

# Celebrating THE Holiday Season Safely



## IT'S DECEMBER AND WE ALL KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS – HOLIDAY SEASON IS UPON US!

Classrooms across the district will mark the occasion with activities, crafts and celebrations. While schools are encouraged to celebrate, it is critical that we plan ahead and ensure that all of our holiday activities are consistent with the district's COVID-19 health and safety protocols. We've included guidance and suggestions below.

### Winter Assemblies Or Concerts

Following provincial recommendations, schools can host in-person winter assemblies or concerts within the following guidelines:

- \* Limit the number of attendees to 50% capacity of the space.
- \* Ensure attendees follow visitor protocols:
  - \* **CHECK UP:** do a health check before attending and don't attend if not feeling well
  - \* **BACK UP:** give others personal space
  - \* **WASH UP:** practice hand hygiene often while at the event. Ensure hand sanitizer is available for attendees
  - \* **MASK UP:** masks are required to be worn while indoors.
- \* Ensure that all student performers are spread out and are masked while singing or performing, unless a dance performance is high intensity.



- \* Schools may want to have a virtual option available. Microsoft Teams can accommodate live assemblies or schools can pre-record and host these videos on the district Vimeo platform using this [step-by-step guide](#) developed by Education Services. Remember to obtain parental consent before filming students and/or posting online!

### Food & Treats

Limited activities involving food or treats can take place this year if appropriate precautions are taken:

- \* Food must be individually portioned and wrapped/prepackaged, and not shared amongst others.
- \* Food should be prepared by an establishment with a COVID Safety Plan. This means that food prepared at home and distributed at school is not acceptable.
- \* Staff meals, such as pancake breakfasts, may proceed at schools if prepared in a cafeteria, teaching kitchen or by a caterer and individually portioned or served.
- \* Staff events should be treated as personal events and held off school property. One option could be to hold the event at a restaurant.
- \* No communal donuts, chocolates and cookies left out for all to share. Please avoid this entirely this holiday season.

- \* Secret Santa gift exchanges can take place this year. Please develop a distribution plan to prevent crowding in an area.
- \* Gingerbread house decorating and cookie decorating may proceed if the gingerbread and cookies are purchased from a store or prepared in a teaching kitchen or foods lab. Assembling and decorating of these items should be limited to one student per gingerbread house/cookie.

Distribution of hot chocolate and coffee is acceptable.



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## Food Bank, Toy Donations & Fundraising

It's the season of giving and it is so important that we safely continue school-based food, clothing and toy drives.

- \* The Surrey Food Bank can safely pick up food donations at schools through its [2021 holiday campaign](#). Check out their [school toolkit](#) for food bank drives.
- \* Donations to the [Surrey Christmas Bureau](#) can be safely dropped off at the bureau's toy depot or Surrey fire halls. Pickups from school sites can also be arranged.
- \* Fundraisers such as Purdy's Chocolates, poinsettia and wreath sales are allowed if appropriate health and safety protocols are followed.

If possible, please have the items sent home with students. Otherwise, pick-up of these items should be arranged with items picked up outside, with physical distancing and masks where appropriate. Schools should also stagger pick up times and/or offer multiple days for pick up to avoid crowding or congregating. If possible, offer a contactless pick up such as a drive-thru or delivery of items to the car trunk!



## Snow Many Ways to Celebrate Safely!

- \* A pajama day with your class and some great winter reads! Look for a Winter Reading Series throughout the month of December on [surreyschools.ca](http://surreyschools.ca) and our district social media!
- \* A door or classroom decorating contest where each class decorates their door or classroom and challenges other classes to a fun competition! Decorations can follow a theme like your favorite holiday songs!
- \* Have an outdoor scavenger hunt within your class and find seasonal items that you can see, smell or touch. This can include fallen leaves, the smell of pine, or the rough feel of tree bark.
- \* Make festive holiday cards and find a special place to mail them to—like a senior's care facility or a homeless shelter. Please call the site in advance to ensure they are accepting cards and follow all safety protocols outlined by organizations.

Holiday movies are a fun and safe way to celebrate in class. Teach about inclusion with *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer*, grow their hearts with *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*, tap into some holiday magic with *Frosty the Snowman*, or just have a laugh watching *Home Alone*.

