Lyn’s lines
When I read Michael Grose’s headline, ‘Thank Goodness for Christmas’ I instantly thought, is he mad? This time of year is filled with so many things to do, people rushing everywhere trying to finish work, school, shopping, standing in the never ending line at the post office and food preparation to name just a few. On reading the article it did make me stop and think about our family Christmas and yes we do have many traditions that mean a lot to our friends, family and children. The article jogged a recent memory for me as I recalled a conversation I had with my 20 year old son. Traditionally I bake a Christmas ham and I spoke about changing to a different recipe. I was told in no uncertain terms that that could not possibly happen the ham had to be the same…………yes, a tradition!!!! The article made me think of the things we enjoy about Christmas and what it means to our families. Have a read!!!

Thank Goodness for Christmas

The real strength of Christmas lies in its use of rituals. Most families develop a strong sense of ritual at Christmas. Kids today need Christmas more than ever. Not for the gifts and presents - most children get their fair share throughout the year. They need Christmas for the escape and for the mystery and magic that is associated with childhood.

There are few secrets left for kids these days. In this information- age they are bombarded with news and views of all sorts. Childhood was once a type of secret garden that was full of mysteries. The wider world was there to be discovered by children, rather than something that was thrust upon them. Kids are now more knowing, more street-wise and in many ways, more cynical than in the past.

Christmas for all its commercialism still has its mystery and magic. I liked the way my children would, dispensing with logic, keep the secrets of Christmas alive for as long as possible. I remember how, my eldest as a young teen and his eleven year old sister, knew that the idea of Santa sliding down a chimney in a red suit was a tad nonsensical. Yet they didn’t let on for the sake of their younger sister. Perhaps, once a year they still wanted to believe in the magic. Teenagers, like adults, are always on the lookout for activities that anchor them back to their childhoods.

The real strength of Christmas lies in its use of rituals. Most families develop a strong sense of ritual at Christmas. My own family’s rituals that evolved over two decades are now entrenched in my children’s psyches as they move into adulthood. One, in particular, is so insistent that we keep certain Christmas traditions in place that she has become the family Christmas organiser. She’s not leaving anything to chance!
Christmas for kids is all about anticipation. From a commercial sense, Christmas starts in November and slowly builds up toward the Big Day. Much of the anticipation is built around the receiving of presents. As a parent you can build a sense of anticipation and broaden kids’ focus away from the notion of receiving presents and gifts. Christmas gives you a chance to build a sense of generosity in your kids and also to develop their appreciation for family traditions and rituals. You don’t have to wait until Christmas Eve for the rituals to kick in. You can start earlier by involving kids in the whole build-up to Christmas.

Here are five simple ideas you can use right now to switch your kids on to Christmas:

1. Put up your own advent calendar at the start of December. Even better, get kids to make their own.
2. Get kids to clear out their cupboards of toys, clothing and items they don’t need. They can pass them on to someone who can use them.
3. Go with your children to choose a gift to donate to the local ‘giving tree’.
4. Ask your kids to help you send your Christmas cards to your family and friends.
5. Adopt a Christmas tradition from another country. Do some research online or ask around for different traditions.

Michael Grose Parenting Educator

STOP PRESS STOP PRESS STOP PRESS

Please note that school finishes at 1.30pm NOT 2.30pm

On Friday December 20th

as previously advertised.

Apologies if anyone has already made arrangements. Please note that the school crossing will not be manned at this time and students must be collected from school by an adult.

CALENDAR DATES

DECEMBER:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tues 10th</td>
<td>School Council Break-up</td>
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<td>Prep Transition</td>
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<td>Wed 11th</td>
<td>La Porchetta Excursion</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Working Bee 2.30pm-4.30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thurs 12th</td>
<td>Bushwahee Concert</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 16th</td>
<td>Grade 6 Graduation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 20th</td>
<td>Early dismissal 1.30pm</td>
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HASTINGS SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAM
THURSDAY 2nd JAN TO FRIDAY 24th JAN

BITTERN MEMORIAL CENTRE, HENDERSONS RD, BITTERN
HOURS: 7.30AM - 6.30PM
Enrolment forms can be collected from Mornington Peninsula Shire Offices or libraries. Alternatively forms can be downloaded from the Shire Website at www.mornpen.vic.gov.au

COMPLETED FORMS NEED TO BE RETURNED BY WEDNESDAY 4th DECEMBER

For further information
Contact: Joan Wust on 5950 1641

Working Bee

Please come along to school and help to spruce up the grounds before Christmas. It would be greatly appreciated.
If you have some garden tools, please bring them along.

When: Wednesday 11th December
Time: 2.30pm to 4.30pm

Please don’t feel you have to be there for the entire 2 hours, any amount of time is welcome

HOT DOGS!!
Hot dogs will be available this Friday, at a cost of $2.50.
If you would like your child/ren to purchase a hot dog, please complete the order form and return it to school this Friday, together with the correct money.

PLEASE NOTE – THE CANTEEN IS NOT OPEN ON HOT DOG DAY

Χ________________________________________

HOT DOG ORDER FORM
I would like to order _____ hot dogs @$2.50
NAME: ________________  GRADE: ___
Please find enclosed $_________________
Χ________________________________________

HOT DOG ORDER FORM
I would like to order _____ hot dogs @$2.50
NAME: ________________  GRADE: ___
Please find enclosed $_________________
Χ________________________________________

HOT DOG ORDER FORM
I would like to order _____ hot dogs @$2.50
NAME: ________________  GRADE: ___
Please find enclosed $_________________

LAST CANTEEN
MONDAY 9th DECEMBER
NO CANTEEN
WEDNESDAY 11TH DECEMBER
AUSTRALIA’S MOST TRUSTED PROVIDER OF DOCTOR HOME VISITS

HOME VISITING DOCTORS AVAILABLE
WEEKNIGHTS 6PM – 8AM
WEEKENDS FROM NOON SAT
ALL DAY SUN & PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

- BULK BILLING AVAILABLE
- YOUR PATIENT RECORD IS
  KEPT UP-TO-DATE
- COMPLIMENTARY MEDICATION
  STARTER PACKS
  *CONDITIONS APPLY

13 SICK 7425
WE’LL GET A DOCTOR TO YOUR DOOR
SO YOU CAN START TREATMENT SOONER
CALL CENTRE OPEN
WEEKDAYS FROM 4PM
SATURDAY FROM 10AM
ALL DAY SUNDAY &
PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

HOME DOCTOR SERVICE

Carols by Candlelight
on the
Hastings Foreshore

Friday 13th December 2013

Bring a picnic tea
and come and join
us for a night of
Christmas spirit.

6:00pm
Free Activities
- Sausage Sizzle
- Animal Farm
- Craft and Games

7:30pm
Stage Program
- Children's parade
- Carol Singing
- Entertainment

Candles available for gold coin donation

At the event of heavy rain, the carols by candlelight will relocate to St Mary’s Primary School, Victoria St

General Enquiries: Nicki Descole - 4401 021050