

Newsletter January 2010



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January!



Well, the month of January is named after the ancient god Janus, meaning doorway. It is generally the coldest month in the northern hemisphere - gulp - but here to warm you up is the January Clever Pants newsletter! This January is also special because it marks the first day of the new decades... but the big question is, what do we call them? 2000-2009 were the noughties, so what about the next ten years? the tweentens? the tens?

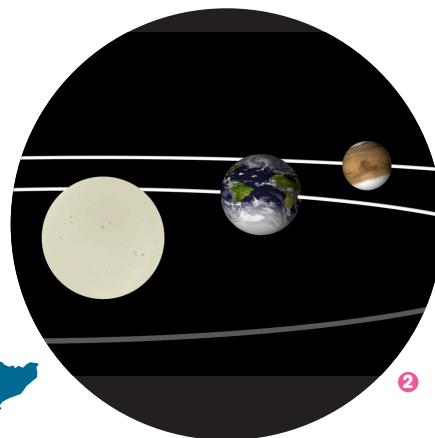
What's happening this January?

January 1 – Spain takes over the Presidency ❶ of the Council of the European Union from Sweden.

January 4 – The Burj Dubai in Dubai, United Arab Emirates will be completed. It is already the tallest man-made structure ever built.

January 15 – Annual eclipse occurs in Indian ocean. It can be seen in Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Uganda, Kenya, Maldives, southeastern of India, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, central China. It is also the longest annular eclipse in the 21st century.

January 29 – Mars opposition with Earth will occur. ❷



January jokes

A pessimist's blood type is always b-negative.

If you had to specify, in one word, why the human race has not, and will never achieve its full potential, that word would be meetings.

Every morning is the dawn of a new error.



What do you call a short sighted dinosaur?
A do-you-think-he-saw-us!

A successful diet is the triumph of mind over platter.

Reading while sunbathing makes you well, red.

January quotes

January, month of empty pockets!...
let us endure this evil month, anxious
as a theatrical producer's forehead.

- Colette



To read a poem in January is as
lovely as to go for a walk in June.

- Jean-Paul Sartre



Feeling a little blue
in January is normal.

- Marilu Henner

No one ever regarded the First of January
with indifference. It is that from which all
date their time, and count upon what is
left. It is the nativity of our common Adam.

- Charles Lamb

Big Music Quiz of 2009

How well do you know the big hits of 2009?
Are you a pop connoisseur or a chart drop-out?
Do our quiz to find out (and then try it on your students)!



Rihanna



Lady Gaga



Beyonce

1. Who sang poker face?

- a) Noisettes
- b) Pussycat Dolls
- c) Beyonce
- d) Lady Gaga

2. Fergie and Will.I.Am are members
of which band?

- a) The Fugees
- b) The Black Eyed Peas
- c) Bloc Party
- d) The Saturdays

3. Who is Sasha Feirce?

- a) Lady Gaga
- b) David Guetta
- c) Beyonce
- d) Shakira

4. Who turned into a Shewolf?

- a) Radiohead
- b) Shakira
- c) Girls Aloud
- d) Mariah Carey

5. What is Rihanna's new album called?

- a) Good girl gone bad?
- b) Hard Candy
- c) Rated R
- d) So What?

6. Who went on stage during
Taylor Swift's speech at the VMAs?

- a) Jay-Z
- b) Madonna
- c) Kanye West
- d) Ozzy Osborne

Meet the Clever Pants actors!

This month... **Jason!**

Date & place of birth: 02/03/1974, LEEDS, UK

Previous jobs: Dance teacher, cycle courier, Shakespeare tour of Germany France and Japan, Theatre Tour of Iceland.



What has the reaction been to the CLEVER PANTS shows so far?

The feedback from the teachers and staff has been very positive and encouraging and our young audiences seem to be learning and having lots of fun.

Where has been your favourite place on tour and why?

I enjoyed Island hopping in the Canary Islands, loved the stunning views, warm people and great fresh food!

Which CLEVER PANTS show do you like performing the most?

I love Clever Cupid for its wit and satire. The devices used are simple but very funny and encourage the audience to develop a relationship with the performers!

Which CLEVER PANTS character is the most fun to play?

I love playing Sidney in Sidneyrella because the small children enjoy it so much and have such an earnest belief that they can help save him

What's the best thing about being on tour?

Every day is different and it's an adventure!

What's the worst thing?

Not being around friends and family.

What has the best moment been for you - on or off stage?

Learning to climb / being laughed at by hundreds of people

How many arguments have you had?

None, unless I was in the bathroom when it happened...

Which words or phrases do your companions most overuse?

"That's what she said...", "back o the net...", "Good morning!!"

How do you relax on tour?

I love music, walking, reading and a little adrenalin!

What's the best meal you've had on tour?

It has to be a place in Santiago de Compostela called 'Forgar do Santiago' where we went rustic with two hundred others and had costillas and wine in bowls!

How many cups of coffee do you drink per day?

I draw the line at ten...

How many kilometres have you travelled in the last two months?

11,0654.3 more or less

Our Favourite Animations on the Web this month!

1. Bunny Short Films!

Animated bunnies re-enact famous films in hilarious 30-second animations. Some are a bit racy. We love Casablanca and Jaws!

<http://www.angryalien.com/0804/jawsbunnies.asp>

<http://www.angryalien.com/0506/casabunca.asp>

2. Penguin Parent Rage

This is one for anyone who has young children.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-s2BHofE-m0&feature=related>

3. Kiwi

This is a very sweet film about a kiwi who really, really wants to fly!

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sdUUx5FdySs>

January Recipe: Steak and kidney pie

Ingredients

- 1 Kidney, beef
- 4 tablespoons Shortening
- 2 Onion; chopped
- 2 pounds Round steak; cubed
- 1 1/2 tablespoons Worcester sauce
- 1/2 teaspoon Salt
- 1/2 teaspoon Pepper
- 2 tablespoons Butter; softened
- 2 tablespoons Flour
- 2 tablespoons Parsley; minced
- 1 teaspoon Rosemary
- 1 teaspoon Oregano

Pastry:

- 1 cup Flour; 2 teaspoons
- 1/4 teaspoon Salt
- 1/3 cup Shortening
- 2 tablespoons water, cold



Method

Wash the kidney, remove membranes and fat, and cut kidney in 1" cubes. Cube the steak into 1" cubes.

Melt the shortening in a heavy pot. Add the onions and cook, stirring often, until well browned. Add the steak and kidneys. When the meat is browned on all sides, pour on 2 cups of boiling water, Worcester, salt, and pepper. Cove and cook over a very low heat for 1 1/2 hours, or until the steak is tender.

Preheat the oven to 400 F.

Blend the butter with the flour to make a beurre manie. Drop small pellets of this paste into the sauce and stir to thicken it.

Put meat and sauce into a deep pie plate and sprinkle with parsley. If you wish to use a pastry topping, roll out the dough and cover the pie plate.

Slash the top, crimp the edges, and bake about 30 minutes, or until well browned.

Pastry:

Mix the flour and salt. Cut in the shortening with a pastry blender. Combine lightly only until the mixture resembles coarse meal or very fine peas; its texture will not be uniform but will contain crumbs and small bits and pieces. Sprinkle water over the flour mixture, a tablespoon at a time, and mix lightly with a fork, using only enough water so that the pastry will hold together when pressed gently into a ball.

A-CET

This year we will once again be working with the African Children's Educational Trust, donating money for every show we do to helping develop educational projects in Africa.

For more information visit their website at www.a-cet.org

Top eco-tip: if you print the newsletter out, do it in black and white at low resolution to reduce your use of ink

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