



Vol. 38, No.2



Epiphany Community Nursery School



Winter 2014

The holidays, as usual, are overwhelming us with all the fun projects, cooking, decorating, singing and thinking about all the things that we are grateful for that are appropriate to the season. One of the 4/5s recently asked how to spell the following sign for the teachers:

Don't worry, it's almost Friday.

How did she know? We are grateful everyday for humor from the children!

Our Auction, La Magie du Cirque, was a spectacular party filled with elephants, a signature bourbon and lime juice drink, and bidding galore. We are grateful for Dana Coppolino, Ginny Markovich and Lisa Nelson for their unflappable energy, leadership and high spirits, resulting in a hugely successful evening.

We have four teachers getting married, one teacher and two administrators having babies, so the school is full of happiness on so many counts.

While the football gods have been very uncooperative, I for one am eternally grateful to be lucky enough to walk into 510 every day and be with your amazing children; thank you so much. Here's to a happy, healthy and productive 2015, filled with laughter and joy (one of the children in the 4s was thankful for Oreo ice cream, because it's pretty rare and delicious!); my life is one big bowl of Oreo ice cream!

Stay warm and enjoy the holidays and your families,

Rhymes With Orange By Hilary Price



Wendy-

Michelle's Twos

Hi all, it is hard to believe that it is already the middle of December. The children have come so far since the first few weeks of school. We have been quite busy in the Twos Room. The children are having such a wonderful time in class, and have learned so many great new things. We have been working on patterning, recognizing our names, sorting objects by color and shape and so much more.

In the beginning of November we began our two week unit on "fall". We learned all about leaves (and the change of colors), apples and all the fun things we can do. We did several fall themed art projects; one of which was autumn trees painted with Q-tips (instead of brushes), which really targeted our fine motor skills. We cooked pumpkin pudding cake and learned the difference between wet and dry ingredients. We sang some amusing fall songs including "The Leaf Song" (sung to the tune of "Sing a Song of Sixpence") and learned the "Way up High in the Apple Tree" poem.

We learned about Thanksgiving in November as well. We discussed what we are thankful for and what foods we eat. We made turkey handprints; the children stamped their hands in brown paint and turned their handprints into turkeys by adding feathers. We had our very own Thanksgiving celebration for which we made cranberry sauce and stuffing. We shared our delicious food with Daniela's class and in return we got some corn muffins and mashed potatoes! Along with some turkey and ice-cream, it was quite a feast.



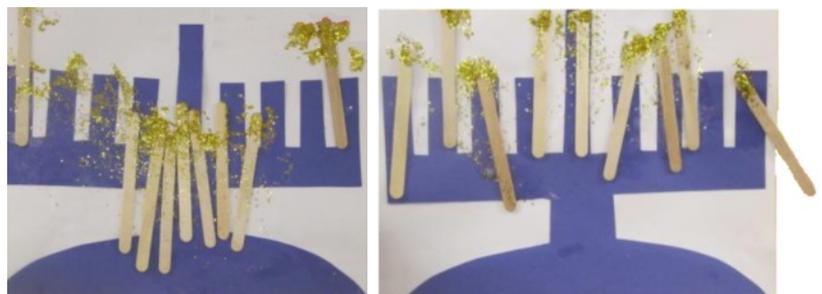
In December we learned all about the holidays. For Hanukkah, we lit a menorah, played the dreidel game and ate foods fried in oil, like potato latkes (we made colorful ones with sweet potatoes, red onions and zucchini). The children really enjoyed them and said they tasted like big French fries. In art we made menorahs with popsicle sticks and glitter to represent the candles and flames.

We also learned all about Christmas, and how exciting the holiday is. We talked about presents we hope Santa would bring us, putting out cookies and milk, and how some friends decorate their houses and trees for Christmas. In art the children used paper plates, green paint, and green tissue paper to create beautiful wreaths. They also made chocolate chip cookies for Santa and worked tirelessly on learning Christmas songs like "Jingle Bells." We even worked on our holiday presents for our parents. In preparation for our holiday party we decorated the room with the wonderful torn paper candy canes.

Have a Happy and Healthy New Year! We look forward to seeing you in 2015.

See you in January!

-Michelle, Erica and Chini



Young Threes

The Young Threes had a great time celebrating Father's Day with all of our dads and grandfathers. We really enjoyed having our special visitors come to school with us! The children and their guests decorated bookmarks and made silly bagel "faces". We also sang Father's Day songs, which the kids really loved! We thank all of our dads and grandfathers that came to celebrate this day with us!

Time really flies in the Young Threes and before we knew it, it was already Thanksgiving! We read lots of Thanksgiving books and talked a lot about what it means to be thankful and what each of us are thankful for. We prepared for our feast with all of the Threes classes by making Native American headdresses with feathers. We also made mini corn muffins and cranberry sauce for the feast we shared with our friends. We also had turkey, stuffing, carrots and lots more. It was so great to see so many of our friends trying many new foods! To get our classroom ready for Thanksgiving we made lots of art projects; turkeys, Indian corn, pumpkin pies and horns of plenty were just a few of our colorful artwork.

The children love celebrating holidays and luckily for the kids Chanukah and Christmas were just around the corner. We have read lots of books, sang lots of songs and made lots of art projects for each of the holidays! We started the month off celebrating Chanukah by cooking latkes, making menorahs out of popsicle sticks and singing "I'm a Little Dreidel". We also decorated dreidels with differently textured material. As the month continued we celebrated Christmas by decorating gingerbread men, making Christmas stockings with cotton balls and singing "Jingle Bells". We also painted Christmas trees and decorated them with sequins.

Thank you to all of our parents that helped or came in to celebrate with us during this holiday season! We very much appreciate you taking the time to make us a yummy treat or coming in to visit the classroom. The kids really get excited having you come in. We also had a wonderful time celebrating with all of you at our holiday party. It was so great to see so many of you there!

We wish you a happy and healthy holiday season! Looking forward to seeing everyone again in the New Year!

-Amelia, Inez and Jenn



Have you met...



...Danielle Marshall, the new assistant teacher in the Fours? She is a native Long Islander and went to college up in Albany, where she double majored in English Literature and Spanish. No matter

what her major was, Danielle had always planned to become a teacher. She was probably influenced by the many of her extended family members who are, or were, teachers.

On Long Island, during the summers, Danielle was a summer camp director. She had also worked in a small and oh so different kind preschool. It was very outdoorsy and earthy and a lot of the children's learning happened outside.

Then Danielle came to ECNS for a completely new experience. She decided to move to the city to matriculate in Hunter Graduate School for a Master's Degree in Early Childhood Education. Danielle found ECNS quite serendipitously. She had not planned on looking for a teaching position yet, at least not until she was settled in her new home and graduate program. She had given a teacher friend her resume and her friend passed it along to her colleagues and it wound up on Carrie's desk!

ECNS is so unlike the other places where Danielle had taught before. She says that the Fours are such interesting children and they challenge her. She feels very lucky to be working with Liza and Alexis who are both teaching her so much. And the Fours are in turn lucky to have an enthusiastic teacher like Danielle.

Mark Your Calendars



Jan. 6

Children return to school
Happy New Year!



Jan. 19

ECNS closed for
Martin Luther King Jr.
Day



Feb. 10

Valentine's Day Hop
(4s and 4/5s) 4pm



Feb. 10 - 12

Valentine's Day
Bake Sale



Feb. 16 - 20

ECNS closed for
Mid Winter Break

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"Let me get this straight - he parked on your roof, entered through the chimney and ate all your cookies?"

Four/Fives

The Four/Fives are super excited for the holiday season! We have been moving from holiday to holiday and learning lots along the way! We've celebrated a fabulous Father's Day, Diwali celebration (with Reyna's and Nicky's moms), Eid (with Imaan's mom), Thanksgiving with our friends in the Fours, Christmas (special project with Oliver D.'s dad), and, of course, our Holiday Party! Not to mention the endless birthday lunches/treats we have been having! The highlight though was when we were giving of ourselves to others during our Winter Wishes project!

"Winter Wishes", through New York Cares, gets presents to children who would not otherwise receive presents this holiday season. Not only did the kids help their parents shop for the gifts, but they also made wrapping paper and wrapped up the presents to be sent off. Thanks to Graydon's, Nicky's, Reyna's and Alexander's moms for joining us for our wrapping party! The children loved having our classroom look like Santa's workshop and pretending they were all little elves. The kids learned a life lesson



that giving to others feels really good and that they should help those in need, even if it is in small ways. We are very proud of the Four/Fives and would like to thank all the parents for their help with all of these projects!

Before Thanksgiving, we discussed what we are thankful for and it was mainly our family and friends along with many of the special things we are fortunate enough to do. The big celebration of November was our Thanksgiving feast with the Fours class. The Four/Fives became gourmet chefs and whipped up some sweet potato fries, cranberry stuffing, mini apple pies and green beans. The children all did a fabulous job of trying new foods and really enjoyed most of what they tried including the mashed potatoes, cornbread, cranberry sauce and pumpkin muffins that the Fours had made. The highlight of the meal was definitely the turkey that James' family had contributed; the kids even asked for more! So thank you Dew family! We were all thankful that we were able to celebrate together and have such a nice feast!

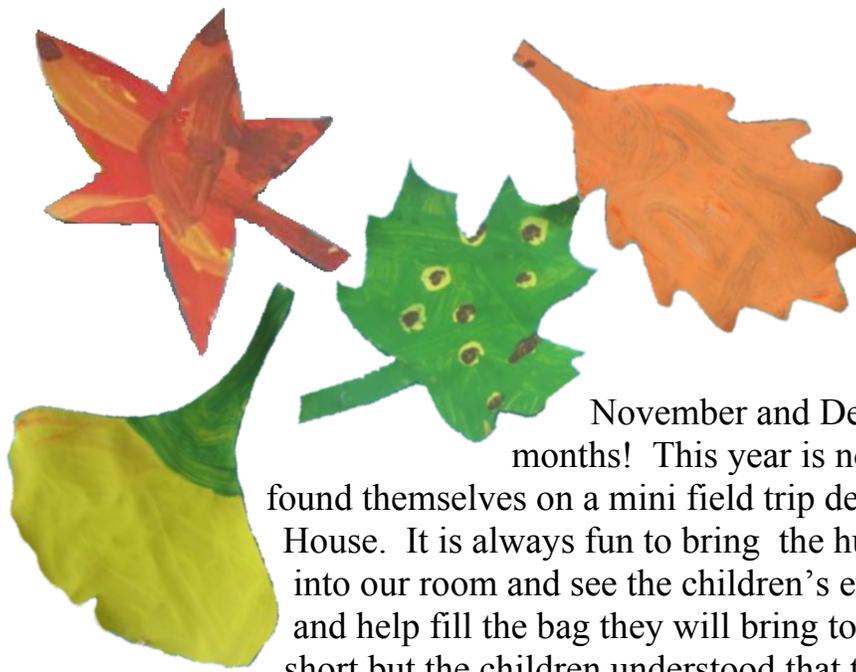
So much happens in December within the short time we are in school. We made some elaborate Hanukkah menorahs for "H" week. The dreidel game was a big hit throughout the room. We also made latkes which all the children loved since they said they tasted like French fries and what kid doesn't love those! For Christmas the children made trees out of different size triangles and then decorated, collage wreaths and peppermint candies. Of course we sang lots of holiday songs for our great party!

We have been having a great school year and can't wait for the spring semester!! Have a great holiday season!!



-Meredith, Melissa and Shevaun





Fours

November and December are always two of our busiest months! This year is no exception. After Halloween, the Fours found themselves on a mini field trip delivering candy to Ronald McDonald House. It is always fun to bring the huge boxes of leftover trick-or-treat candy into our room and see the children's eyes widen as they prepare to delve into it and help fill the bag they will bring to Ronald McDonald House. The trip was short but the children understood that they were bringing candy to children who could not venture out and go trick-or-treating themselves. I cannot think of a more meaningful way for the children to learn about giving to those in need.

Our Thanksgiving feast went well thanks to Logan's mom, Karey who brought us the delicious turkey. The children were all so busy making cranberry sauce, corn bread, mashed potatoes and pumpkin muffins for our feast that a turkey would have been too much to handle. So thank you again Karey for your contribution!



We were really pleased about how much the children absorbed from our Thanksgiving study. For them to even begin to comprehend how the world might have been 400 hundred years ago is a huge accomplishment. The pictures in the books that we read helped give us more concrete idea as to what it was like in those times.

These last two and a half weeks, we have been consumed by the holiday spirit. We have been busy preparing gifts, learning songs and decorating our room festively! We would like to thank Yona and Mindy (Peri and Zac's moms) for coming in and helping us learn about and celebrate Hanukkah. We also want to take this opportunity to thank our two class moms, Katya and Blair, for all of the never-ending work they do for our class and for organizing our Holiday Party.



We wish everyone a wonderful holiday filled with Peace and Love and Joy!

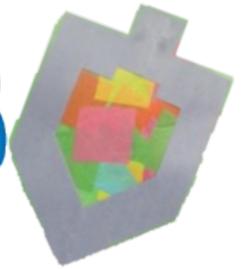
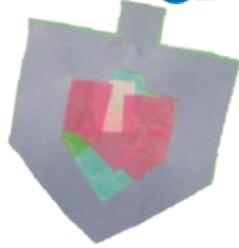
- Liza, Alexis and Danielle



ECNS Father's Day (with some Grandpas and Uncles too!)
 Thanksgiving Feasts! Gobble Gobble!!



Middle Threes



Did you all enjoy the Auction and bidding on our mirror that the children did such a good job on?

Middle Threes have had a wonderful fall. Our November was filled with lots of turkey art, learning about the Pilgrims, Native Americans, turkey, mashed potatoes and other good things that we could (and did) eat for Thanksgiving. It was so much fun to hear what the children were thankful for. Many were thankful for their parents, and many also were thankful for all their toys, and T.V. From our songs, we learned that we would never want to be a turkey! Please have your children sing "Turkey Hop", "The Turkey Ran Away" and "I'm Glad I'm Not a Turkey" (to the tune of "Have You Ever Seen a Lassie").



Oh! I'm glad I'm not a turkey

A turkey, a turkey

Oh, I'm glad I am not a turkey on Thanksgiving Day.

They'll stuff you and bake you

And then they'll eat you

Oh! I'm glad I'm not a turkey on Thanksgiving Day



We did so many things for the beginning winter season focusing on Christmas and Hanukkah. Everyone loved making menorah candles, dreidels, Christmas trees and reindeers. For cooking we made "the best sugar cookies that you have ever had" the children declared! And what fun it was to make something different for Hanukkah, donuts! Yum. Yum. Thank you to all the parents who came to help us in the classroom.

In our sequencing class and in the classroom the children are learning about patterns. They loved making pattern necklaces and it is so wonderful to see the children making a pattern out of Unifix cubes or just crayons.

Red Bear is still the favorite toy in school. Thank you all that have taken such good care of him over his weekend stays. He has enjoyed all the company and soon it will be his birthday.

"Shorty Pointy Toes" has made a few appearances. The children are very interested in him. He will most certainly make more visits in the coming months. We are thinking of ways to catch him.

We have enjoyed being with your children so much this year and look forward to the next semester.

Have a **wonderful holiday!**

-Linda, Mekenzie & Caroline.



Daniela's Twos



The month of November is about family, sharing and cooperation. And with that spirit, our Twos and Two/Threes worked with their parents to cut out pictures of different foods from magazines. Then the children worked together to glue all those pictures onto a big cornucopia. Finally, we enjoyed a Thanksgiving feast with our friends from Michelle's class - complete with turkey, stuffing, cranberry sauce, mashed potatoes, corn muffin and ice cream! So good!

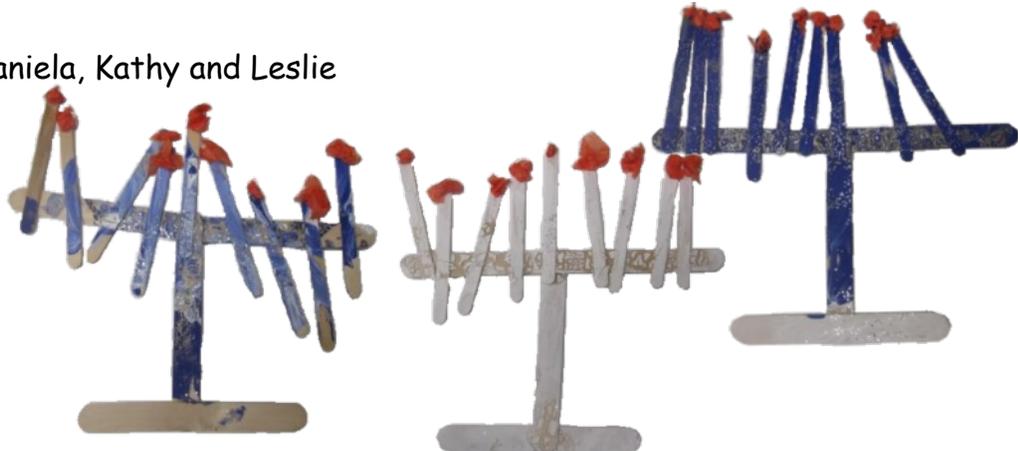
Forget flying monkeys, we had flying turkeys in our classroom! Colorful handprint turkeys complete with googly eyes, beak, snood and feet! It is truly amazing how much detail the children put into the work! Our "song-of-the-month" award goes to "Hello Mr. Turkey". The girls and boys loved singing this song and even acting like a gang of turkeys. (It was so fabulous to hear that some of the children even taught their parents this song!)



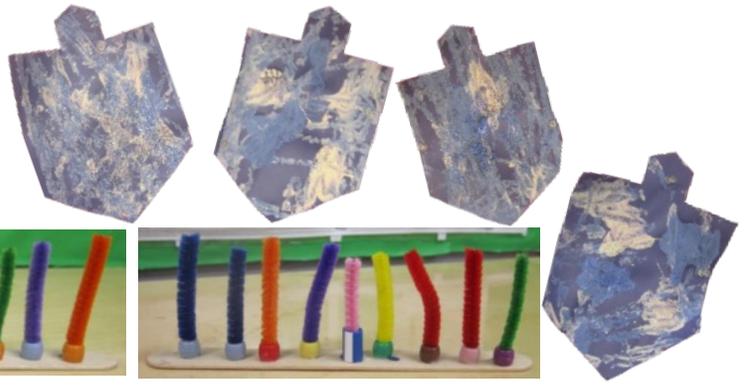
Before we knew it, December was here, bringing with it Chanukah and Christmas. We were *busy, busy, busy!* Busy fingers created flying dreidels (yes, many things magically "fly" in our room), colorful menorahs, special Christmas trees with lovely ornaments, and stockings! Would you believe that the children learned and practiced singing their holiday songs too? The "Singing Twos" made their debut with a great performance during our Winter Wonderland Holiday Party! A special time was had creating art projects and delighting in holiday treats! Parents also got very unique gifts made by their children. A heartfelt Thank You goes out to our class moms, Abby, Jana, Lisa and Kay, for organizing our fun celebration!

Wishing you ALL a very healthy, happy and safe holiday season.
Happy Chanukah, Merry Christmas, and Happy New Year!!

-Daniela, Kathy and Leslie



Old Threes



Boy, have Old Threes been busy this past month and a half! We've had a blast learning about each other during our "All About Me" unit. Friends got to discover new similarities as well as celebrate differences, learn about likes and dislikes, and explore family. One of our best experiences in this unit was sharing our favorite stuffed animals with the class. We enjoyed hearing about what one another's stuffed animals do during the day when we're at school, what

they like to eat, where they sleep, etc. The children became presenters and interviewers during these share days and were extremely proud and eager to participate.

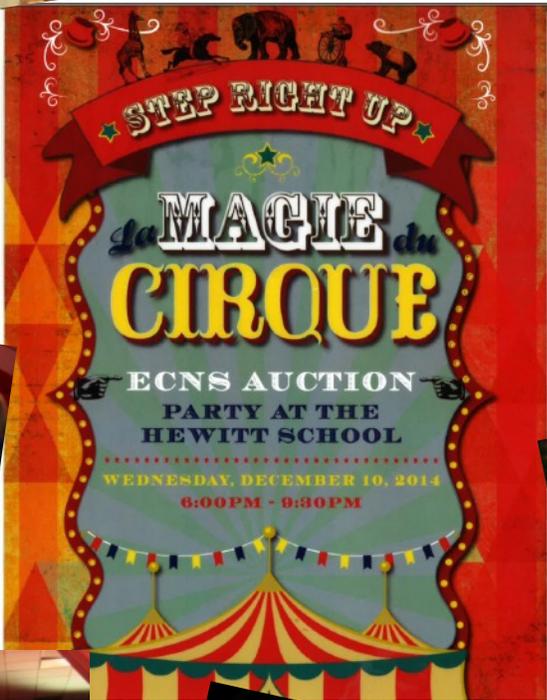


We've also been busy celebrating the holidays. Thanksgiving was a treat! We joined up with the other 3s classes for a Thanksgiving feast. Our class was in charge of making the stuffing, carrots, and dessert. We had a fantastic time preparing the food: peeling carrots, measuring and mixing ingredients together. Some of us even tried the food!

Hanukkah and Christmas have been an important part of this past month as well. We've explored holiday traditions, learned songs, read stories, cooked special treats associated with the holidays, and created artistic masterpieces. We had so much fun when some of our families come in to share special holiday traditions with us! Lastly, a special thank you to our class moms and those of you who helped to make our holiday party such a success! We loved every moment of it and couldn't have asked for a better group of people to celebrate with.



~Becky, Phyllis and Mariel

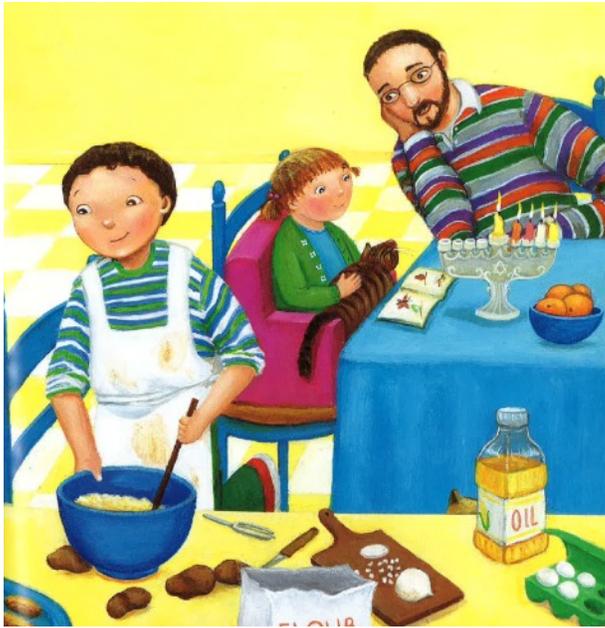


CHARITABLE

PROMISE PROJECT
Helping Children with Learning Disabilities



CARRIE'S



CORNER

No Peel Latkes

1 egg
1 onion, quartered
 $\frac{1}{4}$ tsp sugar
 $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp salt
2 tbs flour
1 tbl oil
dash of pepper
3 cups unpeeled cubed potatoes
oil for frying

In a blender, blend egg, onion, sugar, salt, flour, oil and pepper until smooth. Gradually add in potatoes. Drop by spoonfuls into heated well-oiled frying pan. Fry on both sides. Drain/cool on paper towels. Eat with applesauce.

Happy Holidays!

Please enjoy the recipe above for potato latkes which I have used at ECNS and at home. The tradition at Chanukah is to eat something fried in oil to commemorate the small amount of oil which lasted for 8 days. If you are really ambitious, you can make another Chanukah treat, sufganiyot (jelly doughnuts), which are often served in Israel at Chanukah time. Don't want to cook? Dunkin' Donuts jelly munchkins are a yummy substitute!

A Schoen family tradition is a trip to Radio City Music Hall. The Christmas Show has been restored to all its original glory. The costumes are festive, the music joyful, the dancing superb. The Rockettes are still kicking and going strong; their wooden soldiers fall backward as they have done since the 1930's. The Nativity is beautiful...and then there is Santa!

Speaking of traditions, how about starting some of your own? A photo ornament for each year is a nice one and this year, you can do it with our ECNS silver frame 2014 ornament. It's quite lovely. We also have a limited number of ornaments left from 2010 to 2013. Each ornament is \$20. Please see me if you are interested.

Make your own ornaments or menorah.

Read your favorite version of *The Night Before Christmas*.

Listen to great music; almost every singer has a holiday album/CD.

Watch the classics. It is the 50th anniversary of *Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer* starring Burl Ives and the 60th anniversary of *White Christmas* with Bing Crosby and Danny Kaye. And of course, *Miracle on 34th Street* and *It's a Wonderful Life*.

Share cookie recipes with your friends.

Most importantly, remember what all winter holidays have in common - the beauty of the lights, family and friendship, gathering together for a festive holiday meal, and the wish for peace throughout the world.

Carrie 