

New Horizons Country Day School

Elementary News

December 2015

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DATELINE

Mon. - Friday **Nov. 30-Dec. 4th HOLIDAY TOY DRIVE**
Each child should bring in a toy for a child approx. their same age!

Monday Dec. 14 Multi-age Field Trip to the Dollar Store

Wednesday Dec. 16 **The History of Walt Disney**
presented by
New Horizons Country Day School Elementary Students
9:30 AM in the Great Room



Thursday Dec. 17 **Elementary K-5th Bowling**
& Pizza K-5th



Friday *Dec. 18* *Non Uniform Day*

Dec. 21- Jan. 1 WINTER HOLIDAYS - SCHOOL CLOSED

Monday **Jan. 4** **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 tense-ness in a household that is in financial trouble, sit and discuss the issues with your child. Show your child that pur-chases 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 finan-cially 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 to-gether 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 cos-tumes.

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.

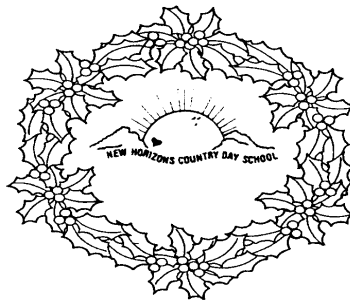
Tax Season

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.**

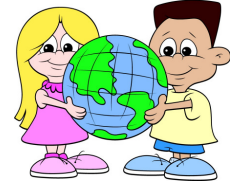
Tuition Express:
www.tuitionexpress.com

Our tax I.D.
59-3327147

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



Kindergarten Explorers



by

Mrs. Minnie Schroeder

As 2015 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.

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 equations and adding larger numbers. We also 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. The entire elementary school will be going bowling and enjoying a pizza lunch on the 17th and our Winter Break will begin on the 19th. *I hope that you and your families have a happy and safe holiday season and look forward to refreshed and eager faces in the new year.*

First/Second Grade Investigators



by Mrs. Amy Slutz

Having only begun our theme "USA Geography" midway through November, we will extend our study of the 50 states through December, since it is a short month. We will journey across the nation discovering the regions, states and their capitals, as well as historic sites and Native American tribes.

Language studies this month will concentrate on guided reading strategies. Our author study is Mary Pope Osborne and we will utilize her books from the series Magic Tree House for our reading groups. Also this month we will work with dividing words into syllables, compound words and contractions.

In mathematics we will proceed with addition and subtraction by means of carrying and borrowing. In addition we will begin graphing as well as learning how to interpret graphs while problem solving.

On a final note, we have our Elementary performance on Wednesday December 16th and a bowling field trip on Thursday December 17th. This is also pizza lunch day. December is a short month due to winter break which begins December 19th. *May you and your family have a safe and happy holiday season! I look forward to seeing you January 4th in the New Year!*

Multi-Age Experimenters



by Mrs. Maggie New

The multi age class has a busy month ahead. We will begin a unit on independent life skills that includes health, safety and money management. This is just an introduction of what is to come preparing for Enterprise Village in March! Each student will make a chart of their home responsibilities and hopefully earn a cash reward upon completion based on their level of success.

Our class read aloud book will be *Pay It Forward* by Catherine Ryan Hyde.

There will be no book report in December but each student will write a review of their favorite Disney movie past or present. Students will receive the movie review form in December. Try to choose an "oldie" it will be fun for the whole family.

All the students in the multi age class will be reviewing money during December. Practice at home with real money. During December the students will be taking a trip to a Dollar Store to practice shopping and spending. Hopefully students will have earned their own money to spend. Please only one to five dollars for their purchases.

We will be exploring motion, friction and force which will lead up to our trip to Publix Ice Cream factory in Lakeland during early January. What a great way to discuss gas solids and liquids!

Please check and sign your child's communication folder daily.

December 14, 2015 Trip to Dollar Store

December 16, 21015 Disney Program

December 17, 2015 Bowling and Pizza
Day-wear your Green Shirt

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