the two main characters; Unknown Author. "The *Pride and Prejudice*".

“It’s more than just a game”



Written by: Paula Worp

Edited by: Chloë Higson

Every four years, the world presses pause on life and presses play on something bigger than just a game. Students rejoice as their country scores that winning goal. Friendly rivalries carry out the spirit of the sport through the school. But overall - even those who have zero interest in football - everyone comes together to sit and watch the important matches. Following the 2022 World Cup in Qatar, on June 11, the world's largest soccer tournament is kicked off in Mexico City with a match against the host and South Africa. The 2026 World Cup.

The men's FIFA World Cup started in 1930 in Uruguay, and became a 4 year cycled soccer tournament. The idea originated from a proposal in 1928, from FIFA president Jules Rimet to establish an independent international football championship due to the sheer popularity of it, as the sport was starting to outgrow the olympic games (Roadtrips, n.d.). The first tournament was held in Uruguay to honor their Olympic gold medals and the 100 year anniversary of their independence. Here, only 13 nations participated, where the host country had the ability to Uruguay uphold their shining athletic reputation as they defeated Argentina in the finals (Roadtrips, n.d.).

Shifting the focus to current events, the upcoming tournament marks several special agendas. Firstly, the 2026 summer World Cup shall be a historic event due to its large size and generous inclusivity. It also marks the first 3-nation hosted tournament ever, scheduled to run through Mexico, Canada and the USA. The tournament is to host 48 different teams (massive compared to the previous 32), who are competing in 104 matches, double that of last time 64 matches. This means that the tournament also set the record for longest since 1930 as it will run for a total of 39 days. These host countries set their own records as Mexico is yet to become the first country to have hosted the beloved event 3 times and this year officially pulls Canada into the host list for their debut.

As excited as the different nations are, we as viewers are are equally encouraged to get our hopes up due to the new and exciting additions of this year. The World Cup programs seems to have taken an attentive note of love for the super-bowl half time show, regardless if one is a fan of NFL or not. Therefore, this year the FIFA president Gianni Infantino announced that for the first time, the World Cup will feature a super-bowl like half time show, potentially including Chris Martin.

Alongside this, another unique matchday experience will be the “Sonic IDs”. Because of the combined cultural hosting initiative, each host city will have their own Sonic ID, which aims to blend local music with the sounds of that city, a way to celebrate the cultural diversity of the host cities and create an experience unique to each. Now for a few more firsts. This year we are above all excited to witness the debut of the following nations in the World Cup: Cape Verde, Jordan, Uzbekistan and Curacao. Finally, this world cup marks the return to North America, which last participated 32 years ago in 1994.

Ultimately, this summer marks an athletic excitement celebrating everybody's culture through the communal art of football, or for the sake of the tournament being held in North America, soccer. The tournament hopes to engrave new traditions, and enhance the already existing ones, simimilarly to the experience which the AICS community hopes to create. That of celebration of diversity, and the fostering of new ones. With the date approaching, it begins a time for sports teams around the world to start predicting scores and planning watch parties. A time to come together, celebrate and watch football.



Figure 1: An image that captures the purpose and prize of the World Cup Tournament; Trionda. The Official World Cup 2026 Ball.



Figure 1: All the most well known players who may or may not be making their comeback in the 2026 World Cup; Fifa World Cup Qatar 2022

Easter Traditions Across the World

Written by: Prisha Kapoor

Edited by: Ava Damen

In a time of Globalization led by social media; the rapid exchange of thoughts, ideas, and information has become increasingly common. Yet, amid this global transformation, Religious customs and celebrated events have continued to represent the themes of renewal, hope and restoration around the world. Across centuries, thousands of customs have faded, whereas new rituals, inspired by social changes, have been born. Yet during this transformation, Easter remains one of the most recognized and celebrated events within the AICS community, and around the whole world. In America families spent 24\$ Billion US dollars on Easter. Why has Easter endured when so many other traditions have faded?

In order to understand what led to the rise in popularity of this Event, it is first important to understand the story behind the traditions and rituals that we know of today. The story of Easter begins with the crucifixion of Jesus by the Romans. In our Lunar calendar this date is known as Good Friday. The date of Easter is determined through the Lunar Calendar, as it falls on the first Sunday after the full moon. On this date, Jesus was buried within a tomb, guarded by soldiers, and at the moment of his last breath, the sky shook, the clouds parted and bodies rose from the dead to commemorate the sinless life of Jesus. However, on the first day of

the week, the guards went to look at the tomb. To their surprise, Jesus was no longer in the tomb, and instead an Angel who descended from the heavens talked to Jesus in order to explain his whereabouts. This resurrection of Jesus marks the entire foundation off of which Christianity is built. Easter commemorates the resurrection of Jesus, and its origins trace back to early Christianity.

Over time, it is traditions such as decorating easter eggs and gathering for shared meals, which embody this beautiful celebration. While the roots of Easter are deeply focused on Christianity, each family has its own ways to celebrate Easter. For example, within AICS there are students such as Nina Debesset who is a French-Romanian student in MYP 5 that follows the Orthodox religion. Nina says “Easter is quite a big deal in Romania, that focuses on Family, and

Togetherness”. She often bakes traditional foods, such as Cozonac and Pasca, both of which are forms of sweet bread with cheese and nuts. However the rituals do not end here, as Nina explains that ”A tradition that my family and I do every year, is to boil eggs in red water, dyeing the outsides. We decorate the eggs, before eventually cracking two eggs against each other and saying the words: ‘The Christ has risen’”. This religious approach to the celebration of Easter embodies the beauty and origin of the celebration, however there are people who take other approaches to this cultural event, such as Ana Spuras Paroni. Ana is a Brazilian student in MYP 5, she enjoys Easter as a relaxed, commercial holiday. Ana also spends Easter with her family and friends, she says “The Brazilian community in Amstelveen gets together and has an Easter Lunch, followed by an easter egg hunt for the youngsters”.



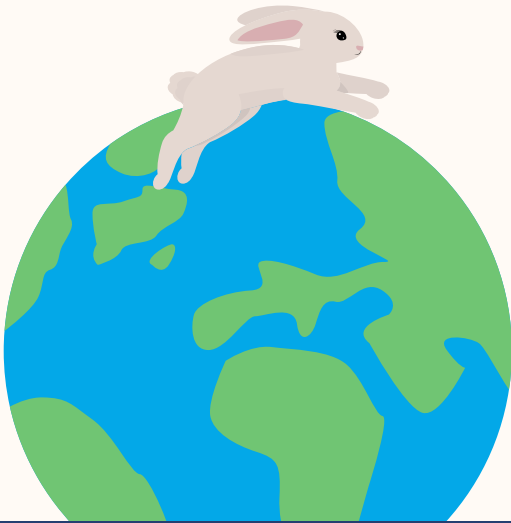
Figure 1 Albert Heijn Easter Assortment; “Kan u de verleiding weerstaan?” 2023



Ultimately, Easter is a celebration that has endured across centuries, because it continues to adapt to a changing world, while the core themes of Renewal, hope and togetherness are preserved. No matter how you celebrate Easter, these shared values remain common and meaningful in each generation.



Figure 2 Romanian Easter Eggs; Nina Debesset, 2024



T	A	E	R	I	G	L	H	L	G	C	I	B	I
I	E	U	A	S	E	O	A	R	L	U	Y	A	N
Y	A	S	I	S	P	W	S	I	O	L	R	S	O
T	R	Y	O	E	E	B	N	F	B	T	E	T	I
I	E	R	T	N	D	I	O	H	A	U	S	F	T
N	L	O	E	R	T	T	I	F	L	R	U	A	A
A	I	R	A	E	A	A	T	R	I	E	R	M	R
I	G	N	S	H	L	P	I	I	Z	R	R	I	B
T	I	H	T	T	T	S	D	T	A	C	E	L	E
S	O	E	E	E	N	T	A	U	T	N	C	Y	L
I	N	R	R	G	E	A	R	A	I	N	T	R	E
R	B	A	Y	O	A	N	T	L	O	S	I	T	C
H	E	L	S	T	T	O	N	S	N	L	O	H	R
C	R	A	D	A	P	T	A	T	I	O	N	T	A

- CELEBRATION
- RENEWAL
- ADAPTATION
- RITUALS
- EASTER
- CULTURE
- RELIGION
- GLOBALIZATION
- TOGETHERNESS
- CHRISTIANITY
- RESURRECTION
- FAMILY
- TRADITIONS
- HOPE

Kings Day and its Impact on Amsterdam

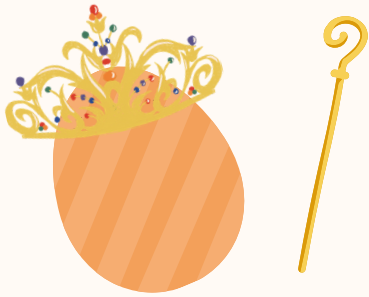


Figure 1: Citizens and tourists celebrating King's day on the water, streets and bridges; Amsterdam Spotted. Where will the best parties and festivals be held in Amsterdam on King's Day in 2026? 2026

Written by: Meesha Channa

Edited by: Annika Wende

In this modern day, King's Day captures the identity and culture of the Netherlands: From the Heineken cans marking the streets, to the Tompouce cakes being eaten - together these characteristics converge to the unifying event where everyone shares a sense of freedom. Across the Netherlands, there are millions that take part in the events and celebrations, with Amsterdam alone attracting over one million visitors. That alone is almost double of the city's population, in just a single day ("City Center Overwhelmed as Amsterdam Welcomes Record Day-Trippers")!

The iconic colour orange resonates and defines King's Day as it originally came from the House of Orange-Nassau (Huis van Oranje-Nassau), who are the Dutch royal family (Amsterdam). From clothes, to wigs, to accessories and face paint; the vibrant orange fills Amsterdam with millions of people using the colour to symbolise unity. The city became a visual example of coming together despite differences, and supporting one another through the celebration of such a day. Not only does this colour unite on land, but on the water as well: The canals brimming with boats create a flurry of an orange landscape, with different people's music blending into a unique soundtrack composed of pop music, techno,

and Dutch classics that further enhance this sense of community!

Another unparalleled characteristic of this celebration is its free market (vrijmarkt), allowing everyone to sell goods without the need of permits ("Typically Dutch: King's Day"). The infamous Vondelpark and narrow streets transform into open marketplaces that are decorated with inviting banners and signs.

However, with such a large volume of people participating comes consequences and guidelines: The significant environmental impact of around 300 tons of waste that is left behind throughout the city (Times). Litter is created in piles due to plastic cups, packaging, and decorations being left behind, that by the night, a designated cleanup crew needs to work overnight in order to keep the city looking somewhat more fresh than before it got "trashed" (Huetter). The volume of such waste uncovers the overall cost of such a large scaled day. Another significant impact it has on Amsterdammer is the emergency services. Due to alcoholic beverages being drunk, there are hundreds of accidents/incidents that can come from overcrowd, loss of space and alcohol consumption. These things create pressure on the public safety system ("DPG Media Privacy Gate").

On King's Day, the real question isn't what in Amsterdam is orange - it's what isn't. With streets filled with booming music, and laughter bouncing off the buildings lining the canals, Amsterdam unfailingly floods its street with a sea of orange every year. Annually, for one day - and one day only - everyone comes together and celebrates the King's special birthday, where traditions and modernity collide into one of the biggest street festivals in Europe.

Kings Day, also referred to as 'Koningsdag' in Dutch, takes place on the 27th of April, and celebrates the birthday of the beloved King Willem-Alexander ("King's Day"). This day dates back to 1885, where the 'Prinsessedag' was dedicated to honour Princess Wilhelmina. Over time, this celebratory day adapted to the members of the royal family, giving us the King's Day we know today (Embry and Jonker).

Such issues created a delicate boundary between freely celebrating and taking care of the environment allowing this celebration to happen to begin with. As King's Day attracts more people, there is a responsibility placed on those who control and manage this event - and measures having to be implemented in accordance with King's Day's magnitude. To fight against these issues, Amsterdam has begun to adapt: There are stricter rules on implementing recycling facilities, while encouraging the use of reusable materials as well (City of Amsterdam). Some areas have already stopped the use of single-use plastics, and urged their citizens to make more sustainable choices. It shows how this event can be widely appreciated over time; however if there is a continuation of it, there must be a modern understanding and mindset on celebrating.

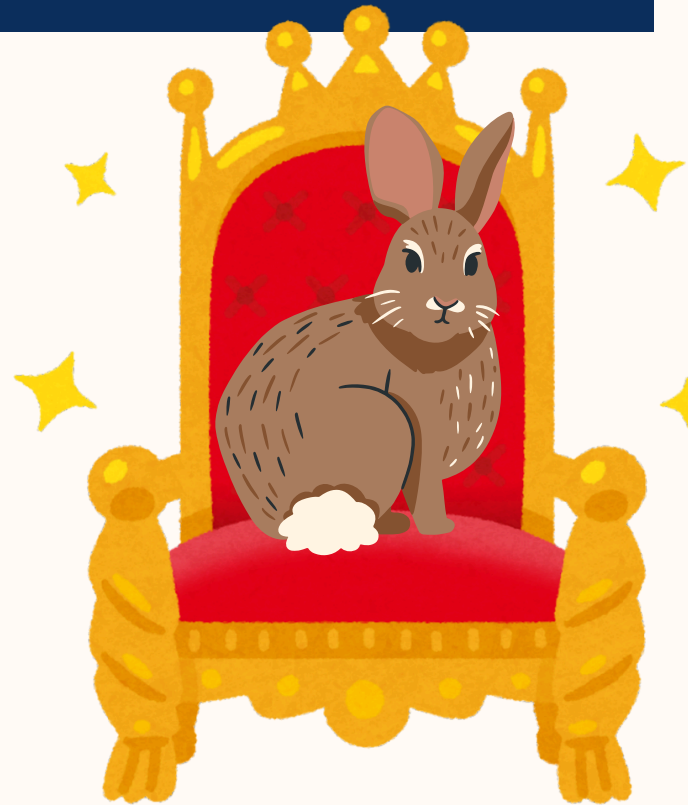
The celebrations that are taken in honour of celebrating King Willem-Alexander are all about being free, connected and having a creative mind. King's Day is truly a spectacular day to not only have heard about, but to take part in, the vibes are immaculate and everyone must have an experience at least once in their life!



Figure 2: King's Day vrijmarkt in Vondelpark, kids have a game with an audience; Het Parool. Een beknopte gids voor Koningsdag in Amsterdam. 27th april 2019



Figure 3: King's Day aftermath, rubbish left and collected; Het Parool. Teruglezen | Koningsdag in Amsterdam: 'Het is een gouden plek, de hele wereld komt hierlangs'. 2023



A Short Story: The Cell Tower

Written by: Layne Byrnes-Hawkins

Edited by: Elma Imran

“Woah...” Spanning into the sky, a sprawling lattice of beams stretches upwards. The beams fold onto themselves, fighting and climbing upon each other in a race towards the moon.

“Shh, someone will hear us!” Micheal whisper-shouts from under the tower.

I rush over to him, standing in the center between the tower’s four supporting posts. We both look up.

The view from inside makes me lose my balance, upwards becoming forwards becoming downwards. The whole moon shines through an opening in the clouds, a spotlight from the center of the tower into the gloom of the site.

Something clanks.

Micheal’s view snaps to me, then to the sound. “Shit, shitshitshitshit.” He slaps a hand over his mouth, and looks at me. “I TOLD YOU!” he mouths, wide-eyed.

We wait. Silence. A soft flip of fabric.

“Hello?” A voice reverberates, catching on the steel beams to make a horrible symphony of drones. “If anybody’s in here, I’m gonna need you to get on out.”

Nobody responds.

We hear the man exhale and begin to go about his business, working this and drilling that. Micheal points towards a gap in the fabric covering the site, still concealed by shadow and big enough to slip through.

I put three fingers up to set us off. We look over our shoulders, tracking the pattern of the drill. A buzz, some clanking as the man turns whatever it is over, and another buzz. The pattern repeats. At the next buzz, I put one finger down. At the clanking, I put down another. We dash for the exit as the man pulls the drill’s trigger.

We can barely see under the blanketed moonlight as we weave through the cranes and stacks of beams, dashing to the exit. Once we get through the gate, we run all the way to the treeline and crash into the soil, gasping for air. I lean back into the grass, chest moving up and down as I try and catch my breath.

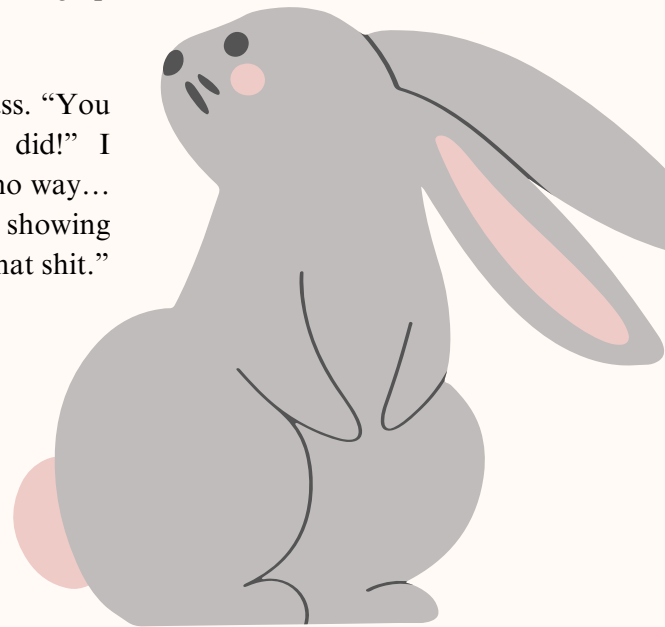
“Shoot—you almost got—us killed!” Micheal says, his breath breaking up his speech.

I scowl at him from the grass. “You made—more noise than I did!” I retort. “Besides, there was no way... we could predict some guy showing up at 11:00pm to work on that shit.”



Figure 1: Approaching the cell tower before dusk; Pictjoe. “Low Angle Shot of a Broadcast Tower.”

“Fine, it doesn’t matter. But I still wanna make it up that tower before they get the electricity running in.”



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