



A Moment of Perspective

As autumn ends and winter begins, cultures worldwide celebrate a variety of festivals and holidays.

In addition to the holidays from the world's major and minor religious groups, there is also a long list of traditional observances, state and national observances, and some that are silliness for the sake of fun. (One year included a "national day of the ninja"!)

With the list being impossibly long to include, I will instead encourage everyone to enjoy whatever holidays your family chooses to celebrate and to join their friends in celebrating their holidays and observances.

<http://www.holidayscalendar.com/months/december/>



Keeping Children Active

With winter here, it becomes harder to keep children active both at home and at school. Whenever the weather permits, children should be encouraged to run and play outside. On those days that we are held indoors, we will use the indoor spaces available and lead children in games, dance, and other activities to help keep them active. When feeling cooped up in the house, do remember that there are many indoor activities available from restaurant play areas to bowling that children will enjoy while keeping active for the winter.

Happy Holidays

DECEMBER 2018

Upcoming Events

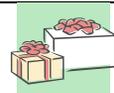
December 10th to 13th we will have parent-teacher conferences. Sign-up sheets will be posted on the classroom doors.

Friday, December 14th: MSSL Winter Party. Our 2018 winter party starts with a brief performance by the students at 10am in our school's multipurpose space.

December 24th & 25th MSSL: will be closed for the Christmas Holiday.

December 31st & January 1st: MSSL will be closed in observance of New Year's Eve and New Year's Day

On January 21th we will be closed for Martin Luther King Day and for Professional Development time.



We know that, in this time of gift-giving, many of our families want to keep with holiday tradition and show their appreciation to the school and the school staff. We do ask that gifts to individual teachers and staff do not exceed fifty dollars.



Safety Says:

I know every one of us likes a good holiday, but keeping it a 'good' holiday means keeping everyone safe and sound. The following statistics and tips are a starting point for keeping us all safe for the end of 2018 and into 2019.

When on the roads during the holiday season, please be diligent about fastening seatbelts firmly and making sure phones and distractions are stowed away! NHTSA data shows a notable increase in fatality accidents late December through New Year's Day, please drive at your best and stay safe.

Each year there are more than 2000 injuries and deaths from fires during the winter holidays. Candles account for a large number of these fires. (Also, 12% of candle related home fires are in December!) *Never leave a candle burning unattended. Do not put candles near curtains or flammable items. Lastly, never leave candles within reach of little hands.*

Each year, an average of 240 home fires started with a Christmas tree. Natural trees must be kept watered to reduce the fire risk.

“Water your tree so the firemen don't have to”



Set up trees (real or otherwise) and any other holiday displays and arrangements well away from radiators, heaters, or any source of heat or flame.

Make sure you unplug decorative lights and lights on trees and wreaths when no-one is around or when everyone goes to bed, this cuts down on the risk of electrical fires.

If you have not done so recently, it would be a good idea to check the smoke detectors and carbon monoxide alarms throughout your home and replace their batteries.

If you are planning on putting up decorations for the holidays, make sure you use a good ladder and use it properly. Several thousand people end up in the ER this time each year after falls while decorating.

Although sparklers and fireworks have long been part of New Year's celebrations, they are incredibly dangerous and result in injuries and fatalities each year. Although more than half of fireworks injuries in the US occur around the 4th of July Holiday, 2017 had reports of 12,900 injuries at ERs and many more minor injuries that went unreported. Please leave pyrotechnics to trained professionals.