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October	23	2	2	\$1,286,500	\$1,276,500
September	23	8	2	\$1,444,950	\$1,430,500
August	23	3	1	\$2,270,000	\$2,150,000
July	23	3	7	\$1,649,000	\$1,600,000
June	23	9	4	\$1,835,000	\$1,800,000
May	23	6	7	\$1,425,000	\$1,410,000
April	23	6	4	\$1,762,000	\$1,697,500
March	23	7	7	\$2,150,000	\$2,050,000
February	23	5	4	\$1,632,500	\$1,547,500
January	23	3	0	\$0	\$0
December	22	1	0	\$0	\$0

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## Burrito Beef and Bean Soup

by Jennifer Puri

Beans and rice have been a staple dish around the world for centuries. If eaten together, the combination of rice and beans creates a complete protein. They provide a healthy plant-based protein and eating more protein can help build muscle mass and help you maintain a healthy weight.

The other benefit of eating rice and beans together is their fiber content which can help to improve digestion, maintain healthy blood sugar levels, and lower blood pressure and cholesterol.

The black bean is found in both Latino and Hispanic cultures and is served in a variety of Mexican dishes. It can be added to burritos, quesadillas, salsas, rice, salads, or soups like in the burrito beef and bean soup recipe below.

**Prep Time:** 20 minutes

**Cook Time:** 60 minutes

**Servings:** 6 to 8



### Ingredients:

- 2 lbs lean ground beef
- 1 small yellow onion, chopped
- 3 garlic cloves, minced
- 3 tbsps of hot and spicy taco seasoning
- 2 cups of low sodium corn kernels drained and rinsed
- 2 cups black beans drained and rinsed
- 2 cups diced tomatoes
- 1 cup of uncooked white or brown rice, rinsed

- 1 small can tomato puree
- 2 cartons beef broth
- Salt to taste
- Sour cream (optional)
- 2 ready to eat avocados (optional)
- Queso taco chips (optional)

### Directions:

- In a large pot or saucepan, sauté ground beef, garlic, and onion until the beef turns brown.
- Add taco seasoning and mix together. Next add the black beans, corn, diced tomatoes, tomato puree, and salt to taste. Stir all ingredients together and then add the rice and the beef stock.
- Bring pot or saucepan to boil, then cover and let simmer for about 45 minutes. Check to see if rice is cooked, especially if using brown rice which takes longer to soften than white rice.
- Ladle soup into bowls and garnish with chopped avocado and sour cream. Serve queso taco chips on the side if desired.

Note: This recipe can also be made in a Slow Cooker which can be a big time saver for busy families. Add sautéed beef, vegetables, rice, and stock to a slow cooker and simmer on low setting for six to eight hours or on high for four to six hours.

Bon Appétit!





## That's a Lot of Snow

Scotland has an impressive linguistic flair for describing snow—with a whopping 421 distinct words and expressions! Among them, you'll find gems like "snaaw," "sneesh," and "skelf," officially documented as part of the Scottish lexicon for capturing the nuanced beauty of snow in its various forms. It's a linguistic snowscape that paints a vivid picture of Scotland's intimate relationship with the winter wonderland.



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## THE DEAD PERIOD



WE KNOW THAT THE CALENDAR HAS CHANGED OVER TIME, BUT DID YOU KNOW THAT BECAUSE THE ROMAN MILITARY WASN'T ACTIVE IN THE COLDEST MONTHS, THEIR CALENDAR ONLY HAD 10 MONTHS WITH FORMAL NAMES. JANUARY AND FEBRUARY WERE REFERRED TO AS THE "DEAD PERIOD".

## International Day of Education

January 24 is International Day of Education! The United Nations General Assembly solidified this annual observance to celebrate the role education plays in the development and peace within countries. Let's hear it for all our educators on this day, and every day!



# How to Deal with Those Long Sleepless Nights

by Nancy Bergeron, R.Psych. | [info@nancybergeron.ca](mailto:info@nancybergeron.ca)

As we turn the corner from the longest nights of the year, sleeplessness is a common issue for many. Sleep is a basic human need and is essential for good mental and physical health. Sleep-wake disorders involve excessive sleepiness, breathing-related sleep disturbances, and abnormal experiences during sleep.

Common symptoms of insomnia and sleep-wake disorders include difficulty falling asleep, staying asleep, and having trouble waking up most days.

Factors that contribute to sleep disturbances are things like anxiety, stress, depression, chronic pain, stimulants (caffeine, nicotine, and some medications), and having an irregular sleep schedule. Some groups of people are at higher risk than others such as doctors and nurses, shift workers, truck drivers, and parents with very young children.

Lack of deep sleep causes a multitude of issues such as daytime fatigue, difficulty paying attention, concentration challenges, decrease in productivity, irritability, angry outbursts, memory challenges, and an inability to multitask.

To overcome these challenges, keep track of the time you fall asleep and wake up, how long it takes you to fall asleep, how often you wake through the night, and how long it takes to fall back asleep. Bring your answers to a psychologist or doctor who specializes in sleep disorders.

Your doctor can send you to a sleep clinic to see if you have sleep obstruction (sleep apnea). Your partner or roommate may tell you how loud or how much you snore. Doctors can prescribe you short term medication to get you back on track. However, compared to medication, your psychologist can teach you drug free techniques by assessing your sleep problems, teaching you better sleep hygiene, and offering evidence-based psychotherapy, and self-care practices such as:

1. Cognitive Behavioural Therapy
2. Relaxation techniques



3. Specific exercise routines
4. Exploration of nicotine and caffeine use (caffeine is hidden in many foods)
5. Help create consistent sleep routines
6. Help you learn to limit naps
7. Teach you how to create a healthy sleep environment
8. Night-time brain dump

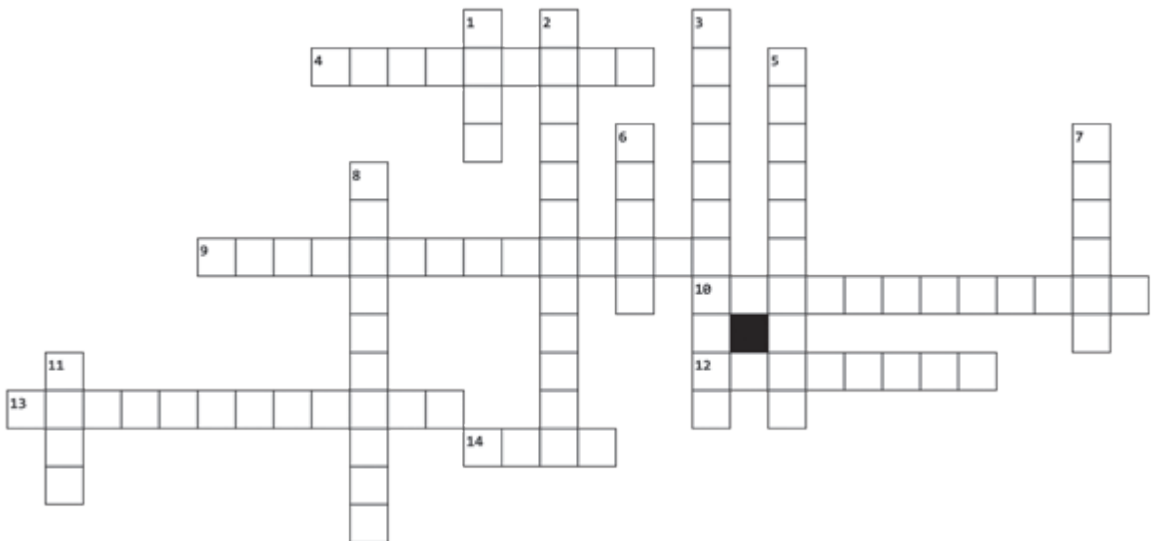
Sleep is essential to your well-being. Don't put off seeking the help that's available.

## Say Cheese? Or Maybe Not...

Back in the 1840s, instead of saying "cheese," folks opted for "prunes" during photo sessions. Flashing a big grin was considered juvenile at the time. A savvy London photographer advised people to say "prunes" to maintain a more composed expression. This practice, predating the modern "fish face" selfie, harks back a good 180 years.



# January Crossword



## Across

4. Every year on January 11, Sir John A. \_\_\_\_\_ Day is observed in Canada.
9. Premiering on January 6, 1975, this game show features multiple contestants working with the alphabet to try and solve a puzzle. It has 41 seasons.
10. In 1904, the first New Year's celebration was held in Times Square to celebrate the new headquarters of this popular publishing company.
12. January is known for being the coldest month in this hemisphere.
13. Before being turned into a film, *The Girl on the Train* was written by \_\_\_\_\_ and published on January 6, 2015.
14. Born on January 25, 1981, this talented Alicia sings "No one" and "If I Ain't Got You".

## Down

1. People born between December 22 and January 22 are considered Capricorns. Interestingly, this word comes from 'Capricornus' which means \_\_\_\_\_ in Latin.
2. A true Canadian icon, this former hockey player was born on January 26, 1961, and holds the nickname "The Great One".
3. This gruelling survival film came out on January 8, 2016, finally winning Leonardo DiCaprio his long-awaited Oscar.
5. This British singer songwriter was born on January 10, 1945, and is known for his raspy voice and his album *Every Picture Tells a Story*.
6. This two-faced God is the symbol of January in ancient Roman myth.
7. This stone is the official birthstone for January and is meant to keep you safe when travelling.
8. On January 25, 1961, Disney put out the spotted masterpiece, *101* \_\_\_\_\_.
11. This iconic single from Canada's own Justin Bieber features Ludacris and was released and available for digital download on January 18, 2010.



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# Sledding Safety

by Alberta Health Services

Emergency Medical Services (EMS) would like to remind parents and children about a few toboggan/sledding safety tips as the winter season continues. Injuries may result from collisions with stationary objects on the hill, such as trees, poles, rocks, or even collisions with other people. Unprotected falls can also result in more serious injury if you lose control at high speeds. However, everyone can be safe and have fun on the toboggan hill by following these reminders.

### Equipment

- Always ensure your toboggan, or sledding device, is in good repair. Inspect it for any damaged or missing parts before each use.
- Be certain the operator is fully capable of staying in control of the sled at all times.
- Wear a ski helmet, designed for use in cold weather and high speeds.

### Hazards

- Avoid hills that are too steep or too icy.
- Choose hills free of all obstacles such as trees, rocks, utility poles, benches, or fences.

- Beware of loose scarves, or clothing containing drawstrings, which could present a strangulation hazard if they become caught or snagged.
- Look out for others. Move quickly to the side after finishing a run and stay to the side of the sliding path when walking up the hill.
- Children should be supervised by an adult; never toboggan alone.
- Tobogganing at night is not advised.

### Plan Ahead

- Dress warmly in layers and anticipate weather changes.
- Consider bringing extra sets of gloves and toques to exchange wet garments for dry ones.
- Take breaks out of the cold to warm up.
- Attempt to cover any exposed skin.
- Even when properly protected from the elements, the fingertips, toes, ears, the tip of the nose, and other high points on the face, such as the forehead and cheek bones can be affected by frostbite.
- If frost bite has occurred, treat it by first removing the individual out of the cold environment. Gently warm the affected skin by placing a warm hand over it, or by placing the affected part in warm - not hot - water, until re-warmed.





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# Happy Birthday, Jim!



On January 17, 1962, a comedic legend was born in Newmarket, Ontario. The star of hit movies like Ace Ventura: Pet Detective, The Mask, and Dumb and Dumber, Jim Carrey will turn 62 years old this year. Can you believe he has been gracing our screens since 1981 when he played Tony Caroni in Janet?

# Word of the Month

**Fortuitous: Adjective (For-too-uh-tus)**

**Happening by chance or showing  
good luck**

**It was rather fortuitous that the two  
sisters arrived at the same time.**



## GAMES & PUZZLES

### Guess the Sport!

1. This is commonly known as the only sport that has been played on the moon.
2. This incredibly physical two-person activity is considered the world's oldest sport.
3. In this sport, goal posts are painted yellow.
4. In \_\_\_\_\_, a score of zero is called "love".
5. An elegant show of talent, this is the oldest winter Olympic sport.
6. When you miss three times in a row, it's called a turkey in this sport.



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## BEST PICTURE

Oscar season is an exhilarating time of year. With so many categories and nominees, it can be hard to keep track of what's going on! One thing of note is that only three animated films have ever been nominated for Best Picture. Up, Toy Story 3, and Beauty and the Beast in 1991 which was the first ever animated Best Picture nomination.



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