

# December 2022 Newsletter

December 1, 2022

**Innisfail & Area Family Day Home Society**



## Community Events To Celebrate the Holidays!

Its hard to believe the holiday season is already upon us! Are you looking for a special activity to get your family into the holiday cheer? Check out these festive events happening this month!

### Innisfail

- Innisfail Festival of Trees (December 3rd to 4th at the Innisfail Library) *Market, Coloring, Craft Station, Entertainment & more!*
- Hometown Christmas (December 3rd– Various locations) *Market, Sleigh Rides & Photos with Santa!*
- CP Holiday Train (December 10th at 1:15 PM at the Fas Gas Crossing) *Live entertainment & more!*
- Innisfail Grinchmas (December 10th from noon to 4:00 PM– Innisfail Legion) *Meet the Grinch, Story Corner, Crafts & Hot Chocolate!*

- Innisfail Discovery Wildlife Park “Light the Night” (Drive Thru Lights! Daily starting at 5:00 PM until January 15th) *While your there meet the Grinch and enjoy some hot chocolate!*

### Three Hills

- Festive Family Fun (December 8th from 6:30 PM to 7:30 PM-Three Hills Library) *Storytelling & treats!*

### Penhold

- Christmas Light Tour & Light Bingo (December 12th to 19th) *Tour the town to view decorated homes & you could win a prize!*

- Family Play Day (December 10th from 1:00-3:00 PM at the Penhold Library) *Christmas craft & snack!*

### Springbrook

- Santa Claus Parade (December 3rd starting at 5:00 PM) *BBQ, Family Skate, Gingerbread Houses & DJ!*

### Olds

- CP Holiday Train (December 10th at 2:45 PM at the 4979 50 Avenue Crossing) *Live entertainment & more!*
- Polar Express Matinee (December 10th at 12:30 PM at Mayfair Cinemas) *Admission is donations to the Food Bank.*

## Activities To Keep Busy Over Christmas Break



Once the Holiday Break arrives, parents are often faced with the challenge of keeping their children entertained. Check of these inexpensive ideas to create family fun & make some memories!

- Grab a hot chocolate, bundle up & walk around your neighbourhood to admire lights & decorations
- Shovel a sidewalk or bake some cookies to surprise a friend or neighbour
- Pop some popcorn, grab a blanket & have a movie night
- Go on a Nature Scavenger Hunt (ie: look for animal footprints!)
- Grab a toboggan & go sledding at a local hill



Check out our socials for more FUN ideas!



Ifdhs\_mentor



Pinterest.ca/IFDHS





## Society News

### Happy Birthday!!

Halle B	Leila M
Jayda Q	Charlie B
Ches O	Raedyn M
Eddie H	Mila M
Bayleigh D	Chris F
Zach G	Quin S
Mateo A	Abigail T
Shilo H	Daphne A
Olivia G	Eden G
William B	Emi B



*The Staff & Advisory Board would like to wish everyone a safe & joyous holiday season!*



### Welcome to:

Lisa Marchant  
&  
Marilou Manangan

### Happy Anniversary to:

Rebecca Allen  
4 years

*Thank you for all you do for the children and families!*

*Merry Christmas & Happy Holidays*

**Holiday Office Hours**

 **Closed**  
December 23rd-26th

---

 **Open**  
December 27th-30th 8:30am - noon

---

 **Closed**  
January 2



## Christmas, Hanukkah & Kwanzaa: Creating an Inclusive Celebration

### Multiculturalism and the Holidays

It's important to create an environment where all of the children feel welcome and represented. While teaching a multicultural curriculum may not be too challenging most of the year, December brings the holidays, when one or two holidays are usually much more visible than the others.

If done well, an inclusive holiday celebration can help children learn about diversity. Each child and their family will celebrate the holidays differently. Although not everyone who celebrates Christmas associates the holiday with its religious origins, it's important to keep in mind

that by choosing to celebrate only certain holidays, you could be excluding some of the families. In other words, if you'll be celebrating Christmas, make sure to carve out equal time during the year to devote to all holidays of major importance.

Examples include Diwali, the Hindu festival of lights that usually takes place in October or November; Bodhi Day in December, which marks the day Buddhists celebrate the enlightenment of Siddhartha Gautama; Kwanzaa, which celebrates African heritage in late December through early January; and Yule, a pagan holiday in honor of

the winter solstice.

Hanukkah, while celebrated around Christmas time, is not equal in importance to the major Christian holiday. Yom Kippur and Rosh Hashanah, which happen in the fall, are the holiest days for Jews. Ramadan, too, does not always fall in December, but it is the holiest month for Muslims. It's also important to keep in mind that some religions do not celebrate any holidays, such as Jehovah's and Seventh Day Adventists.

When you're exposing children to cultural traditions they may not be familiar with (*and which you may not be either*), it's important to avoid clichés

and harmful stereotypes.

Just like no two families who celebrate Christmas are exactly alike, the same goes for those who celebrate non-Christian holidays. So do your research and talk with the families about what and how they celebrate the holiday season.



## Anti-Bias Education & Special Celebrations

Teaching respect for diversity includes helping children understand that families have different ways of acting, and these may not be the same as the behaviors in their own family. This is certainly true regarding holiday practices.

While you might have the best of intentions, it's easy to feel a little lost when trying to plan cultural activities around the holidays. Consider asking yourself the following questions:

- Is this activity designed in any way to either

promote or inhibit religion?

- Will any child or parent be made to feel like an outsider, not a full member of the community, by this activity?
- Do we plan activities to teach about religious

holidays at various times of the year or only in December?

- Are we prepared to teach about the religious meaning of this holiday in a way that enriches the children's understanding of history and cultures?

Making a difference in the lives of children and families since 1983!



## INNISFAIL & AREA FAMILY DAY HOME SOCIETY

— Established in 1983 —



Alberta  
Approved  
Family  
Day Homes



## Curriculum Corner:



### Writing Letters to Santa!

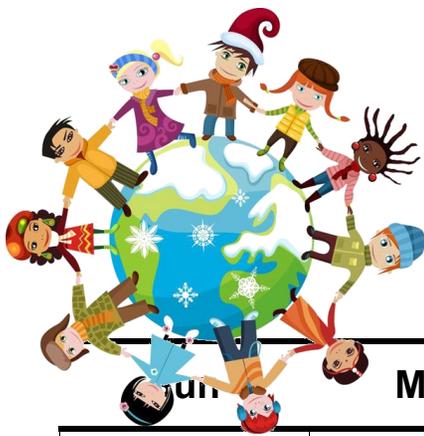
Writing letters to Santa is an annual tradition for many families. Not only is this activity a fantastic way to spark wonder & excitement in children—it's also a beneficial way to evolve communicative practices, inclusiveness & multimodal literacies such as:



- Engaging in letter recognition & sounds
- Experimenting with preprinting formations
- Creative expression
- Insight into other lives & identities
- Expressing gratitude & respecting diversity



**Don't Miss the Deadline!** To ensure a reply before the holidays, Canada Post suggests mailing your letters no later than December 9th.



# December 2022



	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<div data-bbox="130 462 619 641" data-label="Complex-Block"> <p><b>Innisfail &amp; Area Family Day Home Society</b>            5713—51 Avenue            Innisfail, AB T4G 1R4            403-227-2767            innisfaifdh@shawbiz.ca            www.ifdhs.com</p>  </div>				1  <i>Office Open until 6:30pm</i>	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9  <i>No School</i>	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19  <i>Hanukkah</i>	20	21  <i>First Day of Winter</i>	22  <i>Month End Paperwork Due by 8:30 am if you are closed Dec 24-31st</i>	23  <i>Office Closed</i>	24  <i>Christmas Break  No School Dec 26-Jan 6</i>
25  <i>Christmas Day</i>	26  <i>Office Closed  Kwanza Boxing Day</i>	27  <i>Office open 8:30-noon  Month End Paperwork Due by 8:30am</i>	28  <i>Office open 8:30-noon</i>	29  <i>Office open 8:30-noon</i>	30  <i>Office open 8:30-noon</i>	31

# January 2023



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1  <i>New Years Day</i>	2  <i>Office Closed</i>  <i>No School Jan 2-6</i>	3  <i>Office Open until 6:30pm</i>	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22  <i>Chinese New Year</i>	23	24	25	26  <i>Month End Paperwork Due by 8:30am</i>	27	28
29	30  <i>No School</i>	31			<div data-bbox="1465 1334 1948 1507" data-label="Complex-Block"> <p><b>Innisfail &amp; Area Family Day Home Society</b>            5713—51 Avenue            Innisfail, AB T4G 1R4            403-227-2767            innisfaifdh@shawbiz.ca            www.ifdhs.com</p>  </div>	