



Welcome to the brand-new community unity (**commUNITY**) group and newsletter. Our goal is to encourage acceptance of all people into our community through the practice of inclusion, equality, and kindness.

Each month we'll be bringing you information, fun activities, suggested readings, and key insights from our LRES School Counselor on how we can work together to make our little corner of the universe a happier, healthier, and more inclusive space.

For December, we'll be shining a spotlight on the many different winter holidays and ways families celebrate during this time of year. We hope you and your family enjoy learning about the celebrations that occur not only in our community but around the world.

## **Counselor Corner**

Jacky Smith, LRES School Counselor

This month, all Ladera Ranch Lions were taught about empathy, whether through a live lesson in their extended learning or accessed through Canvas during asynchronous learning. Empathy is “the ability to feel and understand what someone else is feeling.”

The holiday season, with all of the many different types of celebrations, is a wonderful time to teach our children to value those around them by practicing empathy—whether it be through service, showing gratitude, or giving to others.

One simple way to help your child develop empathy, is to teach them about the various ways people celebrate over these next few months. Engaging in these conversations helps children learn more about all of the amazing, unique differences that make up humanity and can give them a greater appreciation for the experiences of those in their community.

## Winter Reading Suggestions

The following books explore a variety of holidays celebrated across several cultures all around the world. Think about starting a mini book club with your family. Choose a book from the titles below, have everyone read it (or read it aloud together), and then discuss the similarities and differences between the celebrations in the book and the festivities that happen in your home.

*Nathan Blows Out the Hanukkah Candles*  
by Nicole Katzman and Tami Lehman-Wilzig

*Winter Candle*  
by Jeron Ashford

*The Mitten String*  
by Jennifer Rosner

*Great Joy*  
by Kate Dicamillo

*The Magic of Friendship Snow*  
by Andi Cann

*The Christmas Coat*  
by Virginia Driving Hawk Sneve

*Immi*  
by Karin Littlewood

*Every Month is a New Year*  
by Marilyn Singer

*Seven Spools of Thread*  
by Angela Shelf Medearis

*The Wish Tree*  
by Kyo Maclear

*Waiting for Christmas*  
by Kathleen Long Bostrom

*Lights for Gita*  
by Rachna Gilmore

*The Miracle of the First Poinsettia*  
by Joanne Oppenheim

*The Shortest Day*  
by Susan Cooper

We invite you to share book suggestions with us that promote appreciation and respect for diversity. We value our LRES families and their experiences and look forward to sharing your ideas as well. You can contact us at: [CommunityLRESPTA@gmail.com](mailto:CommunityLRESPTA@gmail.com).



## WINTER CELEBRATION BINGO

Initial the activity when completed. If you get four in a row, you get a BINGO!



Play the dreidel game with a friend or family member	Go on a walk with your family and observe the change of nature in the winter season	Try food from a different culture	Donate an old toy
Offer to help someone	Share one thing you love about your friend or teacher	Find out what your teacher celebrates for the Holidays and make them a card	Make a list of what you are grateful for
"Ujima" means collective work and responsibility in Swahili. Pick up 5 pieces of trash in your neighborhood or school	Visit a "live" nativity scene	Hold the door open for someone	Learn to say "hello" in a different language
Light a candle with your family	Tell a friend about your favorite family tradition	Practice saying "Hanukkah Sameach " which means "Happy Hanukkah" in Hebrew	Write chalk messages of positivity

# SOCK DRIVE



*to help keep others warm during the winter*

**LRES PTA's Community Unity committee is partnering with**



**OPERATION**  
WARM WISHES

**to collect new BAGGED or PACKAGED socks**

**December 7th to December 11th**

**Collection boxes  
will be available  
outside each gate  
every morning.**



Ladera Ranch Elementary  
**PTA**  
everychild.onevoice.

**Show your  
support by  
wearing  
CRAZY socks  
on Wed 12/9!**

Not printed at CUSD expense. Questions? Contact [communitylrespta@gmail.com](mailto:communitylrespta@gmail.com)  
Please adhere to all dress code rules.