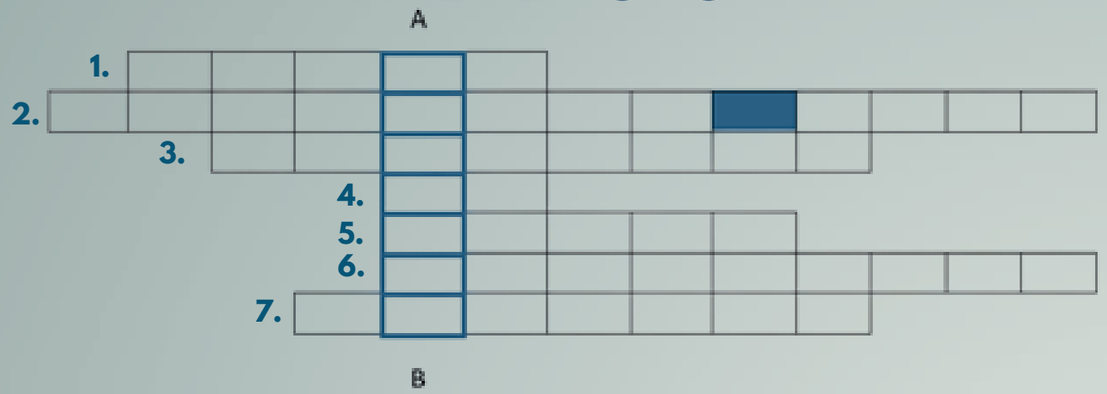
REBUS



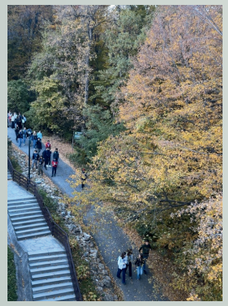
1. What do we call a frozen ball of dust and ice that develops a tail when it nears the Sun?
2. What do we call the Moon phase when only a thin curved part of it is visible, shaped like a semicircle?
3. What do astronomers call the apparent path that the Sun follows across the sky over the course of a year?
4. Which moon of Jupiter is known for its intense volcanic activity?
5. Which dwarf planet was reclassified from being the ninth planet in 2006?
6. What do astronomers call the massive explosion of a star at the end of its life?
7. What is the term for the point in the orbit of the Moon or a satellite when it is closest to Earth?

Grandma's Traditional Romanian Cheese Pie

Ingredients:
500 g sweet cottage cheese
3 eggs
100 g sugar
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
1 pack of phyllo pastry (approx. 400 g)
100 g butter or oil (for brushing the layers)
Powdered sugar for decoration

Instructions:
Preheat the oven to 180°C (350°F).
In a bowl, mix the cottage cheese with eggs, sugar, and vanilla until smooth.
Grease a baking dish with butter or oil.
Place one sheet of phyllo, brush with butter, then add another sheet.
Spread a generous layer of the cheese filling over the phyllo.
Cover with more phyllo sheets, brushing each with butter, and seal the edges.
Bake for 35-40 minutes, until the pie is golden brown.
Let it cool slightly and sprinkle powdered sugar on top before serving.
Tip: Serve plain or with a side of cream or yogurt.



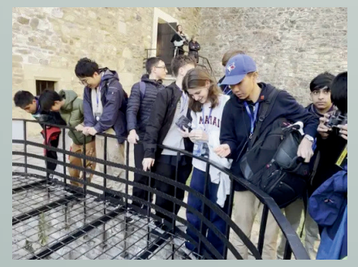












-daily news-

ASTROPHILE

3rd edition

22 October, 2025
Piatra Neamț, România



WEATHER
SUNNY,
15°C / 59°F
4°C / 38°F

Yesterday, students tackled the first theoretical challenge, explored Târgu Neamț, and discovered the secrets of history and astronomy. Find all the fun facts, photos, and stories inside!







"THE UNIVERSE IS UNDER NO OBLIGATION TO MAKE SENSE TO YOU." - NEIL DEGRASSE TYSON







Memories from the past day
(the 21st of October):

Tuesday was a day full of both brains and beauty!

Test 1 - Theoretical Round:

In the morning, the participants faced the Theoretical Round – the first big test of IOAA jr 2025. For 4 hours, the classrooms of Colegiul Național Petru Rareș were filled with quiet focus, equations and determination.

Daria from Moldova shared some thoughts with us:

"So for me, the subjects were okay,they could have been harder, but they weren't easy compared to past years. It's fair that they get more difficult as you gain experience, because it's the beginning of the Olympiad and they're still trying to figure out the right level of complexity. But then, as far as I know and remember, there was no CCD in the syllabus, and they still included it, so I was quite nervous about that. Apart from that, there were some exercises where I couldn't figure out the final result. There was also a lot of spherical trigonometry, around four or five questions were just about that. But the rest was fine."

here is what Valentina from Columbia had to say:

"At first, I was really nervous. But when I read the first exercise, I realized it wasn't completely unfamiliar, it was something I could handle, so I relaxed a bit. Then, as I went through the rest, I thought: Okay, I'm going to be fine...All the topics were connected. If you understood one topic, it helped you solve the others.".

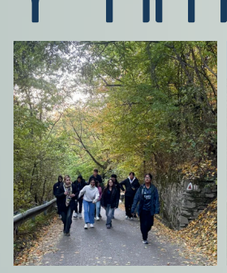
Neamț county trip:

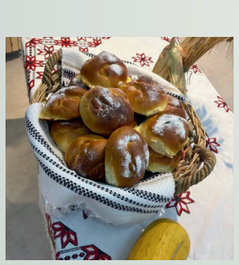
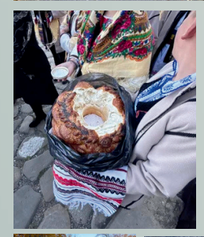
The trip began in Piatra Neamț at 4:00 PM, as students and volunteers gathered in front of the Ceahlău Hotel, ready for an afternoon full of adventure. From the moment the bus started moving, the atmosphere was full of energy and excitement – students sang together, shared snacks, and talked with enthusiasm about what the day had in store for them. The cheerful mood set the perfect tone for the day.

The first destination was the impressive Neamț Fortress, a symbol of history and tradition. As the group arrived, they were warmly greeted with smiles, freshly baked pies, and savory traditional rolls. The hosts, dressed in beautiful folk costumes, made everyone feel part of something truly special. Inside the citadel, students explored the medieval halls, admired the view from the walls, and made wishes at the old fountain, hoping they would come true. This was followed by a lively dance performance and a traditional hora, where the children eagerly joined in, learning the steps and participating with laughter and enthusiasm. The combination of music, dance, and history created an atmosphere that was vibrant, immersive, and unforgettable.

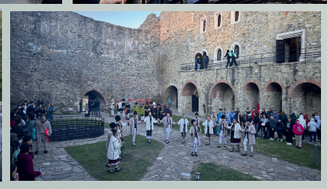
After leaving the fortress, the group continued their journey to the Neamț Bison Reserve. There, they were welcomed once again with delicious pies and hot tea – a perfect treat after the adventure. The students watched a short video about Neamț County, learning new and interesting facts about the area's history, nature, and wildlife.

The whole excursion was filled with smiles, curiosity, and laughter. From songs on the bus to dancing at the fortress and relaxing in nature, every moment blended learning with fun. It was a day that celebrated culture, friendship, and discovery – an experience that everyone will remember fondly for years to come.

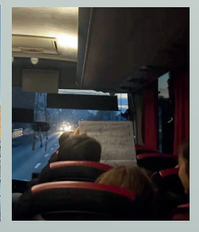


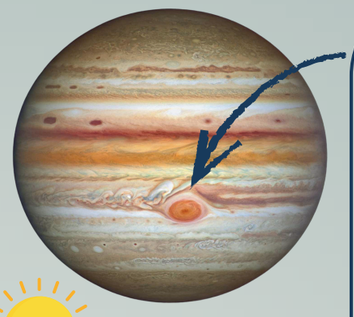











DID YOU KNOW?

There are more trees on Earth than stars in the Milky Way! (About 3 trillion trees vs. 100-400 billion stars.)

The Great Red Spot is a giant storm that has been spinning on the planet Jupiter for more than three centuries. Some scientists believe it could easily swallow the Earth twice over! It's like an enormous hurricane, with very powerful winds. The storm is a high-pressure system, which is why it lasts so long, as Jupiter has no solid surface to stop it. Its reddish color is likely caused by chemicals in the planet's atmosphere. Even though it is shrinking, it remains one of Jupiter's most famous features.



Somewhere, something incredible is waiting to be known.

– Carl Sagan

This Day in History – October 22
1879 – Thomas Edison tests his first successful light bulb
1975 – Soviet spacecraft Venera 9 lands on Venus
1968 – Apollo 7 safely returns to Earth after its mission

Word of the Day
"Stea" = Star
Try using it today!
"You are a stea!"

Halley's Comet is one of the most famous comets in history, visiting Earth roughly every 76 years. People have observed it for over 2,000 years, recording it in chronicles in China, Babylon, and Europe. Its most recent appearance was in 1986, and it will return in 2061. Halley is famous for its bright glowing tail, created when its icy nucleus heats up near the Sun, releasing gas and dust. This comet is not just a spectacular sight – it's also a witness to history, having appeared during events like the Battle of Hastings in 1066.




Illustration of a comet from the Ausburg Book of Miraculous Signs

Romania through international eyes

During our trip to Targu Neamt, I asked our Italian friends — Luca, Gaia, and Alessandro — to describe the experience in three words. Their answers were "flagrant", "unexpected" and "discovery", capturing the surprises and excitement of the day.

Ognyam from Bulgaria shared his highlight:
"It was very interesting to see lots of people and lots of nations."

Tadeas and Dario from the Czech Republic talked about what they'll miss most:

"I've made a lot of friends, and the food is really nice," said Tadeas. "I'll miss the study sessions on the floor, and yes, the food is great too," added Dario.
About unexpected pleasures, Tadeas said:
"I thought I would hate the dance, but it was really fun and surprising."
Dario added:
"I really liked the museums in Piatra Neamt. They were very interesting — full of culture and art."
On science and astronomy, they reflected:
"I see it more as a team game than a competition," said Tadeas. "People from different countries are connected by science," said Dario.

Finally, Lukas from Greece shared his favorite moments:
"I smiled the most when they fired the guns and during the dance. It was fun and full of energy. Even though we have castles in Greece, this experience felt completely different and very interesting."

Seeing Romania through their eyes was a real pleasure.
Their stories showed that this trip was not just about learning, but also about friendship, culture, and connection.
Romania has truly become a place of discovery for everyone.

