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A proud department of
The School District of Osceola County, FL
Student Achievement -
Our Number One Priority

As the year 2011 comes to an end, we would like to thank all of you for your continued support in helping your child achieve high educational goals. We hope that the coming holiday season is one filled with joy, health, and many opportunities for family fun, sharing, and learning.

Interesting Christmas Traditions from Around the World

Christmas in **Australia** is often very hot, it is not unusual to have Christmas Day near 100 degrees Fahrenheit. Some Australians and tourists often have their Christmas dinner at midday on a local beach, other families enjoy their day by having a picnic, or enjoying activities around their swimming pool.

In **Liberia** (Africa), most homes have an oil palm for a Christmas tree. It is decorated with bells. On Christmas morning, people are woken up by carols. Presents such as cotton cloth, soap, sweets, pencils, and books are exchanged.

In **Bangladesh** formerly (East Pakistan), the Christian village men cut down scores of banana trees and replant them in pairs along the paths to churches and outside their homes.

Papai Noel or Father Noel is the gift-bringer in **Brazil**. According to legend, he lives in Greenland. When he arrives in Brazil, he usually wears silk clothing due to the summer heat.

In the north of **France**, children are given gifts on December 6, which is St. Nicholas' Day, instead of Christmas Day. The adults give each other presents on New Year's Day.

Mexicans share many traditions with the Spanish. Their main Christmas celebration is called *La Posada*, which is a religious procession that reenacts the search for shelter by Joseph and Mary before the birth of Jesus.

Parrandas is Christmas caroling **Puerto Rican** style. Friends gather late in the evening to go from one house to the next singing traditional songs. The *parranderos* must surprise the unsuspecting friends and wake them with their music. They gather outside the front door and at a signal the musicians play and the rest sing. At each house they stop for a while and party, then they go to the next house. At each stop the owners of the house join the *parranda* and it grows in numbers during the evening.

Christmas is one of the four most important festivals of the **Vietnamese** year, (other three are the birthday of Buddha, the New Year and the mid-autumn festival). Dinner usually consists of chicken soup, or turkey and Christmas Pudding.

In **Ecuador** the children write letters to the Christ-child and place shoes in the window in which he may place toys as he passes by on Christmas Eve.

Christmas trees are usually found in **Swedish** homes two days before Christmas. Decoration may include candles, apples, Swedish flags, small gnomes wearing red tasseled caps, straw ornaments.

Fun Holiday Learning Activities: Have your child draw pictures, write stories or poems of their favorite Christmas tradition; let them keep a journal of the day's activities. Have your child or teen take part in planning any part of a holiday event. They can help make shopping lists, calculate cost of needed foods or items, and compare store prices for bargains. Encourage them to write and send original, creative invitations; allow them to decorate the table with their very own arts and crafts. Whatever you do this holiday season as a family, enjoy, enjoy, enjoy!

Chen Tova ~ Maligayamg Pasko ~ Sung Tan Chuk Ha ~ Jwaye Nowel
Feliz Navidad ~ Milad Majid ~ Feliz Natal ~ Christmas-e-shoma-mobarak bashad



MERRY CHRISTMAS
and a
PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR!

