

WINTER CELEBRATIONS

It is fun to share time together before a school break with a celebration. This is a great time of year to emphasize character education traits such as citizenship, caring and respect. Have a great time learning and laughing together and enjoying a healthy balance.



WINTER PHYSICAL ACTIVITIES

SNOW SCULPTURE GALLERY WALK

Take advantage of the snow on the ground. You can either do this individually or as a team. Have students come up with a snow creation to make in 15 minutes. Bring in shovels, pails, warm water and other building tools. For colored sculptures, take a spray bottle and fill with water and add some food coloring. Once all students are done, take a gallery walk of all the lovely sculptures. If you wish, create awards for each sculpture.

SNOWBALL THROW

Have each student take a piece of white paper or white tissue paper and make it into a ball. Divide the class into two teams. Make a line on the floor and place teams on either side of the line. Set time for 3 minutes. On the count of three teams throw their "snowballs" on the other side. The goal is to have the least number of "snowballs" on your side when the timer is up.

SNOWBALL RELAY

MATERIALS:

- 4 or more buckets or bowls
- 2 or more spoons
- Cottonballs

INSTRUCTIONS:

Have students divide into teams. Place the buckets 10-20 feet apart. The goal of the game is to move the cottonballs from one bucket to the other using the spoon. The first person in line scoops up the cottonball onto the spoon. Have them walk carefully to put their cottonball in

the opposite bucket without touching the cottonball. If the cottonball falls off the spoon, have them pick it up and start again. The first team to get all of the cottonballs moved to the other bucket wins. For younger children use large cooking spoons.

PENGUIN DANCE

Have the children pretend to be penguins while they dance to music. Pause the music and make them freeze for extra fun.

FROSTY SAYS

Just like Simon says but put a little twist on it and make it Frosty says.



WINTER CRAFTS

GLITTERY WINDOW CLINGS

(requires drying overnight)

MATERIALS:

- Paper and Pencil
- Cookie Sheets
- Waxed Paper
- Dimensional Fabric Paint

INSTRUCTIONS:

Draw a snowflake template. Place the template on a cookie sheet and cover with wax paper. Trace the snowflake with the fabric paint making sure all the paint lines connect. Let dry overnight, peel off the waxed paper and apply to windows as clings.

ICE SKATING

Create an indoor ice skating party by stepping on two paper plates and skate away. Add some music and play freeze skating.

PENGUIN RACE

Divide the students into teams. Have each team make a line. The first person puts a ball between their legs and they have to waddle to a designated spot and back. They hand the ball to the next person in line and they keep going until everyone is finished.

POLAR BEAR, POLAR BEAR, PENGUIN

Just like duck, duck, goose but substitute polar bear, polar bear, penguin.

SILLY SNOWMEN

Have students start with a piece of black construction paper. Don't tell them what they are going to draw but have them listen to your directions. Have them close their eyes tightly and instruct them to: Draw 3 circles on top of each other. Each circle gets smaller from bottom to top. In the middle circle draw three buttons going down the center. In the top circle draw two eyes, a carrot nose, and a mouth. Draw a hat on top of the smallest circle. Draw stick arms on both sides of the middle circle. Draw a broom in one stick hand. Open your eyes!

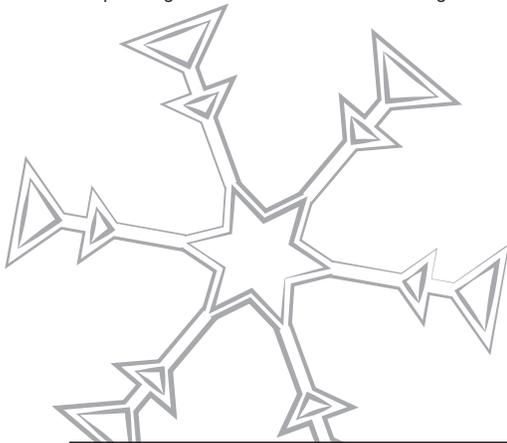
HOLIDAY WREATH

MATERIALS:

- Paper plates
- Muffin Tin Wrappers (multi colored)
- Ribbon, Glue

INSTRUCTIONS:

Cut out a circle in the center of the paper plate (a CD is a good template). Flatten the muffin tin wrappers and glue around the paper plate. Take a few brightly colored wrappers and fold a few times and make a v cut on the edge to make a flower. Glue the brightly colored flowers to the wreath. Take the ribbon to create a loop and glue it on the wreath to hang.



WINTER TREES

MATERIALS:

- Green construction paper
- Epsom Salts
- Water
- Paint (optional evergreen shapes pre-cut if children need them)

INSTRUCTIONS:

Using green construction paper, children cut out an evergreen tree shape. (use pre-cut if necessary) Mix Epsom salts and water. The children paint the mixture onto the trees. The result is that the trees will look frosted and glistening when

SNOWFLAKE JARS

Baby food jars, sparkling glitter, snowflake confetti/pieces, water.

INSTRUCTIONS:

Let children place everything in the jar. Then an adult hot glues the lid's rim and places it onto the jar. Children will have their own snowflake shakers.

EGG CARTON PENGUINS

MATERIALS:

- Egg carton cups (2 per penguin)
- Orange and black construction paper
- White paint
- Wiggly eyes
- Glue

INSTRUCTIONS:

Precut the orange flippers and beak; and the black stomach middle, wings, and head patch. First, paint the two egg cups white, and let dry. Next, glue the two cups on top of each other mouth of cup to mouth of cup. Then glue on wings to the side, head patch on top of head, and stomach middle. Then glue on wiggly eyes and beak.



WINTER GAMES

MITTEN MATCH

Each student takes their mittens and puts them into the middle of a circle. The students stand around the circle while an adult mixes up all the mittens. On the count of 3 the students go into the mitten pile to find their own mittens and yell "Mitten Match" when they are done. Time the group and see if they can get faster.

WINTER Pictionary

Write some winter ideas on slips of paper and place them in a hat or bowl. Have students take turns coming up to the chalkboard/whiteboard, draw out a winter idea and draw it and try to get the other students to guess what they are drawing.

PIN THE NOSE ON THE SNOWMAN

This game is just like the classic "pin-the-tail-on-the-donkey," but themed for winter. Start by drawing a large snowman on a piece of poster board and then drawing and cutting out a carrot "nose" for each child in the class. Write each child's name on one of the noses ahead of time to avoid confusion at the party and use scotch tape donuts or sticky putty on the back. Blindfold each child one by one, spin each one around a few times, and watch where they try to stick the noses. The child whose nose is closest to the correct spot wins. You can also modify this game by sticking a nose on a penguin.

FROSTY SNOWBALL TOSS

On a poster board or large cardboard draw a snow man. Make one or two cut outs on the picture (e.g. on the body mid section). Line up children a distance from the snowman. Use three paper snowballs and have students take turns tossing the snowballs through the snowman.

SNOWMAN WRAP RELAY

MATERIALS:

- Toilet Paper
- Crepe Paper
- Black Construction Paper
- Tape

INSTRUCTIONS:

Divide students into teams of three or more. Hand each team a roll of toilet paper, some crepe paper and three black construction paper circles with tape on the back. Have students race to turn one of their teammates into a snowman.

PING PONG BASKETBALL

MATERIALS:

- 2 one quart containers
- Paper towel
- Ping pong ball

INSTRUCTIONS:

Put a piece of paper towel into each container. Place each container at the each end of the playing area about 4 feet apart. The goal is to make a basket by bouncing in the ping pong ball. If the ball goes in on the first hop the player gets 3 points, 2 hops the player gets 2 points and 3 hops the player gets one point.

BINGO

Create bingo cards out of different winter items (snowman, wreath, penguin, shovel, snowflake, etc). Play a fun game of bingo. Use stickers as the markers.



WINTER SERVICE

GIFT OF READING

Instead of a traditional gift exchange, have students purchase a small book for a classmate. Put a price limit on the book. If your school participates in a monthly book order, suggest families purchase through that.

FEED THE BIRDS

Give the local birds a treat before you leave for school break. Make some bird feeders or create a bird seed mosaic outside.

GIVING TO OTHERS

Create a small gift box for children that are hospitalized over the winter holidays. Students can make their own box or this project can be done as a class. Choose a theme—such as baby boy, 10 year old girl, or 4 year old boy and buy small items that will fit in a shoe box that they could do when in the hospital.

Make cards to give to people at the hospital or nursing homes to brighten up their day.

Make a care package to send overseas to our troops. Work with a local armed services office to find out what items are needed for our troops.

Have students bring in mittens, hats and scarves that can be donated to a local shelter.

Have students bring in non-perishable goods to be donated to a local food pantry.

Collect pajamas to be given to the local county agency for children in need or going into foster care.

Have students bring in fleece fabric and make fleece tie blankets to be given to a local county agency, shelter, hospital, nursing home or retirement facility.

