

**Dear DEC Families:** Keep learning alive for your child over the winter break! Your child looks at the calendar and imagines the joy of having no schedule for the whole winter school holiday. You look at the same blank squares on your calendar and have a mild moment of panic. Here are some activities that will keep him learning – and keep you from hearing, “I’m bored” during the holiday:

**LET YOUR CHILD DISCOVER** the past by talking with grandparents, aunts, uncles – even you. Help him plan questions to ask, such as, “What was school like for you?” He can record the conversations, write them down, or just listen.

**ASSEMBLE A LIST** from your local newspaper of places to go and things to do. Every community has places that will interest kids. Or, check out the Today's Happening's magazines for places to visit or your Chamber of Commerce. Visit any of the local libraries in the area or check to see if any special events such as story hour or performances are scheduled.

**SELECT A MOVIE** based on a book. After you and your child finish reading the book, watch the movie. Discuss how the two were alike and how they were different.

**PREPARE FOOD TOGETHER** Nearly every culture has some special foods associated with the holiday season. With your child, prepare foods you remember from your childhood. Share the memories. Or do some research and prepare a dish you've never tried. This is truly a very fun and special time that my wife, Suzanne and daughter, Olivia enjoy doing together as a family while our dogs, Bear and Harley are enjoying the scraps falling to the kitchen floor.

**IT STARTS WITH PARENTS MAKING THE DIFFERENCE FIRST FOLLOWED BY THE EDUCATORS!**

AS CHRISTMAS HAS PASSED AND THE HOLIDAY SEASON FOR MOST OF US; WE AT THE DEC WOULD LIKE TO WISH ALL OF OUR STUDENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES A HEALTHY, HAPPY, AND SUCCESSFUL 2015!!

BEST WISHES!

MR. GALELLA

12/19/14