



LPB Parents E-Newsletter December 2016

Here are some ideas for this holiday season:

Holiday Traditions

Whether you are a family of carolers, candle-lighters or Kwanzaa celebrators, create family [traditions](#) this holiday season with tips, ideas, crafts, recipes and more!

How to Turn the Holidays Green

Help your children become more conscious consumers who respect their planet by starting your own [green](#) family winter traditions.

Gift Giving For Kids

So much of the excitement during the holiday season is all about receiving presents. How can we get children to develop the same enthusiasm for giving? One sure way is to help them experience the joy of [giving](#).

Gifts to Encourage Learning

Here are some [suggestions](#) if you are looking for gifts that can foster your child's math and science skills or inspire reading and creativity.

Plans for the New Year

Instead of New Years resolutions that are quickly broken, take time to make a list of all the new things you and your children want to learn and explore during the upcoming year. Not only will you have fun things to do throughout the year, the process helps children think creatively and become lifelong learners.

Winter Crafts For Kids

Get in the DIY spirit when you try some of PBS Parents [winter crafts](#) including ice paint, homemade snow globes and holiday decorations.

Holiday Games

Through the holidays children need some time to play quietly. Those are just the times when the fun PBS holiday-focused educational [games](#) can help out.

PBS KIDS Holiday Coloring Pages & Printables

Your kids can get creative this holiday season with coloring pages, wrapping paper and other holiday-themed [printables](#) featuring their favorite PBS KIDS friends.

Stories for the Holiday Season

With visions of toys and games dancing in their heads, it's easy for children to miss the real significance of holidays such as Christmas, Hanukkah, Diwali and Kwaanza. Fortunately, there are plenty of enjoyable [books](#) for children that teach the historical and cultural meanings of these and other winter celebrations.

Classic Holiday Cookies

Some of my fondest memories are of making (and eating!) cookies with my family. Cooking together is a way for parents and children to create great memories. With both peanut butter and chocolate kisses, what is not to love about [Peanut Butter Kiss Cookies](#)?

Stained Glass Cookie Ornaments

This looks like a clever way to make colorful [edible ornaments](#) for the tree.

Snow Men Cookies

We rarely get snow in Louisiana, but your children can still enjoy [snow men](#) when they make these cookies.

Just For Kids: PBS KIDS Holiday Month and All New READY JET GO!

Throughout December, LPB's children's programs will be sprinkled with special holiday episodes celebrating the season. At 11:30 a.m. December 12th through the 16th, **Thomas & Friends** will air new holiday episodes. Classic holiday specials will include **Wild Kratts Creature Christmas** (December 23rd and 25th at 6 a.m. and 4 p.m. and December 25th at 8 a.m. on LPB HD), **Curious George: A Very Monkey Christmas** (December 16th and 18th at 7:30 a.m. and December 25th at 7:00 a.m.), **Peg + Cat + Holidays** (December 13th at 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. on LPB HD and December 13th at 5:30 a.m. on LPB 2), and **The Cat in the Hat Knows a Lot about Christmas** (December 17th and 25th at 6 a.m. on LPB HD). The week of December 26th through the 30th five new episodes of **Ready Jet Go!** will debut at 6:30 a.m. on LPB HD. Check the [online schedule](#) for more shows and times.

PBS Kids 24/7!

PBS Kids is going 24/7 in January 2017 on LPB 2 (27.2) and through cable providers across the state. LPB will broadcast PBS KIDS shows 24 hours a day and offer a digital livestream, making it easy for children to watch their favorite series during primetime and other after-school hours. The broadcast will include popular favorites, such as **Daniel Tiger's Neighborhood**, **Odd Squad**, **Wild Kratts** and **Dinosaur Train**, as well as **Nature Cat** and **Ready Jet Go!**

Christmas Present Idea

PBS has introduced **PBS Kids Playtime Pad**, a 16 GB kids' tablet loaded with PBS KIDS' educational content including more than 25 games, 120 video clips and music videos, 100+ hours of video on the PBS KIDS Video App, and other popular apps such as PBS KIDS ScratchJr and PBS Parents Play and Learn. The Playtime Pad features a front-and-back camera and a Paint Box coloring app that encourages kids to flex their creative skills. The tablet is kidSAFE® Coppa-certified, and includes controls that enable parents to customize the device for each of their children, set limits on screen time using a play timer and manage what kids can access. The PBS KIDS Playtime Pad is available (\$79.99) at Best Buy stores and on [bestbuy.com](#), [walmart.com](#), and [shop.pbskids.org](#).

Most Useful Gift Yet?

Did you know that you do not need a high school equivalency (formerly the GED and now the HiSET exam) to enroll and graduate from college? The 13 colleges of the Louisiana Community and Technical College System (LCTCS) are open to everyone and they do not require that students hold a high school diploma or equivalent. All Louisiana adults, regardless of whether they graduated high school, can earn college credentials in high-wage, high-demand fields like welding, electrical, construction crafts, plumbing, and healthcare. The LCTCS colleges have established a scholarship that fully funds six credit hours for adults *without* a high school diploma.

Louisiana adults who are interested in taking the HiSET exam might be eligible for a scholarship that covers the examination fee. LCTCS colleges will help eligible adults with a high school diploma access federal financial aid. [More information](#).

For You and the Family: Special Holiday Programs

A CHRISTMAS CAROL: THE CONCERT is the adaptation for an orchestral concert with choir and soloists, memorable songs, and the story performed by New York and Chicago theater luminaries. December 18th at 10:30 p.m.

CHRISTMAS WITH THE MORMON TABERNACLE CHOIR FEATURING LAURA OSNES AND MARTIN JARVIS on December 19th at 8 p.m. Enjoy the Broadway star, British screen actor, four Metropolitan Opera soloists, the Choir, and Orchestra at Temple Square for the annual Concert.

CHRISTMAS AT BELMONT on December 25th at 2 p.m. Grammy-winning host Kathy Mattea and nearly 700 student musicians, Belmont School of Music faculty and Nashville Children's Choir perform traditional carols, classical masterworks, world music and light-hearted seasonal favorites.

Check the [schedule](#) for the annual **New Year Eve Concert from Vienna**.

Season Four of **Sherlock Holmes** begins on January 1st.

Create 3

Don't forget that you can enjoy many Christmas and holiday crafts, cooking and travel shows on Create, LPB 3, throughout December. Create can be received over-the-air with a digital antenna. Check the [online schedule](#) for shows and times.

I hope you get a chance to enjoy some of these resources. Have a happy and safe holiday season!

Ellen Wydra, Ph.D.

Director, Educational Television and Technology

Louisiana Public Broadcasting

ewydra@lpb.org

(225) 767-4453

(800) 272-8161, ext. 4453