

Multicultural Education Department Newsletter

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Student Achievement -
Our Number One Priority

!Goodbye 2014...Welcome 2015!

It is hard to believe that we are very few days away from the Thanksgiving Day celebration and our week break. As the year 2014 comes to an end, we would like to thank all of you for your continued support in helping your child achieve high educational goals. Our number one priority in the School District of Osceola County is student achievement. We hope that the coming holiday season is one filled with joy, health, and many opportunities for family fun, sharing, and learning. We invite you to our imaginary trip to other countries to learn more about interesting Christmas traditions from around the world:

Christmas in Haiti sees all sections of the society being involved in this festival. The Christmas tree has great importance in this celebration. On Christmas eve, the children place their cleaned up shoes filled with straw, on the porch or under the Christmas tree for Papa Noel. Papa Noel removes the hay to fill up the shoes with presents.

Mexicans share many traditions with the Spanish. Their main Christmas celebration is called *La Posada*, which

is a religious procession that reenacts the search for shelter by Joseph and Mary before the birth of Jesus.

Parrandas is Christmas caroling **Puerto Rican** style. Friends gather late in the evening to go from one house to the next singing traditional songs. The *parranderos* must surprise the unsuspecting friends and wake them with their music. They gather outside the front door and at a signal the musicians play and the rest sing. At each house they stop for a while and party, then they go to the next house. At each stop the owners of the house join the *parranda* and it grows in numbers during the evening.

Christmas is one of the four most important festivals of the **Vietnamese** year, (other three are the birthday of Buddha, the New Year and the mid-autumn festival). Dinner usually consists of chicken soup, or turkey and Christmas Pudding.

In **Ecuador** the children write letters to the Christ-child and place shoes in the window in which he may place toys as he passes by on Christmas Eve.

Fun Holiday Learning Activities:

Have your child draw pictures, write stories or poems of their favorite Christmas tradition; let them keep a journal of the day's activities. Have your child or teen take part in planning any part of a holiday event. They can help make shopping lists, calculate cost of needed foods or items, and compare store prices for bargains. Encourage them to write and send original, creative invitations; allow them to decorate the table with their very own arts and crafts. Whatever you do this holiday season as a family, enjoy, enjoy, enjoy!

Chen Tova ~ Maligayam Pasko ~ Sung Tan Chuk Ha ~ Jwaye Nowel

Feliz Navidad ~ Milad Majid ~ Feliz Natal ~ Christmas-e-shoma-mobarak bashad

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR!

