

# *New Horizons Country Day School Elementary News*

December 2014

Page 1

## **DATELINE**

Mon. - Friday      **Dec. 1-5 HOLIDAY TOY DRIVE**  
*Each child should bring in a toy for a child approx. their same age!*

Wednesday      Dec. 17    Holiday Caroling

Thursday      **Dec. 18      Elementary K-5th Skating  
& Pizza K-5th**



*Friday*      *Dec. 19*      *Non Uniform Day*

**Dec. 22 - Jan. 2    WINTER HOLIDAYS - SCHOOL CLOSED**

Monday      **Jan. 5**      CLASSES RESUME



# **Have A Happy Holiday!**

*From all of us at  
New Horizons Country School*

## *Gifts that last a lifetime!*

The best gift a parent can give their child often does not come in packages, wrapped in bows and/or cost you a second mortgage or a house payment.

**This Holiday Season when times are tough, give your child(ren) some of these gifts instead of expensive toys that get put aside quickly after the special holiday:**



**Give your child the gift of limits.** Children love limits, they do best knowing what is expected of them and what will be the consequences of their behavior.

**Give your child the gift of responsibility.** Make your child responsible for their personal care, cleaning up after themselves and helping out as part of your family unit. Always make them responsible for their behavior, never let them off the hook or make excuses for them.

**Give your child the gift of understanding money \$\$\$\$.** If times are tight and your child wants a big ticket item, explain that the item may not be given to them but they can work to earn this item. Children can sense the tenuousness in a household that is in financial trouble, sit and discuss the issues with your child. Show your child that purchases are made with actual money not always credit cards. Credit cards make money seem like something magic. Open your child a savings account, so they can learn to save their earnings. Give your child household jobs so that they can earn the things they want to have, pay them according to getting the job done and quality of the job. Never! Ever! Pay your child for grades and/or doing nothing but being. This will help your child grow to be financially responsible when they become an adult.

**Give your child the gift of reading.** Research shows that reading to, with and beside your child daily is the most valuable task available to make your child a reader. Each day read to your child, Mom and Dad can take turns, and/or exchange turns with siblings. Some of the best memories and discussions happen when lying in bed at night while reading and talking.

**Give your child the gift of knowing that education is important.** Standing behind your child's teacher is the one thing you can do to let your child know their teacher's are respected, and that they have your full support. Teachers are paid at a poverty level, so the respect they get from parents is very important. Offer to help your child's teacher with activities, cutting items at home, attending special occasions, etc...

**Give your child the gift of time.** Your child will not remember the toys you give them but the time you spend with them will stay with them forever. Give them a walk in the park, nightly walks around the block, picnics in the park, a family trip to the beach, play a board game with your child, see a movie, go out for ice cream, take a bike ride, sit in the driveway and watch them play/ride their bikes/draw w/ sidewalk chalk. For the holiday, make your child a coupon book from you for one special day of each month that they have with you. Take the entire day to spend with this one child, going and doing, experiencing and talking, getting to know your child as an individual.

**Give your child the gift of culture.** Feed your child new foods, take your child out to eat at culture restaurants and share the experience with them. Don't ever force your child to eat new foods, but remember what is on their plate is what is for dinner. Visit local museums, plays, performances and/or concerts.

**Give your child the gift of tradition.** A child's most remembered life activities are the family gatherings that were special. Special holiday gatherings, baking and decorating holiday cookies, special first day of school events, Saturday morning special outings, home birthday parties, surprise parties for family members, cooking dinner together once a week, make a special birthday cake together for a family member, construct or make your family birthday and holiday gifts, dance with your children once a week, make - don't buy - your child's Halloween costumes.

**Give your child the gift of independence.** Never rescue your child from any situation. Let your child speak to authorities when in trouble, make your child go to his/her teacher when they have questions and/or experiencing difficulties in a subject, let your child feed, dress, and bathe themselves, teach your child to tie their own shoes, carry their own backpacks, comb and brush their own teeth and hair, clear their own dishes, feed their own pets, and have a voice within a set of limited choices.

*As my children have grown, moved away and developed as adults their fondest memories are not of a toy, game and/or a gift received but the event itself, the tradition of our family events, the limits set by the adults in their lives (that they later came to understand and appreciate), the trust that was earned by them, the responsibility that was allowed them, and the independence they gained through taking care of themselves and their understanding of fiscal responsibilities. All these things learned from family interactions and timed shared. They make me proud as a parent with their successes in life.*

**“Don’t Blink”** (as Kenny Chesney would sing) or you will miss your chance to give the most important gifts and to make a difference in your child’s life!

## How to Make Holidays A Time For Learning

(from TEACHING K-8 Nov/Dec issue)



Holiday celebrations present countless opportunities for children to connect what they’re learning in school to what is going on in their lives.

Usually, there are holiday meals to prepare, and if you leave a little longer time to work in the kitchen, even the youngest can help measure ingredients and count what’s needed to set the table.

Older children can estimate portions and help with the shopping. With a little imagination on your part, a grocery store can be a wonderful learning center.

If your holiday involves gift giving, have children estimate the cost of presents they’d like to buy for friends and family and then read newspaper ads to verify their estimates. Suggest that they create a budget for gifts, and shop through the advertisements, staying within the total amount budgeted.

There aren’t only math opportunities here. Include children in the planning, for what we want them to read and write for useful purposes. Let them make your lists, issue written invitations and, of course, write thank you notes.

### ***To Keep Your Child Learning Over This Holiday Season***

(from PARENTS MAKE THE DIFFERENCE! -The Parent Institute)

Try these fun ideas to keep your child learning over the holidays:

1. **Read several holiday** stories together.
2. **Bake cookies** and other holiday treats with the entire family helping.
3. **Write notes of cheer** and thank you notes for teachers, family and friends.
4. **Ask children to help** you compare prices for gift shopping.

5. **Encourage children** to make a "Wish List" of things they want. Insist that some of the items can't cost money.
6. **Adopt a needy family** and plan together how to provide them clothing, toys, food and holiday decorations.
7. **Make homemade** ornaments out of thread spools, shiny paper, ribbon, styrofoam shapes, glitter, spray paint.
8. **Buy your child a small,** live potted tree. Show her/him how to care for it.
9. **As a family, choose** and attend a concert/special holiday event.
10. **Make musical memories.** Have each family member select some favorite songs and record them onto a family holiday cassette.
11. **Hold a "nostalgia night."** Gather around, young and old. Share pictures and scrapbooks. Watch old movies. Talk about what it was like when each was young.
12. **Allow your child** to invite friends to come over and bring one toy or game to share.
13. **Give small educational** gifts — like a funky ruler, calculator or miniature magnifying glass.
14. **Let your child help** you plan a holiday trip and keep track of gas, mileage and expenses.
15. **Give your child** "Me and You, Kid" coupons that your child can use when she/he wants to spend time reading, playing or working on a special project with you.

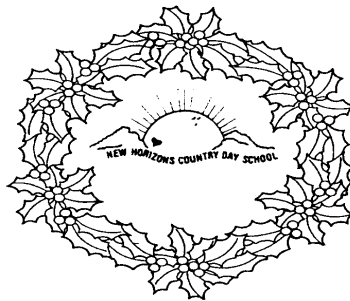
## Tax Season

As our fiscal year comes to an end New Horizons is often asked to prepare a statement for tax purposes. **We will prepare for each family this information free of cost, if your account is current. Please contact the office for a year-end statement. Statements will be done on a request only basis.**

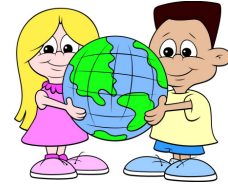
**Tuition Express:**  
[www.tuitionexpress.com](http://www.tuitionexpress.com)

**Our tax I.D.**  
**# 59-3327147**

*A Happy  
Holiday Season and  
A Great New Year  
To  
Everyone!*



## Kindergarten/ Explorers



by  
**Mrs. Minnie Schroeder**

As 2014 draws to a close we look back and see all our children have accomplished so far this academic year. For many it is the reading of the written word that has flourished, perhaps it is the ability to now write a Math equation or some new and interesting facts gained along the way.

I am looking ahead towards the new year and all we need to accomplish before your child moves on to the next grade. It is time to take stock of your child's sense of responsibility and what they are doing for themselves. In order for them to be responsible for their own learning they need first to be responsible for the more mundane daily tasks. Your children should all be dressing and bathing themselves, tying their own shoe laces, turning their own clothes the right way around. They should be unpacking and packing their own bags, clearing the table after themselves and any other area of the home they may have used, pouring themselves a drink when they need one and perhaps one for you too.

My goals for the spring are to prepare your child for the next grade level and to provide them with the knowledge and skills needed to be the best they can be. The children are thoroughly excited about the upcoming holidays and their enthusiasm is highly contagious.

I will be traveling to South Africa with my own family, leaving the first week of December and Mrs. Trocin will be taking care of the class while I am away. Our focus this month will be holiday celebrations from around the world and giving a gift from the heart, giving is better than receiving.

In the area of Math we will continue to spend some more time on subtraction and addition and begin an introduction to money, it's identification and value. We will be extending the length of our written pieces and working with blends and both the short and long vowel sounds. Putting words in alphabetical order will also be a focus.

Our author study this month is on Jan Brett and Gail Gibbons and we will be reading various books written by them as well as theme related books. Our read aloud this month is One Hundred Dresses. The entire elementary school will spend a morning at Astro Skate this month and will be singing holiday songs as we 'carol' around the pre-school on the 17<sup>th</sup>. I hope that you and your families have a happy and safe holiday season and we look forward to refreshed and eager faces in the New Year.

## First/Second Grade Investigators



by Mrs. Amy Slutz

In the blink of an eye, December has arrived. We will wrap up the year of 2014 with our kitchen science and meteorology unit. As we utilize the scientific method to create experiments from everyday kitchen supplies, we will also predict the weather to see if our forecast appears "cloudy with a chance of meatballs". We will observe the clouds and discuss various types of weather such as rain, snow, frost, hail, tornadoes and hurricanes.

During our language arts studies, the students will continue to learn about the different reading strategies. We are currently enhancing our sentence structure by breaking down sentences, learning all about the rules of grammar. The students are gaining knowledge about nouns, verbs and adjectives.

In math, we are learning to gather information, tally and record using graphs. We are also problem solving through the use of graphs. Measurement will be introduced and we will proceed with addition and subtraction by means of carrying and borrowing.

Our last field trip for the year of 2014 will be our trip to Astro Skate on Thursday, December 18<sup>th</sup>. This is also pizza lunch day. As always, thank you parents for your continued support in and out of our classroom. May you and your family have a safe and happy holiday season!

## Multi-Age Experimenters



by Mrs. Maggie New

December will be a busy month in the multi aged class. We will continue to study earth forms and gems. Each student will become familiar with the different rocks and gems. We will

also learn to classify and sort gems and rocks by color, weight and texture.

In Social Science each student will learn to locate the fifty states and capitals. As a group we will find interesting facts for all fifty states. State and capital games on the Kindle can be downloaded for free.

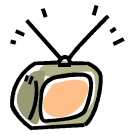
Each student will write a short holiday story. These stories will contain at least five paragraphs which will be written in class but will be typed for homework by the student. The story will be called "The Holiday Surprise". Students are encouraged to bring in a favorite holiday book from home to read to the class. We will be sharing our different holiday traditions during writer's workshop so this would be a great time to discuss family traditions at home.

Our math class will concentrate on measurements both standard and metric. This is a great opportunity to cook with your child. It will combine both measurements and fraction building skills.

Just a reminder that each student is required to read at least 15 minutes a night. This book must be from the class library or approved by the teacher. Reading should be fun but also have value.

To: \_\_\_\_\_ From: \_\_\_\_\_

**This coupon is worth one 30 minute TV program!**



To: \_\_\_\_\_ From: \_\_\_\_\_

**This coupon is good for a picnic at the park!**



To: \_\_\_\_\_ From: \_\_\_\_\_

**This coupon is good for an extra 30 minutes in the pool!**



To: \_\_\_\_\_ From: \_\_\_\_\_

**This coupon is good for a trip to get ice cream!**



To: \_\_\_\_\_ From: \_\_\_\_\_

**This coupon is good for 30 minutes on the computer/Kindle!**



To: \_\_\_\_\_ From: \_\_\_\_\_

**This coupon is good for pizza for dinner!**



To: \_\_\_\_\_ From: \_\_\_\_\_

**This coupon is worth one 30 minute board game!**



To: \_\_\_\_\_ From: \_\_\_\_\_

**This coupon is good for a trip to the beach!**



To: \_\_\_\_\_ From: \_\_\_\_\_

**This coupon is good for a family bike ride!**



To: \_\_\_\_\_ From: \_\_\_\_\_

**This coupon is good for a trip to the dollar store!**



To: \_\_\_\_\_ From: \_\_\_\_\_

**This coupon is worth an extra book at bedtime!**



To: \_\_\_\_\_ From: \_\_\_\_\_

**This coupon is good for hamburgers for dinner!**

