

Adventures at AIMS...coming together as a community

The Gift of Traditions

Maybe Christmas, the Grinch thought, doesn't come from a store. -Dr. Seuss

Last week while I was visiting the classrooms, I asked a few upper elementary students if they could share a favorite holiday memory with me. One student spoke of the two mischievous elves that moved about her home during this time of year. Her face broke out into a huge smile as she described their behavior during this month. Another spoke of baking and decorating gingerbread houses, describing the many gum drops and peppermints that would be "glued" on. And another spoke of cousins visiting from afar; Movies, hot cocoa, and staying up late were just a few activities mentioned. Not one student indicated a material gift received.

In this busy (sometimes stressful) time of year, do not forget that your children adore you and treasure their family with their entire being. Recognize that sharing your time and selves is *the* most important gift that they can receive. Don't forget to bake cookies, eat meals, play games, read and celebrate together. The most important thing about this time of year is learning about traditions and interacting with family.

And as the writer Andy Rooney once said, "One of the most glorious messes in the world is the mess created in the living room on Christmas day. Don't clean it up too quickly."