

UPCOMING
EVENTS:

- 12/3: Mooyah Spirit Night
- 12/3: Intermediate and Pre-K Program
- 12/4: Beginner Program
- 12/7-11: Snow Time Shop
- 12/8: Holiday Luncheon
- 12/10: Kindergarten and 1st grade Program
- 12/11: Parent's Night Out
- 12/15: Lunch Bunch
- 12/17: 2nd-6th Grade Program
- 12/18: Holiday Parties and Book Exchange
- 12/21-23, 28-30: No Instructional Classes
- 12/24-25, 31-1: School Closed

Merryhill News

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December Happenings

It is hard to believe that 2015 is winding to a close. It has been a spectacular year and I am confident that 2016 will bring many more wonderful opportunities for our Merryhill family.

As is standard, we have a very busy month ahead to usher 2015 out. Our students will all present their Week of Geography projects during morning assembly. We will also have lunches featuring each continent during the first

weeks of December.

All students will participate in our annual Holiday Snack presented by our 1st and 2nd grade classes. Students in 1st and 2nd grades create a menu, research recipes, determine quantities, shop for ingredients, and prepare an afternoon snack for the school.

Our Beginner and older students will be performing their annual holiday programs this month as well. The Beginners will

perform in the preschool cafeteria and Intermediate through 6th grade students will perform in the elementary gym. Parents are welcome to attend.

We are very excited about all the activities happening at Merryhill. Please check our website calendar and make sure to view emails from all parties to be kept up to date on important information.

Have a wonderful and safe holiday season.

Preschool Focus: Exploring Holiday Traditions from Around the World

The holiday season is here, providing a wealth of opportunities to enrich the children's understanding of diverse cultures and traditions around the world. In addition, our students will share their own traditions with others.

Below are age appropriate activities that we use in the classroom, as well as activities for you and your child to do at home.

Beginners (ages 2-3):

In the classroom: As they near the age of two, children begin to recognize the sights and sounds of holidays celebrated by their family. Parents visit our classrooms to share holiday traditions, including unique books, songs and activities.

At home: Gather family photos and point out traditions, such as unwrapping presents, eating holiday dinner at grandma's house, and making a snowman. Encourage your child to talk about what he sees in photos.

Recommended reading: *Children Around the World Celebrate Christmas* by Christine Tangvald, *Happy Hanukkah, Corduroy* by Don Freeman, *My First Kwanzaa* by Karen Katz

Intermediates (ages 3-4):

In the classroom: Children sing holiday songs from around the world and are introduced to holiday symbols that they may see in their communities, such as Christmas trees or Hanukkah menorahs.

At home: Take a drive with your child or bring him to various holiday festivals in your community. Encourage him to look for and identify holiday decorations.

Recommended reading: *Christmas Around the World* by Calliope Glass, *Hanukkah Hop* by Erica Silverman, *Li'l Rabbit's Kwanzaa* by Donna Washington

Pre-K (ages 4-5):

In the classroom: After learning about holiday traditions around the world, our older preschoolers identify countries on a globe. For example, they might learn about Diwali, the festival of lights, and then find India on the globe. They might make tamales, a dish often served on Christmas, and then find Mexico on the globe.

At home: Ask your child to help you prepare your family's favorite holiday foods. Talk about the long

-standing traditions in which these foods are rooted. For instance, you might explain, "I used to bake cookies for the holidays with my mom. Now we can start baking cookies together!"

Recommended reading: *Children Just Like Me: Celebrations* by Anabel Kindersley, *Light up the Lights: A Story about Celebrating Hanukkah and Christmas* by Margaret Moorman, *The Story of Kwanzaa* by Mary Washington.

Exposing children to various holiday traditions help them build strong social skills, establish a sense of self, and respect the differences of others as they transition into elementary school and beyond.

- Lauren Starnes, PhD—Director of Early Childhood Education