

# Wonderful memories of Christmas

Christmastime is the best time of the year. At the BRICK Learning Centre, we celebrate Christmas with our school family of students and staff. Our Christmas Dinner and Christmas Crafts Day are wonderful events, but celebrating Christmas at BLC begins as soon as December rolls around. We decorate trees, we put up lights and we do a lot of Christmas-themed art and photography.

Christmas means a lot to us – it's a reflection of how much we all mean to each other. At school and at home, Christmas is a very meaningful time for students and staff.

Assistant Principal Erin Freadrich commented, "Christmas is a special time with school family and our family at home. It's a time to celebrate hope, love, joy and peace. It's about building connections and making memories!"

Samantha Keln commented, "Christmas is being with family, having fun, and loving one another. It's singing Christmas songs together, making cookies and gingerbread houses."

For Mrs. Wilkinson,

"Christmas means slowing down and loving our family and friends. It means making time to get together to laugh, eat and 'remember that time when...?'"

Storm Rain commented, "It's about being with your family and getting together. It's all that really matters."

For Zoey Raine, Christmas is all about giving to those we love: "Christmas means I can spend my money on gifts that will make others happy and that's what makes me happy. It's the season of giving and I'm all for it!"

Christmas is definitely a time to make great memories that will last forever.

"I can always remember the specialness of Christmas Eve," said Principal Ian Tisdale. "We would go to a candle-lit church service at 7:00, come home, and then would open our one-and-only box of Christmas oranges. During that evening, we would play toys in the living room while listening to the radio. The NORAD Santa-sightings report would get us so excited."

It's fun for everyone, but it's very special for children.

"My favourite Christmas



"Christmas Star" by Savannah Wirchenko

memory is from when I was a lot younger," said Nika Mackinaow. "I would leave out tea and ban-

nock for Santa and I would find them gone in the morning. I always knew it was my mom because she would look all surprised when I would get excited."

Mr. Wilkinson shared his favourite Christmas memory: "I really treasure the Christmas memories I have of our two daughters when they were very young. We would put out reindeer food as well as treats for Santa. They took it so seriously and were so excited - it was very fun and they were just SO cute. I'm thankful that I managed to get some of those Christmas Eve memories on video. We watch them every year."

"I remember one time when I was 7 or 8," commented Brook Strong. "It was Christmas morning. When we got up, there were presents stacked up to the ceiling, and all over the living room. Later I found out the gifts were all donated by the RCMP. It felt good to know that so many people cared."

For Ms. Stychalski, her favourite childhood Christmas memory is "walking around

looking at Christmas lights. One special area when I was young was called Candy Cane Lane, a street in Edmonton. At the time it was one of the few places where they went all-out with massive displays and handmade props and sets. It was like walking into a different world, and it was beautiful and magical."

"My favourite Christmas memory was when my kids said that they didn't believe in Santa," commented Mr. Wong, "and yet they came back from a party saying that they 'saw the real Santa!'"

Mr. MacEarchern has a great Christmas memory from his childhood: "One of my favorite Christmas memories is from when I was 8 or 9 years old. I awoke at 2:00 AM and realized that I wasn't allowed to get up for another 4 hours. So I stayed in bed and started to read a novel called *Sevengill: The Shark and Me*. As I finished the last word on the last page, I looked up at the clock and realized it was 6 AM, which was the exact time the rest of my family had agreed to get up. Time with family and



"Christmas Tree" by Hayley Docken

HAVE A MERRY CHRISTMAS  
& A HAPPY NEW YEAR!

from the Students & Staff



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friends is the best thing in life, but when you're all alone with time on your hands, a good book can be like a friend."

"One of my favourite Christmas memories," commented Mrs. Wilkinson, "is of Christmas Eve as a very young child. I would sneak out of my

little more exciting for her than for her children: "The one thing that really sticks out in my mind is how I ALWAYS had to wake my four kids up in the morning. I was more excited, it seemed, than they were. I would sleep until 7:00, and then wake everyone up by yelling SANTA WAS HERE! QUICK

really big tree, sometimes it would hit the ceiling. Then we would decorate it with affordable Christmas tree decorations. My family really liked it."

"My favourite Christmas memory," commented Samantha Kelln, "is when I was younger I made cookies and milk for Santa, but I saw my dad eat them."

Christmas is a time for giving. For many, the memory of great gifts are memories of the love they felt from their families.

"My greatest Christmas memory is the time my parents got me an Xbox," commented Storm Rain, "but it was inside a VCR box, so I got mad and I didn't want. They made me open it, and I was very happy when I saw it wasn't a VCR."

He's not the only one. "About three years ago I got my first Xbox One," commented Ali Northwest. "My mom gave it to me and I was pretty satisfied. After that I wouldn't get off my game and my mom got kinda mad at me, until I got a job, then she knew I was working for money and she was happy."

For many, memories of Christmas dinner are very special.

"I remember when my late grandmother would make ham with pineapple slices on it," Zoey Raine commented. "Man, was that the best Christmas ham ever! There's no other like it, I'll always remember her Christmas dinner ham and how she'd make it each year. Those are my favorite Christmas memories, remembering her dinners."



"Candy Canes" by Rosa Strongman

"One of my favourite Christmas memories involved watching my grandma make the gravy for our Christmas dinner," commented Assistant Principal Erin Freadrich. "We'd all be in the kitchen visiting and she'd fuss over making sure the gravy was perfect. She could spend all afternoon stirring gravy!"

For the students and staff at the BRICK Learning Centre,

Christmas is all about love, family, giving gifts and getting together for great meals. We look forward to Christmas Break, but we'll miss each other a lot. We all hope everyone has a wonderful, memorable Christmas and a very Happy New Year. We hope and pray that everyone will have a safe and enjoyable Christmas Break.



"Elf" by Tyra Cardinal

bedroom, careful not to wake my sister, and peek at the Christmas tree all lit up and with gifts from Santa under it. I was so afraid Santa would catch me!"

For Ms. Val, Christmas was a

GET UP!"

Some families, like Aza Buffalo's, have the tradition of opening gifts on Christmas Eve: "The night before Christmas, my kokom would let us open one present at 12:00 AM. I loved it when the family would get together and each one of them would make their own bowl of whatever and bring it to the dinner. After we were done eating we would go sit in the living room surrounding the Christmas tree, while the older ones were handing out gifts."

For Laurence Buffalo, getting ready for Christmas is a wonderful memory: "Every Christmas I used to go cut down a Christmas tree. I would cut down a



"Zoey" by Hayley Docken



"Christmas Reflection" by Natasha Kym

