

Dondrite news

No 4 DECEMBER 2020

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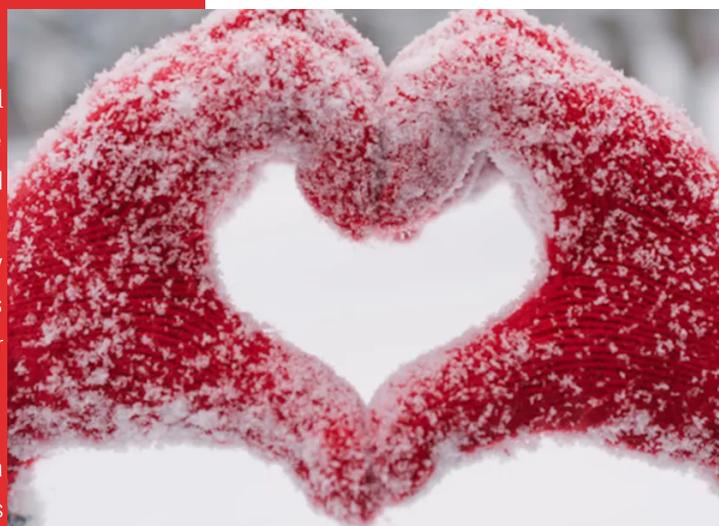
DEAR DONDRITES,

The holiday season will be different this year. Some of us might not be able to see our beloved families and there will be no fireworks on New Year's Eve. Moreover, the exams are right around the corner, which means that many students are studying during the holidays. We know these are hard times, but hang in there! Fortunately, we have plenty of ways to keep in touch with each other. This is of course different than contact in real life, but you can always try to check on your fellow students. A short message or call brightens up everyone's day.

Hopefully, this newsletter will provide the small break we are all looking for. Enjoy the interesting interview with Marijtje Jongma, get inspired by neuroscience-related podcasts and try to solve this week's crossword puzzle. Furthermore, an exciting change in the newsletter has been made: From now on, we will announce the winners of the Dondrite competitions and events in the newsletter! This means that in this newsletter we announce the winner of the meme competition!

Despite everything, we wish you all a nice holiday break and a happy new year. Stay healthy, stay safe and enjoy this month's newsletter!

Cheers,
Scribe



DECEMBER

"FOLLOW YOUR PASSION"

Getting to know Marijtje Jongmsa

This month, we interviewed a female associate professor, well known to most of us thanks to the Neuroanatomy course. She is an animal lover, dynamic, enthusiastic, entrepreneur and a known faculty for teaching CNS masters students with the Neuroanatomy course and the ERP skill course. Marijtje Jongmsa is an Associate professor at the Behavioural Science Institute (BSI). She studied Neuropsychology and biological psychology at the Radboud University and went to Australia for one year to as a junior researcher. There, she worked with ERP data from schizophrenia patients and she came back as her network of friends was rooted in the Netherlands. Then she started her Ph.D in animal research and subsequently obtained a VENI grand in 2000 and pursued a postdoc. She got a teaching position at the educational institute of psychology and then had another strike of winning a 5-year NWO grant in as a co-applicant. This time she made sure to get 50% research and 50% teaching time for the duration of the NOW project, which ended in 2016, From 2016 onward, her research time was curbed down to one day a week. Somehow this made her feel that her research is not well acknowledged by the university even though she has had a permanent position for a long time and has a solid track record in both education and research. However, she has a very supportive and inspiring supervisor who supports her work and facilitates her career development.

She is also a single mom, who loves to have her own family. Indeed she is a very proud thriving mother as it is not easy to balance academia and single parenting efficiently at the same time. She believes her success to get through contract jobs to get a permanent position and single parenting has flamed her to be what she is today.

When we asked her what she enjoys the most as an educator, her first word was the students. She chuckled and the question actually got her thinking. Content-wise she likes to share knowledge of neurophysiology and neuroanatomy with students to exchange ideas and satisfy the curiosity of budding researchers. She also loves to do science communication and going out for field trips with



students. The work constraints, work pressure, and lack of permanent contracts do make it very hard sometimes. Another part she likes is her work as a representative and board member of the trade union AOb, sector Academic Education & Research of academics which she is part of. They strive to bring in better perspectives for especially early career scientists, diminish the workload, increase a socially safe working environment, etc. When we asked her what she doesn't like in her present job, we got to hear the common cry "Admin". It constantly makes her feel something might go wrong and risky to try something new. If she could change something immediately at the faculty or at the university, she would like to change the organization of her faculty that organises education and research in separate institutes thus putting pressure on intertwined research and education, which is the core identity of academia and much needed to translate the knowledge smoothly by bridging the gaps between education programs and research in the science environment.

While growing up she always dreamt of becoming a Vet, but ended up in a somewhat closely related field which she is equally proud of. Marijtje was extremely humble and honest when we asked what would be her alternative career. She said she gets fascinated by her fellow colleagues and friends when they express their passion to her. Any career where you can follow your passion would be great. She also loves to cook and being a chef would be her alternative option.

Being students of CNS programme, we were curious to know her very first experience of holding the brain for the first time. She said she got an opportunity to study and work with real brains as a student and never stopped in the last 24 years having an absolutely amazing experience. She is impressed by how massively it impacts students with not just the knowledge but also personally. The experience of holding a human brain and locating the parts in the unique organ immediately mirrors your being. This literally gives her goosebumps, even now. She also feels it's a new experience every year when she mentors new CNS students as for most of the students. She takes pride guiding students who are having their first hands-on exposure as that is an extremely personal existential experience.

Considering the fact that she has been teaching for so many batches of students, we were inquisitive to know her particular opinion on us, the CNS students. I guess she was waiting and expecting for this question as we received multiple nodes of "Yeah, yeah!" She believes that the CNS master programme itself is one of the most successful international courses with students from all over the world and it's one of her favourite programmes. In general she feels our students have a great mix and talent. She expressed one of her experiences of publishing a paper with 10 CNS students on an ERP experiment conducted at a science festival in Amsterdam. Isn't that cool to go outside the lab and conventional procedures and have loads of fun while learning and working? While we were on the topic related to students, we asked her experience of teaching online. She said it was shocking as she had to start the ERP skills course shortly after the start of the 1st lockdown. It was a very practical course which relied on workshops, but the small group of students led to great interaction via Zoom. This was her first acquaintances with digital and distance learning. She reckons that she had a good time and made the best of it. As a student, I also totally agreed with her. She had several cameras linked to her PC in her home office and her efforts to teach us were evident and simply fantastic. Thank you, Marijtje. Of course she misses teaching in live class and being in it together as younger students are very critical on every concept they are introduced to. She feels the pain of her colleagues as they are trying best to educate students but still lack somewhere as there is no real interaction. She feels this distance learning is a threat for the educational community. It's important to meet each other, share thoughts and listen to stupid things over a coffee. However, she is looking forward to do her next course because the distance learning allows new possibilities such as allowing students and professors from other universities to join in and to develop joint courses.

So, lastly when we asked for a message to fellow student, it came naturally out of her experience: "Stay healthy and follow your passion." She also pointed out that becoming a workaholic is real threat in academia. So, be mindful of its worth and see how you want your grandchildren to see you in the future.



A WORD FROM THE BOARD

Dear Dondrites,

First of all we would like to thank you once again for voting the both of us in. To be honest, it feels a little strange to be a creator instead of a passive reader of the current newsletter. But we will manage. Hopefully you liked our story take-overs on Instagram that we did the other day, but in case you missed it we would like to introduce ourselves once again here. So hey, I am Nele, a first year student from the PAC tract. Fun facts about me: I hiked through the Swedish wilderness for 14 days and I have been on dutch television before, representing our uni. I am really looking forward to getting to know you guys.

And hi, Brittany here! Some of you might already know me and for those who don't, you will get to know me. I am that over-enthusiastic girl who spends way too much time on Social Media, at the gym or playing board games. I actually love to write, but I never give myself the time. Same holds for reading though. Ah well, both of us are really looking forward to the upcoming months of being on the board. It will be challenging because of the 2.0 lockdown, but we have full confidence that we will keep on improving the board where we can. We would like to encourage you to let us know if you have ideas on how to improve Dondrite or a potential cool activity that you love to attend.

One minor detail is that we just realised that some of you might not even know what our current board positions are, so here we go: Nele will take over the tasks of Charlotte as treasurer, so now she is the one who possesses all the MON-EY! Brittany on the other hand wants nothing to do with the money and is only interested in public relations, therefore she will become the new PR-manager. The both of us are enthusiastic and have marvellous ideas that are compliant with our policy plans. Especially in these dark corona times we feel that Dondrite should feel like a home to you. We would like to encourage all of you to join the activities once in a while to stay close to your fellow students or even meet some new ones. Hopefully we will soon be able to enjoy a nice cold beer all together in real life, but for now. We wish you all the best and happy holidays. Stay healthy, stay safe, we will see you soon!

Lots of love,

Nele and Brittany





RECENT DONDRITE EVENTS



Online board game night

On Thursday, December 1st, Dondrite's Activity committee organized an online board game night. Several games like Cards against Humanity, Pictionary, Mafia, Among Us, Black stories and Codenames were provided in nine different rooms of meet jitsi. A lot of them enthusiastically participated and had a fun evening. We look forward to many more events like this which connects folks of CNS programme despite the circumstances.

General Assembly meeting

On Wednesday, December 2nd, Dondrite's Board organized an online general assembly to vote for new changes in the by laws and for two new members Brittany and Nele. We wish the new Board team a great success.

Whatsapp Werewolf game

On Sunday, December 6th, the Activity committee organized a week long whatsapp werewolf game with 20 participant while many enthusiasts followed this game through instagram stories. The winners of this event will were of course the villagers of Tavern. We look forward for this game in real life next time



Beer tasting

On Friday, December 11th, the activity committee organised a beer tasting event with 13 participants. The beers were delivered to most of the participants by the organizers. Alek, an expert who is in special beer association in Brussels guided and explained a little bit about beers. Then, all the participants gave rating on different aspects of the beer. Everyone enjoyed just having some beers together.

Games, Brains and Motivation

On Wednesday, December 16th, Education committee of Dondrites organised an interactive lecture with Frank Leone. He spoke on well-neing, personal development, and motivation. About 30 people participated in this event. We look forward for many more interactive sessions which can benefit students career interest and general well being.



Scientific Movie Night - Diversity in Science

On Thursday, December 10th, the Education committee organized a movie night. Together with 15 people, they watched Hidden Figures by three brilliant African-American women at NASA, Katherine Johnson, Dorothy Vaughan and Mary Jackson, who serve as the brains behind one of the greatest operations in history: The launch of astronaut John Glenn into orbit, a stunning achievement that restored the nation's confidence, turned around the Space Race and galvanized the world. After watching they had a nice discussions about equality and diversity in (Neuro)science.



Dear readers,

This is the last edition of dondrite newsletter for the year 2020... The closing of one door and opening of another. We want to thank each and everyone of you for your warmth, support, the memories, and the learning we shared in this weird year. We want to appreciate all of you for your hard-work and hustle in digital era. Hope the coming days are going to get better. We encourage you all to take it easy and have a small break before we hit exams, vaccines, internship, and so on.

Wish you all a happy winter break and good luck for coming up exams !!!



Christmas break



MONTHLY MEME

Out of all awesome neuroscience related memes, there are three marvelous ones that got the majority of votes. These memes are made by Emma, Fabian and Eline, congrats!! These creative minds get their well deserved 5€ gift card for Bett & Mora. Please, do not forget, all 91 memes were fantastic, we are all winners!!!

WINNERS MEME COMPETITION

Emma
Fabian
Eline



Arno: Make sure not to take much more than 30EC in one semester.

Me, at the start of every semester:



When someone asks how you turn off the magnet



DONDRITE PICKS

Neuroscience podcasts

Brain Science Podcast



SAGE Neuroscience and Neurology

Naked Neuroscience

'Shut up, brain' Podcast

Inside out

NOTICEBOARD

Scribe wishes everyone
happy holidays!

Do you have anything you want to share here? Send us your message at scribedondrite@gmail.com

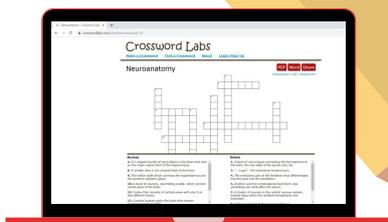


CROSSWORD

Christmas days are coming, the season of family, food and presents. So, what is more fitting than a Christmas movie crossword? Do you still remember all your Christmas favorite movies? With this puzzle you can test your knowledge on Christmas classics and new Christmas movies.

On the next page you will find the solution to last month's puzzle.

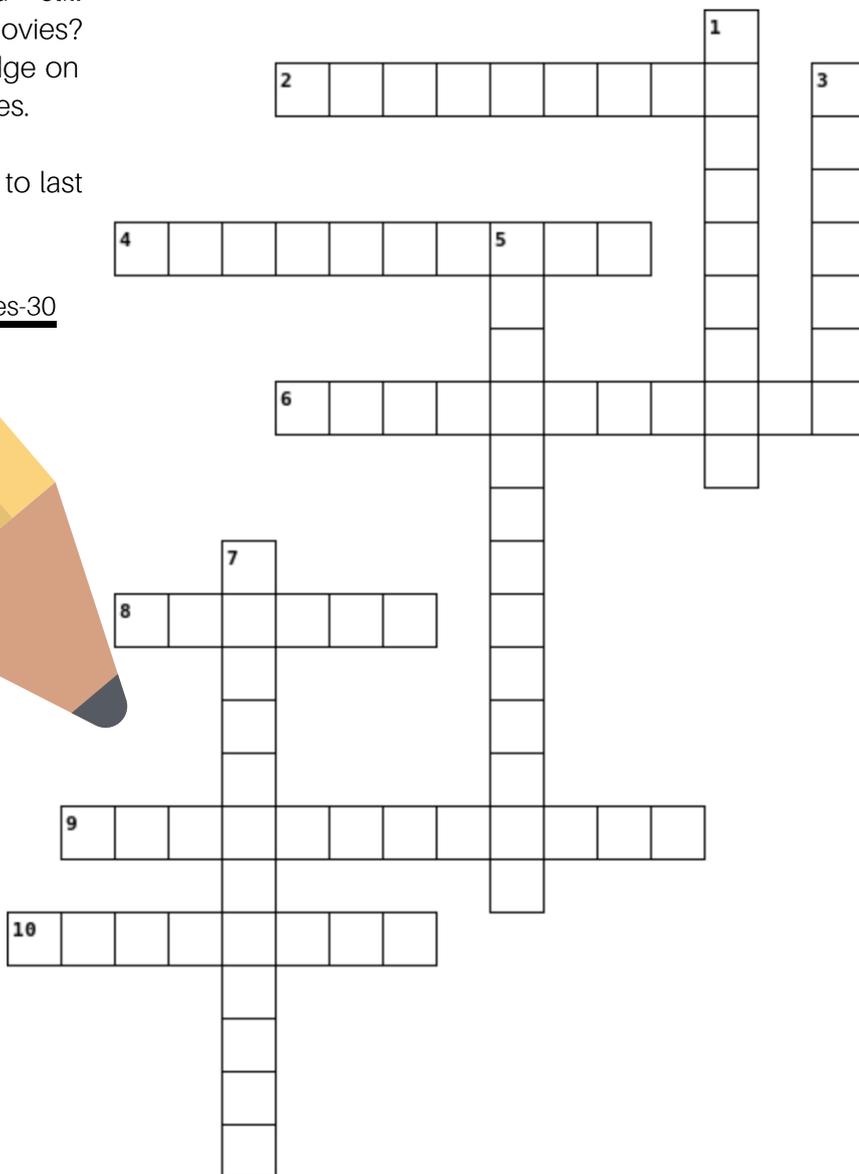
<https://crosswordlabs.com/view/christmas-movies-30>



On the next page you will find the solution to last month's puzzle.



Christmas movies



Across

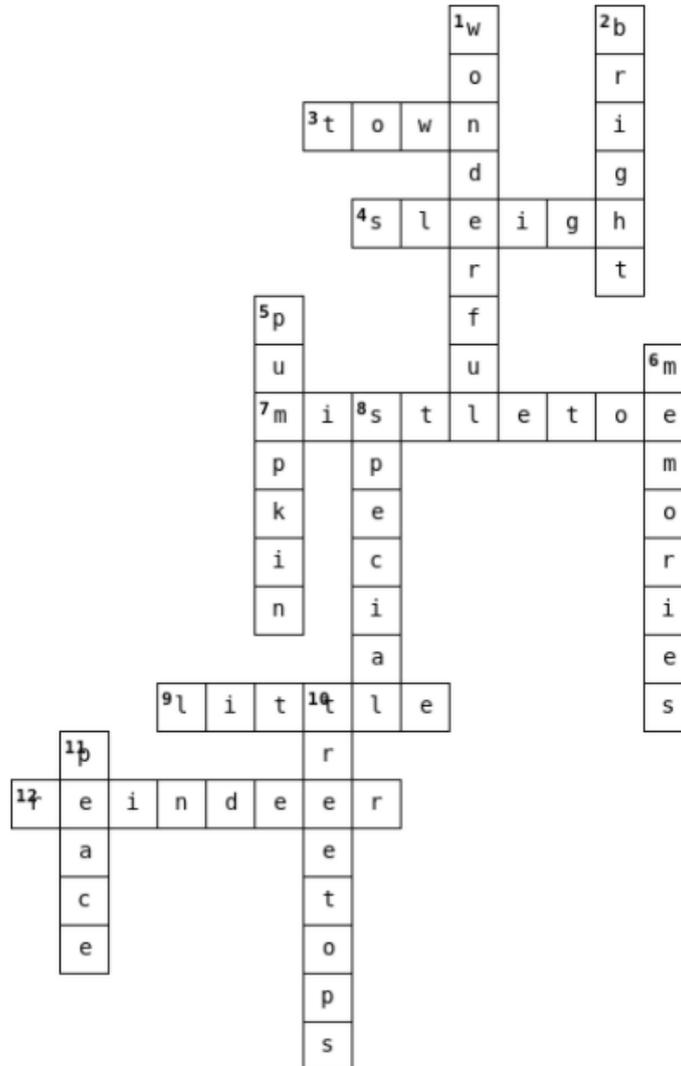
2. American movie about the eight years old Kevin
4. A broken sleight and two kids trying to save all the Christmas presents
6. Stoners reliving their Christmas party tradition
8. American movie about an eerie Who
9. A romantic comedy about love stories starting 5 weeks before Christmas
10. A conman poses as Santa and his partner robbing Christmas stores

Down

1. A feel good movie about small town senior students
3. Classic movie about a girl and a man claiming to be Santa (fill in only the first word of the movie title)
5. Have faith and life can take unexpected turns
7. A new movie about an inventor and his wind-up doll

CROSSWORD solution

Christmas songs



Across

3. Santa Claus is coming to ____
4. In a one-horse open ____
7. And I'm just gonna keep on waiting underneath the ____
9. Have yourself a merry ____ Christmas
12. Rudolph the red-nosed ____

Down

1. Simply having a ____ Christmas time
2. What a ____ time, it's the right time
5. Later we'll have some ____ pie
6. Driving home for Christmas with a thousand ____
8. This year, to save me from tears, I'll give it to someone ____
10. Where the ____ glisten and children listen
11. ____ on earth for everyone

**"You think controls are normal.
They're not."**

- Anonymous professor lamenting basically
all of comparative neuroscience

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DONDRITE UPDATES**



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