



THE HOLIDAY SEASON

You give but little when you give of your possessions. It is when you give of yourself that you truly give.

It is the time of year when we turn a lot of attention towards gifts for our children. Giving gifts to our children is one of the fundamental joys of parenting. Like everything associated with raising children, there are some pitfalls to avoid.

One of the things that we see many parents do is base gift giving on desired behaviors. Parents use presents to gain leverage over children's behavior. "If you don't behave, you might be disappointed at what you get this year." and statements like this only serve to undermine a parent's relationship with their children. As a parent myself, I only want my child to do what is right and not make mistakes that will narrow his choices in life. But gift giving is an act of love and selflessness not a reward or punishment. We provide gifts for our children because we want them to experience joy and love. It is easy to fall into the trap of basing our holiday gifts on certain outcomes.

Another challenge of this time of year revolves around the amount of time, effort and expense that we put into finding just the right gifts for our children. Lots of parents spend endless hours - or even days - scouring store shelves for that awesome action figure, digital doodad, or doll their child has been wanting. Again, we only want what is best for our children.

There is a danger here of exerting more energy on finding these gifts than showing our youngsters what a gift they are to us. This pertains to many of our adult activities this time of year. We try to make things perfect and forget that the most perfect gift of all is the expression of never-ending, unconditional love.

We are all wired to need love. All of us yearn for a relationship with someone who will love us forever, regardless of how we behave. This is the greatest gift we can give our children.



During this holiday season, my hope is that you'll spend more time playing with your kids than you spend shopping for them. Remember that the gift they really yearn for is you; hug them and smile into their eyes as often as possible and show them through your never-ending love what a precious gift they are.

We look forward to seeing you at the Fête d'Hiver on December 15th at 6:00.

PEACE MUSEUM

Some of the pictures in this edition are from the Peace Museum. This was a great event thanks to the coordination by Lisa Berman and all of the parents that came to help. The kids had a spectacular time, and we hope to hold similar events in the future.

Borders Book Fair

I want to give special thanks to all of the parents, students and teachers who helped at the Border's Book fair. A special thank you is due to Sally Matiszik for coordinating the event, advertising it and making it happen.

WINTER RECESS

In the French School we go outside for recess every day.

All students are expected to come to school dressed appropriately for the weather.

If the temperature and wind chill factor combine to a temperature of less than 15° F (-9° C) recess may be abbreviated or cancelled at the discretion of the teachers or administrator.

Recess will be cancelled if the wind chill and temperature combine to less than 10°.

Recess will be cancelled if snow, ice, or water have accumulated on the playing surface. While we know that fresh air is important for everyone, safety is a necessity.

Toys at School

Toys are becoming a distraction at school. Please speak with your children about this. Toys are only allowed on the rare occasion that a teacher asks a student to bring in something special to share. Even then, I would discourage your child from bringing in a toy. These little treats cause an enormous disruption in school. I have built up quite a collection from confiscating misused toys around the school.

December 22nd Celebration

The last day of school this year is Wednesday December 22nd. We have planned a joyous celebration for that afternoon. One of our desires as a staff is to bring the students closer together across the grades. Towards this end, we will be mixing classes at this years celebration and supporting partners and team work across the grade levels. Each classroom will have five celebration activity centers. The mixed students will be partnered and will participate in all the activities. We will have Pin the Nose on the Snowman with guided directions in French by student partners, snowball bowling, as well as making gingerbread people and friendship cards together. The Celebration will culminate with an all-school circle in the multi-purpose room where we will have hot cocoa and sing our



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school and class songs. Parents are welcome to participate in this celebration. If you would like to help, please contact your child's teacher to let them know you will be attending and offer your help.

Fête d'Hiver Evening

We are planning a special night of singing and celebration at the 2nd annual Fête d'Hiver. Please make plans to join us. Each class is planning to sing a song or two and there will be a few other special performances from the kids. I truly hope your family will join us. Don't forget to sign up to bring something to the event. Sharing food is one of the joys of the season.

Have a great week.

Conrad

IMPORTANT INFO

- Remember to get to school on time. We begin at 8:40.
- Formal days are Mondays in the French School.
- PLEASE put your child's name in all clothing. It all LOOKS the same.
- PLEASE no toys at school.
- The LOST and FOUND is now located in the front closet. Thank you Leah!

IMPORTANT DATES

- 12-09 Parents' French Class 5:00 French 1
- 12-11 New Family Open House 2:00
- 12-15 Fête d'hiver 6:00 - 8:00
- 12-22 Last Day of School 2010