

# Families for Literacy Program Newsletter

## December, 2017

**Tutors: please go over this newsletter (whatever is appropriate) with your adult student and encourage him/her to visit the Story Times with their children, it's a lot of fun!**



**At Redbud Library, 14785 Burns Valley Rd. Clearlake, **Thursday at 11:00 am.****

**At Middletown Library: 21256 Washington Street, Middletown, **Tuesdays at 11:30 am.****

**At Lakeport Library, 1425 N. High St. Lakeport, **Fridays at 10:15am and 2:30 pm****

### Special Christmas Story Time:



**Middletown Library, Tuesday, December 12, 11:30 am**

**Upperlake Library, Tuesday, December 12, 1:00 pm**

**Redbud Library, Thursday, December 14, 11:00 am**

**Lakeport Library, Friday, December 15, 10:15 am and 2:30 pm**

♥ Surprises are waiting for you!



*'tis the season...*



*for singing!*



**Ring Those Bells** Sung To: Jimmy Crack Corn

Ring those bells and stomp your feet (**stomp feet**),  
Ring those bells and stomp your feet (**stomp feet**),  
Ring those bells and stomp your feet (**stomp feet**),  
Christmas time is here!

*Verse 2:* ... and turn around (**turn around**), ...

*Verse 3:*... and jump up high (**jump**), ...

*Can you come up with more ideas?*

**Here is The Chimney**

Here is the chimney (**Make fist with thumb inside**)  
Here is the top. (**Put other hand over fist**)  
Open the lid. (**Remove hand from fist**)  
And out Santa will pop. (**Pop up thumb from fist**)

**SNOWFLAKES** Sung to: *Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star*

Some are big and some are small  
It is nice to watch them fall.  
Stay indoors where it is warm.  
Drink hot cocoa while it storms.  
Snowflakes big, snowflakes small  
Catch them, catch them, catch them all!

(No snow? Substitute "snowflakes" with "raindrops"!)

**Sing with us: Let's All Trim the Tree**

Sung to: *I've Been Working on the Railroad*

Adornemos el arbolito,

*(ah-dore-NE-moce el ar-bo-LEE-toe)*

Let's all trim the tree.

Hay que poner las luces,

*(I kay po-NAIR loss LOO-saice)*

For everyone to see.

El pinito bonito,

*(el pee-NEE-toe bo-NEE-toe)*

The pretty pine tree.

Adornemos el arbolito,

*(ah-dore-NE-moce el ar-bo-LEE-toe)*

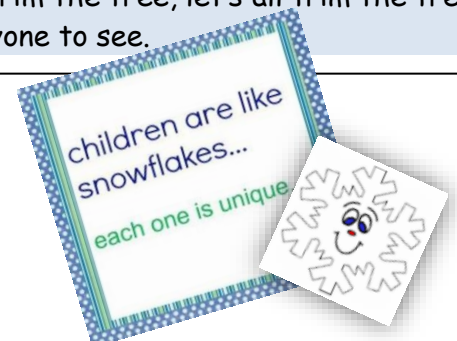
Let's all trim the tree.

Let's all trim the tree, let's all trim the tree

We need to put the lights on.

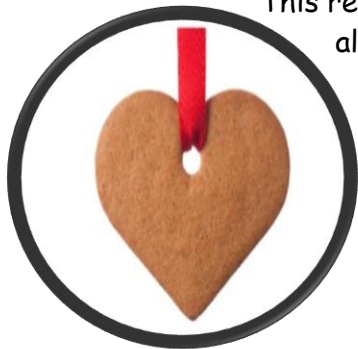
Let's all trim the tree, let's all trim the tree

For everyone to see.



## ***No bake cinnamon ornaments***

This recipe is so simple to prepare, requires no baking and the ornaments smell amazing! I also love that kids can paint them once they are dry. They dry naturally light in color, giving kids a perfect canvas to create. Are you ready to make your own?



### **What you need:**

- 1 cup of flour
- 1/2 cup of salt
- 1/2 cup of cinnamon
- 3/4 cup of very warm water
- Cookie cutters

Wax paper and Acrylic paints (both optional)

### **What you do:**

Combine all ingredients in a bowl and mix well.

Then knead the dough with clean, dry hands. If the dough is a little sticky dust your hands with some flour. After a few minutes of kneading you will be left with amazing, cinnamon ornament dough.

Give kids cookie cutters and rolling pins, and they will have a blast making their very own cinnamon ornaments. I recommend rolling the cinnamon dough out on wax paper to prevent sticking.

Be sure to pierce a hole with a straw in the ornaments before leaving them to dry. This makes stringing them on the tree much easier!



## ***Ways to Create a More Peaceful Christmas***

1) **Slow down and simplify.** Slowing down allows us to see and appreciate the things that matter most, and that is key to a peaceful holiday and a peaceful life. What are the most important parts of my life? Am I giving them the attention they deserve or am I so busy that I am missing it?

2) **Ask each family member which holiday traditions/activities matter most to them.** Write them down. And be sure to ask yourself.

2) **Say "no" to things that don't really matter.** Does this bring peace or joy to my life? If not, let it go.  
**Say "yes" to the things that matter most.**

3) **Bring the True Spirit of the Holidays to your home.**

Focus on themes like, "Hope," "Love," "Joy," & "Peace."

4) **Buy an experience rather than a thing.** Giving the gift of an experience is a wonderful thing.

Experiences bring excitement, connections to other people and greater happiness than the gift of an item.

5) **Simplify gifts, and add more meaning.** Stick to a "4-Gift Christmas": Each child gets four gifts: a gift of *wonder* (the thing they really want), a gift of *need* (clothes, underwear, socks?), a gift of *meaning* (something homemade, scrapbook, or maybe a family trip), and a "*Santa*" gift.

6) **Serve with a joyful heart.** If there is one thing that brings greater peace, it is service. Look around for opportunities - it doesn't have to be a grand gesture, but service and charity are what Christmas is all about.



### **Families For Literacy December Book Give-Away**

Starting Thursday, December 7, tutors may pick up packages of books for their learner's families at their closest library. These books are meant to be holiday gifts for their children.



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