



EVENT IDEAS/ACTIVITIES

SNOWBALL THROW - Use any white balls, such as Ping-Pong™ or Wiffle® balls, to throw through a small hoop. Balled up pieces of white paper can be substituted. Give each student a bucket of balls and 30 seconds to throw. The students that get a certain number of balls through the hoop (5 for example) receive prizes or healthy treats.

FROSTY THE SNOWMAN - Begin this event by providing students with rolls of toilet paper and construction paper in a variety of colors (especially black and orange for the eyes, carrot nose, and hat). Divide them into teams of four. The students should then be given three minutes to turn one of their teammates into a toilet paper version of Frosty. Prizes can be awarded for the most creative, the most accurate, the fastest, and any other categories you create.

HOLIDAY ICE FISHING - This activity, geared toward younger children, makes everyone a winner. Use a large piece of cardboard painted to look like ice and place at an angle (the higher side being above the students' heads). It works best if it stands on its own and can conceal an employee hiding behind it. Create fishing poles out of sticks, string, and clothes pins. Students will cast lines over the cardboard and the employee will attach a prize to the clothespin and tug, letting them know that they have caught something.

CLOTHING DRIVE - Ask students to donate any unwanted winter clothing they have and give it to a local shelter. The student who donates the most should be rewarded with a prize. Be sure your students ask their parents/guardians permission before bringing in clothing to be donated.

LET IT SNOW - Ask students to make snowflakes from paper. Hang them from the ceiling for all to see. Be sure to have each student put their name on their snowflakes so they can show off their artwork.

MULTICULTURAL CELEBRATION - Considering the number of different religious and ethnic holidays celebrated this month, consider hosting a special lunch serving traditional Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, and Eid-UI- Adha dishes. Design posters explaining what each dish is and why it is important. This is a wonderful opportunity for students to broaden their social and culinary horizons. Just be sure to give equal attention to each holiday and prepare foods according to religious and ethnic guidelines. Also, consider working in conjunction with multicultural or religious organizations in your area for this event to bolster and ensure authenticity.

GIFT BOX BONANZA - Create a display of gift wrapped boxes, and fill them with fun prizes ranging from silly to simple to fantastic. Hand out tickets to students as they enter the cafeteria, and then announce numbers throughout the lunch period. Each student whose number is called gets to choose a gift and open it. They keep whatever prize is in the box! Be sure you choose wrapping paper that is not specific to any Holiday. Solid colors are your best choice... you can even use your school's colors!

FIND THE SNOWFLAKE - Place a snowflake sticker underneath several trays. The students who find them get a prize.

HOLIDAY CROSSWORDS - Use an online crossword puzzle maker to create your very own holiday crosswords for students to complete. Have students hand in their finished crosswords with their names on top. Randomly select a number of correctly answered crosswords, and award those students with a fun prize or healthy treat!



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HOLIDAY PLACEMATS - Give students construction paper and markers or crayons to draw their very own holiday placemats. Give each student two pieces of wax paper to take home. The students' parents/guardians can place one sheet of wax paper under the artwork and the other sheet on top of the artwork, and then use an iron to adhere the sheets together. The placemat can then be trimmed to size.

SPELL IT OUT - Have students write down on a sheet of paper words that begin with the letters in the word "C-E-L-E-B-R-A-T-E". Ask students to hand in their sheets so you can post them for all to see.

HOLIDAY SING-ALONG - There are an extraordinary number of celebratory songs for each of the holidays celebrated this month. Teach your students these songs by handing out the lyrics and having a good old-fashioned sing-along! Use a piano or keyboard if you have access to one.

HOLIDAY COLORING SHEETS - Download and print holiday coloring sheets found on the Internet. Distribute to all students and ask they return them when completed so you can post the sheets for all to see.

HOLIDAY POETRY - Have students write short poems about the holiday(s) they celebrate and what it/they means to them. Ask students to hand in their poems when they are done so you can post them for all to see. Have students vote for their favorites and invite winning writers to read their poems over the loud speaker for all to hear. Also award the winners with a fun prize or healthy treat!

HOLIDAY JOKE OF THE DAY/WEEK - During the weeks leading up to the holidays, display a new joke or riddle on your serving line or on a bulletin board for students to enjoy. For example:

Q: What do snowmen eat for breakfast?
A: Frosted Flakes!

Q: What do you get when you cross a snow man and a vampire?
A: Frostbite!

Q: What kind of bird can write?
A: A pen-guin!

Q: What do you have in December that you don't have in any other month?
A: The letter D!

Q: What do you call a chicken at the North Pole?
A: Lost!