

CELEBRATIONS: RUSSIAN CHRISTMAS, STARRING, & MASKALATAQ GR: 9-12 (5+ LESSONS)

Elder Quote/Belief: Arlene Totemoff at age 11 on December 16, 1944 wrote in her diary, “It is nearly Russian Christmas. Mr. Poling did you have a Russian Christmas yet? I know you had an American Christmas. We always have Russian Christmas on January 7th, 1944. Oh boy is it the best holiday I like. We go into every house with a big star, little kids have a star.”ⁱ

Grade Level: 9-12

Overview: The major religion of the Chugach Region is Russian Orthodox Christian. Orthodox religions follow the Gregorian calendar so Russian Orthodox holidays are on different dates. Russian Orthodox Christmas has a traditional custom of starring. For the New Year celebrations, the Chugach people participate in a unique masking and maskalataq activities that is only found in the Chugach Region.

Standards:

<i>AK Cultural:</i>	<i>AK Content Science:</i>	<i>CRCC:</i>
C3 Attain a healthy lifestyle through which they are able to maintain their social, emotional, physical, intellectual and spiritual well-being	F2 Develop an understanding that some individuals, cultures, and societies use other beliefs and methods to describe and understand the world	CE9 Students should have respect and appreciate for their own culture as well as the cultures of others.

Lesson Goal: Learn about Russian Orthodox Christmas and New Year’s, what date they are celebrated, why they are on a different date and the traditional celebrations (starring, New Years, masking/maskalataq) during this season.

Lesson Objective(s): Students will:

- Learn when and why Russian Christmas is at a later date.
- Learn the components of Russian Christmas and activities celebrated during the two weeks it is observed.
- Learn the Sugt’stun/Eyak vocabulary words

Vocabulary Words: Sugt’stun Dialects

English:	PWS:	Lower Cook Inlet:	Eyak:
January	cuqlliirpaq	Cuqlliirpaq tanqik	
Winter	Uksuq	Uksuq	XAlaag
Christmas		Ala’stuq//Alasistuaq	
Masking		Maskalataq	
New Year		Nuikutaq	

Starring		Slaawiq	
New Year		Nuta'aq	
Old Year		Pequlek	
Paddle		peqersun	kAwusgL
MP/Policeman		Palit'smanaq	qaa ja'qinh
Old Ladies		Ucingurua	
Months		Arnangiarat	
White shirt		Qaterqaq kala^nkaq	xitl'ga' iit'eh q'Alaak'
Waltz		Waalichaaq	

Materials/Resources Needed

- Invite Elders/Recognized Experts on topics of Russian Christmas/ Starring/ Masking
- Computer, iPad, smart phone for each student to record and make a presentation

For Starring Class: (Depending on type of star the Elder/Recognized Expert is teaching)

- Portable star located in Celebrations kit
- Plywood – ¼ inch
- Wood 1"x1"
- Dowel for handle
- Wood Glue
- Hand saw
- Hardware to allow star to easily spin
- Decoration and paper icons

For Masking Class:

- Step-by-Step instructions for making masks. (Attached)
- Scissors
- Markers
- White sheet (cut sheet into 18'by 18') one piece for each student
- 6 or more plates (not a paper plate, a glass dinner plate)
- Hats of assortment (any type from baseball, beanies, elaborate as you want)
- Sashing for Months
- Make up (Bright blush, red lipstick, etc.)
- Assorted clothing to wear depending on role and padding of some sort for Old Year

Books/Documents:

- Article on 'The Difference between Julian and Gregorian Calendars' (attached)

- *Making History* by Patricia Partnow, Pgs. 163-164 re: Starring, Masking and New Year Celebrations
- *Fireweed Cillqaq-Life and Times in Port Graham* *(Located on this website-Resources)
 - Vol. 2, Pg. 43 “Masking in Port Graham” and Pg. 57 on “Starring”
- *Alexandrovsk-English Bay in its Traditional Way* *(Located on this website-Resources)
 - Vol. 1, Page 60 - 62 for “Maskalataq”, and “Nuta’aq”
 - Vol. 2, Page 56-57 for Christmas, Starring and Masking

Websites/videos:

- Explanation of the Gregorian and Julian Calendars
 - https://www.hermetic.ch/cal_stud/cal_art.html
- Wikipedia explanation of difference between Gregorian and Julian calendars
 - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gregorian_calendar#Difference_between_Gregorian_and_Julian_calendar_dates
 - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Julian_calendar
- Bible Illustrated – The Tale of the Two Calendars
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=74MQ91onkNQ>
- Frontiers 132: Following the Star in Port Graham
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0jHDREaPgHA>
- Starring in Port Graham: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K94_y6f2HxA
- Russian Christmas in Valdez https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K94_y6f2HxA
- Nanwalek Russian New Year Celebration
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3eT0gRVdCE0>
- Origami Eight Point Spinning Star
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kVAMslwOGC8>

Teacher Preparation:

- Invite a local Elder to share stories about Russian Christmas, Starring, Masking (Maskalataq) and New Year’s Celebration.
- If Elder is willing to teach students how to construct a wooden star (determine if making one or several), and obtain the materials needed to build and decorate.
- Review suggested videos listed above and list them on the board for students to view. .
- Download and make copies of the recommended articles to read.
- Locate and gather materials:
 - To make cloth masks: make one ahead of time to use as an example, gather enough material for each student to make one.
 - The portable star: located in the Celebrations kit. If you did not ask to borrow it, then ask if the local Russian Orthodox Church has one to borrow for display.
 - Eight-Point Star: Four sheets of colored (red & gold, recommended) foil and origami paper for each student to make an eight-point spinning star, copies of Orthodox icons to glue in the middle of origami star.
- Prepare students how to show respect and ask appropriate questions for the Elder’s visit into the classroom.
- If an Elder coming to classroom, have students write a ‘Thank You’ card for sharing their knowledge/history of Russian Christmas, Starring, Masking and New Year’s Celebration.

Opening: The Elders who have guided the curriculum for the Celebration Heritage Kit, emphasized lessons that depict the Russian Orthodox religion and the way the majority of Chugach Region communities celebrate Christmas and New Year's holidays. For these lessons, we will be exploring the differences of Julian versus Gregorian calendars, how the Russian Orthodox Christmas is celebrated with starring and a traditional New Year's celebration of masking/maskalataq.

We are going to read aloud a couple of articles about the difference between the two calendars and watch a YouTube video that gives a simplified explanation. There are articles about Russian Christmas, Starring, Masking, the New Year program to read in addition to watching several videos. The songs in the video are sung in Sugt'stun, Church Slavonic and English. The Russian Christmas is a celebration that lasts about three weeks. A wooden star is taken to each home, followed by community residents who sing Christmas Orthodox Slavonic hymns. If a household hosts a star, it is customary to provide food for the singers. Starring usually lasts about four nights, in the past it used to be three nights, but as the community has grown so now has adapted and the first night is set aside to star at homes with newborns and Elders.

Depending on the community where you reside, Masking/ Maskalataq may be practiced but customs and traditions can vary from location. Masking starts on January 8th, the whole community gathers in the community hall to watch. Community members who participate in masking, wear masks generally cloth masks, but after New Year's rubber masks can be used instead, then the masking participants, layer costumes, dance in a circle, then go back out and switch costumes and masks, repeating several times.

In Port Graham and Nanwalek, January 14th is the New Year Celebration program. Everyone wants to arrive at the community hall early to get the best seats! As the actors prepare for the evening entertainment, they wear costumes to represent the following: Old Year, New Year, three Old Ladies, MP/Police officer(s) and each of the twelve months. They all apply heavy blush and don bright red lips. The Old Ladies are usually men dressed up with a cloth mask so people cannot tell who they are. The Old Year is dressed up with old, dark clothing with padding. Each of the months would wear floor length formal skirts or dresses and a white dress shirt/blouse, and those who are representing the New Year and MP usually wear all white. During the performance, there is a live guitar playing masking music. MP/police prepare to toss out the Old Year, while the three Old Ladies and Twelve Months protect the Old Year, from being tossed out (they are stingy for the Old Year).

This entertainment includes danger as well, so audience members are told to stay away from the door, because during this intense time, accidents can happen as the Old Year continues to be thrown out throughout the program. In the past, Elders would say if an audience member accidentally gets dragged out of the building along with actors, that it could be a sign of death to come for that audience member!

As the program gets closer to midnight, the tempo of the music becomes faster and louder while the Old Ladies and MP start getting rougher. Particularly as the Old Ladies are fighting to keep the Old Year, the audience gets louder, clapping and stomping their feet. The performance lasts until midnight when the Old Year is finally tossed out and the evening ends with three languages

of “*Amlertut Kiagat*,” followed by a ‘Forgiveness dance’. The ‘Forgiveness Dance’ is a waltz first the actors dance with one another, then the audience is asked to join and take part in the ‘Forgiveness Dance’.

The masking celebration continues until January 17th. In Nanwalek, the following night, children are allowed to mask/maskalataq and the masquerader’s dress scarier and the infamous ‘Sack Man,’ comes out!

Activities:

Class I: Julian vs Gregorian Calendars

1. Introduce the Elder, if available, and ask students to take notes and record.
2. Review the Sugt’sun/Eyak vocabulary words with students.
3. Have students take notes throughout the lesson.
4. Discuss the differences they know between Russian Christmas and American Christmas?
5. Ask the students to volunteer to read sections of the article, “Understanding Julian Calendars and Gregorian Calendars” attached below.
6. Additional examples can be found online:
 - Explanation of the Gregorian and Julian Calendars
 - https://www.hermetic.ch/cal_stud/cal_art.html
 - Wikipedia explanation of difference between Gregorian and Julian calendars
 - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gregorian_calendar#Difference_between_Gregorian_and_Julian_calendar_dates
 - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Julian_calendar
7. Watch the YouTube video from Bible Illustrated – “The Tale of the Two Calendars”
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=74MQ91onkNQ>
8. Ask students to get into groups to further research ways to explain the differences between the two calendars. Suggest they create a Venn diagram on a butcher paper with the differences and similarities of the calendars.
9. Have each group display their Venn diagrams and present their findings followed by discussions about the different calendars and how it also affects other holidays.

Understanding Julian Calendars and Gregorian Calendars

http://www.genealogyintime.com/GenealogyResources/Articles/understanding_julian_calendars_and_gregorian_calendars_in_genealogy_page1.html

The Julian calendar was implemented by the Romans in 46 B.C. under the guidance of Julius Caesar. The Julian calendar, was based on the solar cycle, the year was divided into 12 months of 365 days. An extra day was added every fourth year. This resulted in a year having on average 365 ¼ days. Unfortunately, the actual solar year is slightly shorter (it is 365.242199 days to be exact). Although the difference appears minor, it can add up over the centuries. In fact, every 129 years, the Julian calendar slipped one additional day out of synchronization with the actual solar year.

This caused a problem within the Roman Catholic Church, who came to realize in the 1500’s that their reliance on the Julian calendar was causing them to incorrectly calculate the date of the

spring equinox (the spring equinox is the one day in spring when there is exactly 12 hours of sunlight and 12 hours of darkness). Easter, one of the most sacred days in the Christian religion, is calculated from the spring equinox (Easter is the first Sunday following the full moon after the spring equinox).

To make matters worse, many other Christian observances (such as Lent, for example) are determined from the date of Easter. Therefore, if Easter was calculated incorrectly, then many other religious observances would be celebrated on the wrong day. This caused considerable controversy within the Catholic Church and resulted in several commissions to try to find a solution.

Pope Gregory XIII, in 1582, issued a papal bull that resulted in several calendar revisions, the most important being:

- Established what is now known as the Gregorian calendar (named after Pope Gregory XIII).
- The new Gregorian calendar had an extra day in those years that were divisible by 4 (just like the old Julian calendar), but unlike the Julian calendar, it did not add an additional day in years that were divisible by 100, unless the year was also divisible by 400. Thus, under the Gregorian calendar, the years 1700, 1800 and 1900 were not leap years, but the years 1600 and 2000 were leap years.
- To make up for the errors in the old Julian calendar, ten days were omitted from the new Gregorian calendar. Thus, Thursday, 4 October 1582 in the old Julian calendar was immediately followed by Friday, 15 October 1582 in the new Gregorian calendar.

Most countries today use the Gregorian calendar. The time periods vary as to when countries migrated from the Julian to Gregorian calendar. Spain, Italy, and France for example switched over in 1582. Great Britain didn't switch over to the Gregorian until 1752. Other countries didn't switch over until more recent times - Greece for example was using the Julian all the way up until 1922.

Many people wonder why Russia didn't switch over to the Gregorian calendar when the rest of Europe did. The belief is that Russia did this because the calendar was introduced by a Roman Catholic pope. Russia ended up switching over to the Gregorian in 1918.

Class II: Starring

1. Introduce the Elder, if available, to explain and share stories on Starring.
2. Show the students the YouTube videos on Starring and ask students to take notes.
 - Frontiers 132: Following the Star in Port Graham
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0jHDREaPgHA>
 - 1. Starring in Port Graham:
 - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K94_y6f2HxA
 - 2. Russian Christmas in Valdez
 - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K94_y6f2HxA
3. Read the paragraph in the *Fireweed*, Vol.2, Pg. 57 about “Starring.”
4. Questions to ask and discuss:
 - Why do people carry a star from one home to another singing Russian hymns?
 - Why is this done the first three days of Christmas?

- What is the reason to have a table filled with food during these three days?
 - Why are the hymns sung in Slavonic?
 - Do you know of any starring songs? Can you share them with the class?
 - Does everyone participate in ‘Starring?’
 - What is the ‘Star’ made from and what makes this unique?
 - How was ‘Star,’ traditionally made?
 - What is the significance of the ‘Star?’
 - How many ‘Stars,’ are in the black and white picture of Chenega? (attached picture)
 - How many points are on each star?
 - Does the number of star points change depending upon community/area?
5. Explain to the students they will be compiling a video on the “starring” tradition in their community as a final project.
 6. Assign students to find an Elder or community member who can explain and share stories on Starring and ask if they can interview and videotape them for a school project. (Can assign groups if desired.)
 7. Ask if there are any old photos that could be included in presentation. Take photos or scans to add.
 8. Remind students to keep notes, photographs (with people identified), videotapes, interviews and anything that may enrich the knowledge of “Starring” to utilize in their final project.
 9. Allow time for the students to work on editing their video project.
 10. Share with class (or school, community).
 11. **OPTIONAL:** Share the video projects with Chugachmiut Heritage Preservation Program to upload onto their website for future reference.

STARRING IN CHENEGA



Starring in Chenega Alaska, outside of the Russian Orthodox Church, photo courtesy of Mitch Poling

ELDER QUOTES

“Starring is when people go around to houses with the Star and sing Christmas carols. They go to all houses where orthodox believers live. It happens on Christmas day, January 7th, and goes on until the 17th of January, most of the time. We have starring here in Port Graham until the 9th of January. Or when people want the Star between the 7th and the 17th we take the Star to the house where they want the Star.” – Ephim Moonin, Nanwalek (Excerpt from *Fireweed Cillqaq, Life and Times in Port Graham*, Vol. 2, Pg. 57)

“There’s another tradition we used to get together. John Kvasnikoff (Great Grandfather of many in Nanwalek) taught (a) whole bunch of us (a) few songs in Slavonic and he made a star for us. Uncle Sergius led us kids (in the) day time before the adults used to walk around with the star (starring is just like caroling). That was something great for all of us. We all used to enjoy it and wait for that holiday to come.” –John Moonin, Port Graham (Excerpt from *Alexandrovsk*, Vol. 2, Pg. 33)

Class III: Making an Eight-Point Origami Spinning Star

1. Watch the video on making an origami Eight Point Spinning Star
 - o <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kVAMslwOGC8>
2. Hand out the origami papers and small paper copy of an icon.
3. Have the students follow step-by-step video to make the star.
4. When finished have them decorate and glue an icon in the middle of the star.
5. Suggest students share their star with an Elder in the community!

Class IV: Making the Star

1. This class would depend on whether an Elder or Recognized Expert is willing to come in and teach students how to construct the star used for Starring.
2. Look over the construction of a portable star made by Al Clark from Cordova. Note this star was made slightly different as others so it could come apart and store easily. Note; the star is able to freely spin around the handle and the points are made of plywood instead of dowels.
3. Students can decorate the star to display in class as a guide.
4. If building a star, gather suggested materials on what the Elder/Recognized Expert would like according to size, number of points and what style.
 - a. Plywood – ¼ inch
 - b. Wood 1"x1"
 - c. Dowel for handle
 - d. Wood Glue
 - e. Hand saw
 - f. Hardware to allow star to easily spin
5. If a star is made, donate it to the Russian Orthodox Church to use in the future.



“When the star was made, they did not use nails, they used chewed dog salmon skin.”

-Ephim Moonin, Nanwalek





Stars located in Nanwalek Museum, photos courtesy of Nancy Yeaton

Class V: Maskalataq

1. Watch the YouTube video on masking/maskalataq located on the webpage.
2. Read aloud the paragraphs on Masking in the *Fireweed*, Vol.2, Pg. 43 and *Alexandrovsk*, Vol.1, Pg. 58.
3. Discuss masking with students and ask the following questions:
 - a. How did masking/maskalataq become part of the celebration of Russian Christmas?
 - b. Is masking a traditional practice, how did it become traditional and why?
 - c. Why do you think the participants wear masks and layers of clothing?
 - d. Do you think everyone in the community participates?
 - e. What kinds of traditional masks were once used?
 - f. What did they do with the masks after the holiday was done?
 - g. How are masks made today?
 - h. How long does this celebration last?
4. Share the example mask made with the students.
5. **Optional:** Photograph and/or videotape the students as they make their masks and share with each student to use in their presentations.
6. Hand out plates and a piece of sheet to each student. Give instructions from the teacher preparation and accompanied photos.
 - a. Place the cut-up sheet piece on the table or floor.
 - b. Place plate onto sheet
 - c. On the backside, gather as much of the sheet and twist until the sheet is quite taut.
 - d. Holding onto the sheet tightly with one hand, create your mask by drawing facial features (eyes and nose). Inform the students that the tighter they hold on the sheet to the back of the plate, the easier it is to draw a face on the front of the plate.
 - e. With scissors, cut out the eye holes so you can see out of them, and make nostril holes to breathe.
7. Inform the students to be creative as they draw their masks.
 - a. Finish drawing the face onto the sheet. Make the face however you want it to look like. Create a scary, friendly, or just a goofy face.
8. Ask students to put their name on the mask and display in the classroom.
9. Explain to the students they will be compiling a video on the “masking/maskalataq” tradition in their community as a final project.
10. Assign students to find an Elder or community member who can explain and share stories on “masking/maskalataq” and ask if they can interview and videotape them for a school project. (Can assign groups if desired.)
11. Ask if there are any old photos that could be included in presentation. Take photos or scans to add.
12. Remind students to keep notes, photographs (with people identified), videotapes, interviews and anything that may enrich the knowledge of “masking/maskalataq” to utilize in their final project.
13. Allow time for the students to work on editing their video project.
14. Share with class (or school, community).
15. **OPTIONAL:** Share the video projects with Chugachmiut Heritage Preservation Program to upload onto their website for future reference.

Step-by-Step Photos for making Masks for Maskalataq

Photos courtesy of Nancy Yeaton, Nanwalek



A. Lay a sheet piece with plate on the table or floor.



B. On back, gather the sheet and twist until tight.

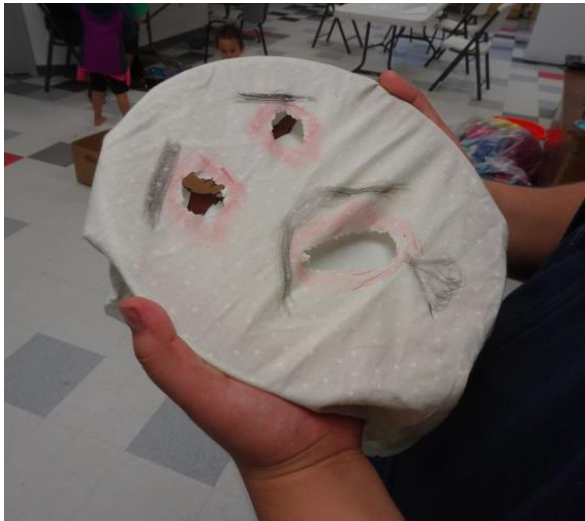
C. Holding onto the sheet tightly with one hand, create your mask by drawing facial features.



D. With scissors, cut out the eye holes so you can see out of them, and make mouth holes to breathe.



E. Finish drawing the face onto the sheet.



F. Sew on a beak made from poster paper, painted orange. Finished!

Class V:

1. Watch the YouTube video on Russian New Year in Port Graham or Nanwalek located on this webpage.
2. Questions to ask:
 - What do you notice about the costumes of the actors in the program?
 - Why do the 12 months, the MP and the New Year wear a white shirt?
 - How many players are there in the program?
 - Why do you think they have MP (military police) in the program?
 - How many rounds are there in the program?
 - Why does the 'Old Year,' sit to the side throughout the performance?
 - Is there a reason why the 12 months gather around the 'Old Year'?
 - Why does the 'New Year,' hit the 'Old Year,' with the paddle?
 - In the community of Nanwalek, who came up with the idea of the 12 months as part of the New Year's program?
 - What is the purpose of the three 'Old Ladies,' in the program?
 - How come only men play the roles of; Old ladies, MP, New Year and the Old Year?
 - Why is the 'Old Year,' finally thrown out?
3. Have students compile all their class work to prepare a presentation for the class.
4. Inform students to apply the Sugt'stun vocabulary throughout their presentation

MASKING IN PORT GRAHAM



Assessments:

- Students can say and understand the meaning of Sugt'stun/Eyak vocabulary words.
- Students can explain why Russian Orthodox celebrate their Christmas on a different date.
- Students understand, describe and produced a video project of the traditional customs of Starring, New Years Celebration, and Masking/Maskalataq in the Chugach Region.

ⁱ Poling, Donald Robert. *Chenega Diaries: Stories and Voices of Our Past: Life and Times in the Native Village of Chenega, Alaska 1944-1948*. Chenega Future, Inc., 2011. December 16, 1944



Masking in Port Graham



New Year's Celebration Play

Written in 1997 by Lydia McMullen and assisted by Lydia Robart. The directions were approved by our respected Elders of Port Graham and Nanwalek; John N. Moonin, Margaret Moonin, Alex Moonin, Natalie Kvasnikoff and Irene Tanape.

In Port Graham, Nanwalek and other communities around Alaska, and the world, where Russian Orthodox religion is influenced, the Julian calendar is still used for important celebrations and holidays. For every other normal day activities the Gregorian calendar is followed which is 13 days behind the Julian calendar. In history, many hundreds of years ago, the calendar was 11 minutes and 14 seconds longer than the solar year. By 1580 A.D. the days had accumulated to 10 extra days, in October, Pope Gregory from the church made the decision to drop 10 days to make the calendar year correspond more closely to the solar year. He also ordered each fourth year would be a leap year with February having an extra day.

Today, we acknowledge the Gregorian calendar where the New Year is celebrated on January 1st, but our traditional orthodox celebrations follow the Julian calendar for the New Year when it is celebrated 13 days later on January 14th.

To celebrate our traditional New Year, we perform a play called "Snowiumgoutem"! "Snowiumgoutem" in the Russian Slavonic language means "New Year". This traditional play by our ancestors was brought to Port Graham and Nanwalek from Portlock, Alaska where John N. Moonin was taught the New Year's celebration by his Elders in the early 1900's.

In the 1920's the Russian Orthodox Church told our people to stop using an actor portraying the devil in the traditional New Year's celebration. Micky Moonin got permission from Father Nicholas Moonin to start using old ladies to replace the devil. Micky Moonin and Joe Tanape taught Pete Moonin, John Moonin and Mack Kvasnikoff how to act as the old ladies and told them to make sure there is no rough play against the New Year actor! Father Nicholas Moonin from the Russian Orthodox Church in English Bay suggested the people make the play entertaining where the old ladies joke and amuse the audience by telling stories.

The following is play instructions for the New Year's Celebration:

New Year's Celebration Play

Round #1 8:00-8:10pm

- The New Year 2019 actor blows his whistle and enters the stage and goes one Round bowing to everybody then brings in the 12 Months.
- The New Year brings in the MPs/policemen and the MPs make a round bowing to the audience.
- The MPs bring in the Old Year and the three Old Ladies (represents what is left of 2018 months) who also make a round bowing to the audience. After the group makes a round with the months, a MP blows his whistle for the cast to leave the stage.

Round #2 8:15-8:25pm

- The New Year blows his whistle to get the group to return back onto the stage/floor and they walk/dance around for 10 minutes until MP blows his whistle for the group to exit the room.

Round #3 8:35-8:50pm

- The New Year blows his whistle for the group to follow him onto the stage and walk one round and then the New Year 20(??) and Old Year 20(??) meet up in the center of the room and exchange cards with their year number and then they tear each other's cards up. The New Year and the Old Year begin to duel by hitting their sticks together, until the MPs and Old Ladies break up the fight!
- The MP's job is to keep the Old Ladies from bothering the New Year and the 12 Months. It is permitted for the New Year to pick on the Old Ladies, but the Old Ladies must not fight or hurt the New Year actor.
- The Old Ladies start talking **LOUDER**, entertain the audience and flirt with the New and Old Years.
- At this time the MPs guides the 12 Months to start dancing with the Old Year and hiding him in one place. When the Old Year is hiding behind the 12 Months, the MPs must get the Old Year up off his knee to start the group moving around the room again.
- The Old Ladies continue to flirt with the Old Year, New Year, men in the audience and entertain the Elders and audience by telling jokes.
- At 8:45 pm, a MP blows his whistle where the group leaves the stage/floor except the Old Ladies.
- The MPs returns and tries to get the old ladies out of the room off the stage. The Old Ladies are reluctant to leave the audience but they do not hide.

Round #4 9:00-9:10pm

- The New Year blows his whistle for the group to follow him into the stage.
- Old Ladies must talk loud and try to act like young women (even though they are old)... in order win the favor of the New Year and try to stop New Year from taking over the Old Year!
- Old Ladies entertain the audience, band players and 12 Months! If the Old Ladies get too much, the MPs steps in and keeps the peace!
- MP blows his whistle for all to exit stage/floor.

Round #5 9:20-9:30 Same as above

Round #6 9:40-9:50 Same as above

Round #7 10:00-10:10

- The New Year blows his whistle for the group to follow him into the stage room.
- The Old Ladies continue to entertain the audience and flirt with the New Year and Old Year.
- The New Year guides the Old Year over to the door with the tip of his paddle. Every once in a while will hit the Old Year on the back with his paddle.
- The Old Ladies feel sorry for the Old Year and gently love him up and build empathy from the audience by telling how the poor Old Man is getting chased away by the New Year.
- The 12 Months dance with the Old Year and the MPs help hide the Old Year so he can rest with the 12 Months, until the New Year nudges him with his paddle and makes him get up and start the group moving again.
- At 10:10 pm, a MP blows his whistle for everyone to leave the room and has to chase the Old Ladies out of the room and off the stage. The Old Ladies are reluctant to leave the audience but they do not hide.

Round #8 10:20-10:30 Same as above

Round #9 10:40-10:50 Same as above

Round #10 11:00-11:10

- Same as above and the music gets louder and the group starts to dance harder for the last three rounds.

Round #11 11:20-11:30 Same as above

- ***15 Minute Break before the Last Round!***

Round #12 11:45-12:00

- The New Year blows his whistle for the group to follow him into the stage.
- The New Year, Old Year and Old Ladies stick close together since this is the last round on dancing hard and the Old Ladies teasing the New Year and MP.
- The 12 Months do not dance with Old Year anymore.
- When the clock is 3 minutes before midnight the New Year chases the Old Year with the Old Ladies leading in front of him to the door threshold and the New Year hits the Old Year on the back.
- Someone shoots a shotgun once.
- The New Year and Old Ladies help the Old Year get up to return to the group and dance hard.
- The group continues to dance while they watch the clock, when the time is close to 2 minutes before midnight, the New Year again chases the Old Year with the Old Ladies leading him to the door threshold and hit him on the back again.
- Someone shoots a shotgun outside for the second time.
- The New Year, Old Year and Old Ladies come in dancing as hard as they can.
- MP guards the 12 Months while the New Year chases the Old Ladies and the Old Year & MP out of the door for the last time.
- The shotgun goes off the third and last time at midnight to bring in the NEW YEAR!
- The music stops to greet the New Year **20(??)** (**Exactly at 12:00 midnight!**)
- The 12 Months lift their veils and line up, out of the way, in their monthly order from January until December.
- The actors for the New Year, Old Year, Old Ladies & MPs enter into the center of the room without masks and costumes (which they had removed outside).
- Someone from the Russian Orthodox Church prays and everyone sings the song, “God Grant You Many Years!”
- After the prayer and song is done, the band plays a waltz tune where each of the actors dances a waltz with each other to show peace and forgiveness.
 - First to start, the New Year and the Old Year waltz. Then they take turns pulling the other members (MPs, Old Ladies & 12 Months) of the cast into the circle to dance a waltz until the New Year and male members of the cast have danced with all the 12 Months.
 - Once all of the actors of the play have danced, the cast starts to pull Elders and audience members into the circle to waltz the dance of peace, forgiveness and reconciliation to start off our New Year **20??** in Joy and Peace!

The Cast for the play is as follows:

New Year actor dressed all in white with a top hat and sparkling garland adorning his clothes.

*New Year = _____

Old Year actor dressed in dark rain gear with padding on back, beaked bird nose mask and heavy fur eyebrows.

*Old Year = _____

Three MP/policemen dressed in light clothes adorned with sparkling garland and a police helmet. Their job is to keep order, peace and help direct the play up to the climaxing time of 12:00am which will be the New Year.

*MP/police #1 = _____

*MP/police #2 = _____

*MP/police #3 = _____

Three Old Ladies male actors dressed up in old gunny sacks, long underwear, purses, and bird beaked nose masks with heavy fur eyebrows. Old Ladies portray the old months from last year and their job is to entertain the audience and try to protect the Old Year from harm.

*Old Lady #1 = _____

*Old Lady #2 = _____

*Old Lady #3 = _____

12 Months ladies to represent each month- January through December, dressed in white formals or white blouses and skirts, sashes written with month they represent and cone shaped pointy hats with veils (or crowns with veils).

*January = _____

*February = _____

*March = _____

*April = _____

*May = _____

*June = _____

*July = _____

*August = _____

*September = _____

*October = _____

*November = _____

*December = _____

Local Band Members to perform music for the play!

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____



Photos of Children's New Year's Celebration, courtesy of Rhoda Moonin, Nanwalek

