

December 2023 Newsletter

December 1, 2023

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 2nd at the Innisfail Library) *Market, Coloring, Craft Station, Entertainment & more!*
- Hometown Christmas (December 2nd– Various locations) *Market, Sleigh Rides & Photos with Santa!*
- CP Holiday Train (December 8th at 12:45 PM at the Fas Gas Crossing) *Live entertainment & more!*
- Innisfail Grinchmas (December 9th from 1-4:00 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 1st) *While your there meet the Grinch and enjoy some hot chocolate!*

Three Hills

- Annual Tree Lighting Party (December 7th from 6:30 PM at the Golden Hills Lodge) *Smores, Santa & photos with Feliz the Alpaca!*

Penhold

- Christmas Light Tour & Light Bingo (December 1st to 17th) *Tour the town to view decorated homes & you could win a prize!*

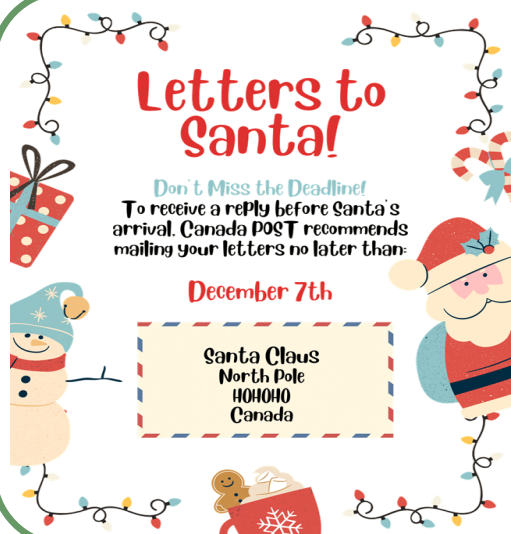
- Family Christmas Party (December 13th at the Penhold Library) *Live music & treats!*

Springbrook

- Christmas Parade (December 2nd starting at 5:00 PM) *BBQ & Family Skate at the skating rink!*

Olds

- Olds Fashioned Christmas Kick Off (December 2nd starts at 2:30pm— Centennial Park) *Mr & Mrs Clause, parade of lights & fireworks!*
- CP Holiday Train (December 8th at 2:30 PM at the 4979 50 Avenue Crossing) *Live entertainment & more!*



Mailing 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— its also a beneficial way to evolve communicative practices, inclusiveness & multimodal literacies such as:

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





Society News



Party in a Bag

Each day home will be receiving a party in a bag this month to celebrate the holiday season!

Don't forget to check out the extra special virtual story time with Santa!

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



Happy Anniversary to:

Rebecca Allen

5 years

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



Merry Christmas

Thank you to our educators and staff who made all of the ornaments for our Innisfail Festival of Trees entry!

Our theme this year is a Retro Homemade Christmas!

Stop by the Innisfail Library Learning Centre on December 2nd to enjoy everyone's beautiful contributions!



Innisfail Festival of Trees



**INNISFAIL FESTIVAL OF TREES
ARTISAN & CRAFTER MARKET**

DECEMBER 2ND

**JOIN US FOR:
HOT CHOCOLATE & SMORES
VENDOR MARKET
RAFFLES
50/50
TREE AUCTION
GLITTER TATTOOS
KIDS STATION
AND MORE!**

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 cliches 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.



HOLIDAY

OPENING HOURS

25th Dec	Christmas Day	Closed
26th Dec	Boxing Day	Closed
27th Dec	Wednesday	8:30am - 12pm
28th Dec	Thursday	8:30am - 12pm
29th Dec	Friday	8:30am - 12pm
1st Jan	New Year's Day	Closed
2nd Jan	Tuesday	Open as usual





INNISFAIL & AREA FAMILY DAY HOME SOCIETY

— Established in 1983 —



Alberta
Approved
Family
Day Homes



20°C
10°C
0°C
-10°C
-20°C

Supporting Outdoor Play Year Round

www.getoutsideandplay.ca

www.befitforlife.ca

Curriculum Corner: Making “Reindeer Food”

Each Holiday season, we gift each Family Day Home with a “Christmas Party in a Bag” containing festive activities, crafts, a book & a new toy to add to their program. One of the activities in this years “Christmas Party in a Bag” is “Reindeer Food”. Check out the recipe below to make a batch for your family as well as the customizable poem that makes the Reindeer Food “magical”.



Ingredients

- Pour 3-4 tablespoons of oats into each plastic bag.
- Add your desired amount of glitter
- Seal bag & shake mixture


SPrinkle on Your Lawn On or Before Christmas Eve





December 2023



	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6 <i>Office closed at 3pm</i>	7	8 <i>Hanukkah</i>	9
10	11	12	13 <i>Office closed at 3pm</i>	14	15	16
17	18	19	20 <i>Office closed at 3pm</i>	21 Month End Paperwork Due by 8:30 am <i>Winter Solstice</i>	22	23
24	25 Office Closed <i>Christmas</i>	26 Office Closed <i>Boxing Day Kwanza</i>	27 <i>Office open 8:30a-noon Closed at 12pm</i>	28 <i>Office open 8:30a-noon Closed at 12pm</i>	29 <i>Office open 8:30a-noon Closed at 12pm</i>	30
31					Innisfail & Area Family Day Home Society 5713—51 Avenue Innisfail, AB T4G 1R4 403-227-2767 innisfaifdh@shawbiz.ca www.ifdhs.com 	



January 2024



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 <i>New Years Day</i> Office Closed	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10 <i>Office closed at 3pm</i>	11	12	13
14	15	16	17 <i>Office closed at 3pm</i>	18	19	20
21	22	23	24 <i>Office closed at 3pm</i>	25	26 Month End Paperwork Due by 8:30 am	27
28	29	30	31 <i>Office closed at 3pm</i>		<div data-bbox="1465 1334 1948 1507" data-label="Complex-Block"> <p>Innisfail & Area Family Day Home Society 5713—51 Avenue Innisfail, AB T4G 1R4 403-227-2767 innisfaifdh@shawbiz.ca www.ifdhs.com</p>  </div>	