



DECEMBER 2010 NEWSLETTER TIPS & ACTIVITIES

GIVING NEAR & FAR

In two previous newsletters, we encouraged awareness of “Community Helpers”. Part 1 was identifying who the community helpers are in your town and what jobs they do for us. Part 2 took it a step further by literally thanking them for their service. This month we are encouraging classes to look outside their city limits to the soldiers who are away from home this holiday season.

Collecting gifts for military soldiers this time of year is a wonderful way to show appreciation and thoughtfulness. A great December class project is collecting gifts that will help the military men know people care about them.

The “Packages From Home” Program makes this project easy. Their website is www.packagesfromhome.org/things-to-donate.

The Donation Center information is:

1201 South 7th. Avenue
Phoenix, Arizona 85007
(602) 253-0284

This website gives lists of items needed by soldiers. As a class you could contribute anything on the list or narrow it down and collect a certain category of items such as: hygiene, food, recreational or miscellaneous.

Option: Writing letters to the soldiers is another way to show appreciation and sneak in a lesson on letter writing!

Option 2: If this project is difficult or you would like to focus on local efforts, contact the Veterans Association or homeless shelters in your area. There are many agencies trying to take care of people in need and usually have ideas for how groups can help.

GIVING IN YOUR OWN WAY

No matter what holiday you celebrate, this time of the year is about **GIVING!**

Giving gifts that we buy at a store is common. Giving gifts we make ourselves is a great idea and something that the children during World War II did! Money was

scarce and many things were rationed. So children during this time used what they had and made creative gifts for others. Think about supplies you have at home. Ask your parents how you could create a gift for someone else?

There is another way to give. Giving of ourselves to those in need, by using our time and talents to help, means a lot. Maybe you know of an elderly neighbor or a grandparent that needs help raking their leaves or shoveling the snow. With your parent's permission, volunteer to do a job for someone that needs help. Do this without any expectation of something in return. Even small things matter such as holding a door for someone. Watch for a chance to GIVE in your own way!

WWII HOLIDAY CAKE

1/2 c. shortening
1 1/2 c. syrup (or sugar)
2 eggs
1 7/8 c. flour
1 tsp. baking soda
1 tsp. vanilla
4 tbsp. cocoa
1 tbsp. hot water
1/2 c. milk if syrup is used (1 c buttermilk if sugar is used)

Beat syrup (or sugar) and shortening. Add 1/2 cup flour. Add eggs, cocoa mixture and flour and soda with milk. Bake at 325 degrees for 25-30 minutes.

MIND BINDER

Tw'as the night before Christmas, and at the North Pole
The last-minute planning was taking its toll.
As Santa was hastily making a scheme
For the placement of deer in his sleigh-pulling team,
The good Mrs. Claus was crocheting bright bows
To be worn by these reindeer (four bucks and four does).

The ribbons were colored in eight festive hues:
One ocher, one rose, one cerise, one chartreuse,
One maroon, one magenta, one white, and one blue.
(These ribbons helped Santa keep track of who's who.)
The deer pulled the toy-laden sleigh in four rows,

Arranged so no row held two bucks or does.

The order of pullers was changed year by year,
For Santa was thoroughly fair with his deer.
He summoned the elves and instructed them thus:
"Let's hitch up the reindeer with minimum fuss.
The bow on the buck behind Dasher is white,
While Blitzen, a doe, sees cerise to her right.

The blue bow is nearer my sleigh than is Dancer,
But nearer the front of my team than is Prancer.
The doe in chartreuse gets a front-of-team honor,
But not on the same side as Cupid or Donner.
Now Comet stands two spots ahead of the rose.
And three deer of four on the right side are does.

The cerise bow is worn two in back of maroon,
One of which is beside the bright ocher festoon.
Oh-Cupid's in front of a buck, by the way.
Well, that's how they line up for pulling my sleigh.
I trust that you elves, being clever, now know
Each reindeer's position and color of bow."

In no time each colorful ribbon was tied
And the team was hitched up for the transglobal ride.
Can you ascertain where each member fits in?
Who's Comet? Who's Cupid? Where's Donner? And Blitzen?
Who's Dasher? Who's Dancer? Where's Vixen? And Prancer?
With logical thought, you'll determine the answer
And write down the color and place for each deer.
Happy Christmas to all, and to all much good cheer!

ANSWER TO LAST MONTHS

The strange Thanksgiving
dinner consisted of: Stuffing,
Green Beans, Cranberry
Sauce, Pumpkin Pie, and Salad
Johanna made stuffing, ruined
apple pie, store, 17
Emily made pumpkin pie,
ruined potatoes, was on time
because she's an early riser
(gardener), 24

Jacob ruined turkey, made
salad, ran out of gas/petrol, 19