

# 2016 December Center Event and Vacation Club Activities



SCHOOL AGE

\*Center wide events are marked with an asterisk

- These events are the heart of the December curriculum and are not optional. See your center director for a copy of the Monthly Event flyer that went home to parents. This will guide you in knowing what has been communicated to parents and what we have promised to provide.
- Elaborate on the suggestions listed below by involving students in creative brainstorming and planning. Project based approaches are not only engaging, they give children ownership of their classroom and their learning! Divide children into small groups with specific roles based on interest – each contributing to the big event. Be creative and HAVE FUN!

## \*Wednesday Dec. 14th – Holiday Sing Along with Milk & Cookies Event!

- Rehearse 2 songs and create props for the event night.
- Create posters/signage for the event.
- Bake and package treats, with recipes attached. Host a table full of goodies for families.
- Emcee the event (announce performances).
- Prepare transition activities to perform for the audience between performances (tell jokes, put on a puppet show, etc.)

## Monday Dec. 19th – “Minute to Win It”

- Minute to Win It games are always a hit - they are simple to learn, easy to adjust (depending on the students in your group), quick to play, and FUN! Check out these Minute to Win It games [here](#) and [here](#) to get started, and try out [these](#) holiday-themed Minute to Win It games for even more festive fun!



## Tuesday Dec. 20th – “Christmas Challenge”

- Challenge your SA friends to complete any of these awesome STEAM-based Christmas Challenges!
  - [Newspaper](#) Christmas Trees, [Playdough & Popsicle Stick](#) Christmas Trees, [Cardboard](#) Christmas Trees, [Construction Paper](#) Christmas Trees (each child gets 2 pieces of green construction paper, 4 popsicle sticks, and tape/glue)
  - [Christmas STEM Olympics!](#)

## Wednesday Dec. 21st – “All Things Grinch”

- Create posters and signage for the event.
- Dress in green and wear Santa hats or reindeer antlers to enjoy a viewing of the Grinch.
- Make and eat Grinch treats – decorate multigrain cakes with green cream cheese, make green popcorn, or make healthy fruit kabobs using items already available in the kitchen.
- Play Pin the Heart on the Grinch, have Max races (wear reindeer antlers as you race!), play Who, Who, Grinch (just like duck duck goose), and try the “Grinch Tag” game [here](#).



## \*Thursday Dec. 22nd – Holiday Party

- Explore holidays from around the world through books and tablets. This is a great opportunity to invite children to ask questions and conduct self-studies in small groups and then present! “Why do families decorate Christmas Trees? When did that tradition begin? Why do families prepare fried foods for Hanukkah? Why are Kwanzaa colors red, green, and black?” (More research ideas found [here](#).)
- Make games for younger classrooms.
- Play holiday games - try the Candles, Candy Canes, & Icicles game found [here](#).

## \*Friday Dec. 23rd – “Twas the Night Before Christmas” Read Aloud

In addition to creating posters/signage, SA can:

- Read Aloud - Be guest readers for younger students.
- Curate a ‘lending library’ or book mobile – gather up all Christmas books and make a ‘special delivery’ to each classroom.
- Ornament Workshop - Everything in the supply closet is available for use! For inspiration, click [here](#).
- Decorate Teacher Trees - Supply your kids with green and red crepe paper, aluminum foil, and masking tape and let them make the teacher into a decorated tree!

## Monday Dec. 26th – “Winter Classic Game Day”

- Ahead of time, create a list of favorite board games. Collect as many as you can (and ask families to share) so you have many different options! In addition to board games, be sure to include a cookie sheet hockey tournament - click [here](#) for more details!
- Outdoors or in Doodleville, play a series of classic games such as freeze tag, hide & seek, red light green light, swing the statue, capture the flag, four square, kickball. Full instructions [here](#).

## \*Tuesday Dec. 27th - Kwanzaa Celebration

- Use your tablets to research Kwanzaa traditions. Click [here](#)!
- Prepare red, green, and black materials to create a jewelry station.
- Create large ‘candles’ to display. Be sure to add a paper ‘flame’!
- Weave a mkeka (Kwanzaa mat) using black paper and strips of red and green paper
- Make props for the Kwanzaa Parade!

## \*Wednesday Dec. 28th - Hanukkah Read Aloud

- Create posters and signage for the events.
- Be guest readers for younger students before/after the event, create posters/signage for the event.
- Create homemade books and/or curate a ‘lending library’ or book mobile – gather up all Hanukkah books and make a ‘special delivery’ to each classroom.
- [Create dreidel’s](#) and have a tournament!
- Click [here](#) and [here](#) for ideas.

## Thursday Dec. 29th - Rudolph's Shiny New Year

- Wear reindeer antlers to play ‘reindeer games’ (any active game + antlers = reindeer games!) like Pin the Nose on Rudolph!
- Use pipe cleaners (antlers), google eyes, and red pompoms (noses) to make candy canes into Rudolph Treats!
- Enjoy a viewing of Rudolph's Shiny New Year [here](#)!



## \*Friday Dec. 30th - 2017 Ball Drop & Celebration

- Create posters and signage for the event.
- Host a dance party or a freeze dance competition.
- Emcee the countdown/ball drop for younger students.
- Use your iPads to view clips of old school ‘New Year’s Rockin’ Eve [here](#)!