

# HOLIDAY PARTY CLASSROOM IDEAS eBOOK

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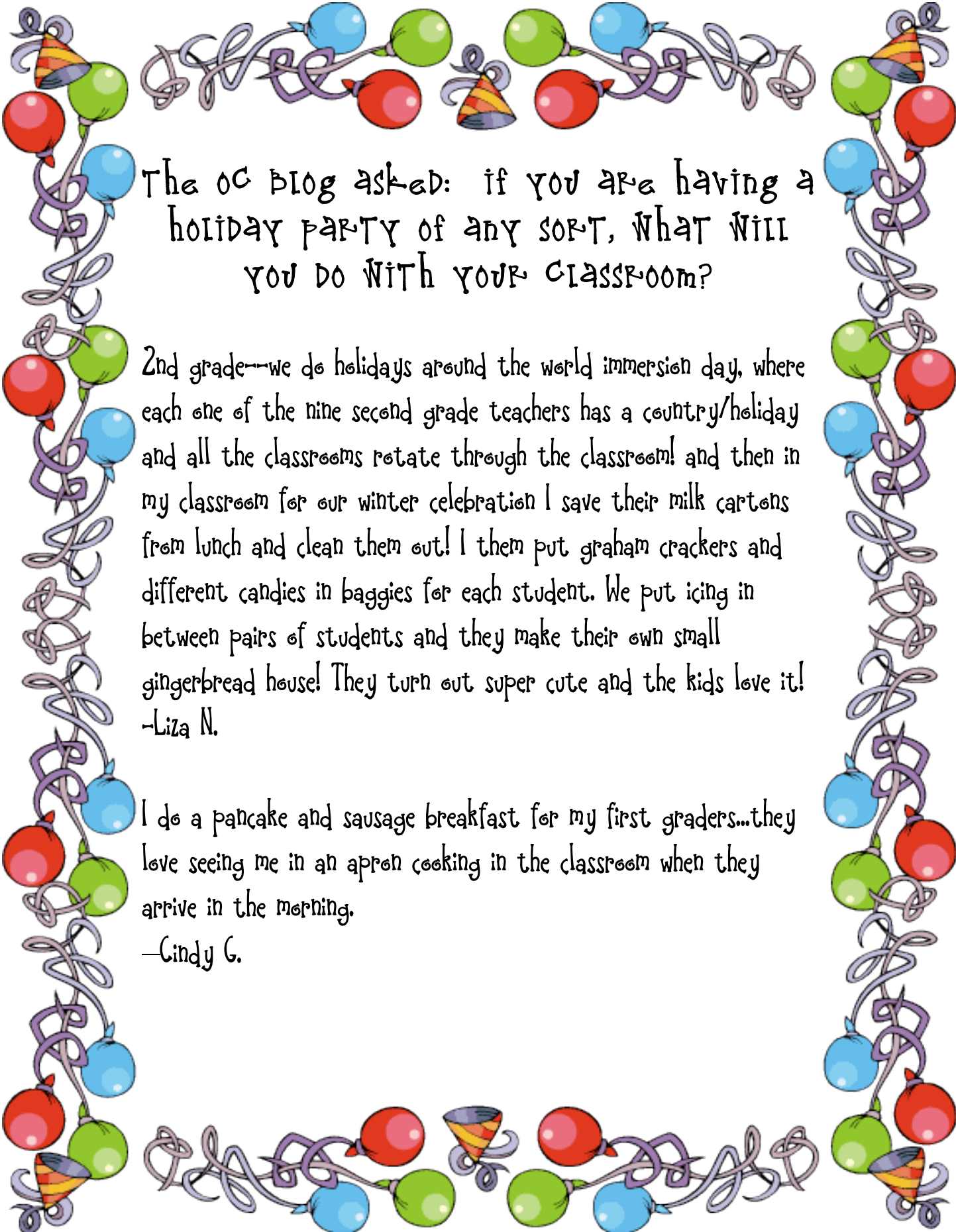
fans of The ORGANIZED CLASSROOM BLOG!

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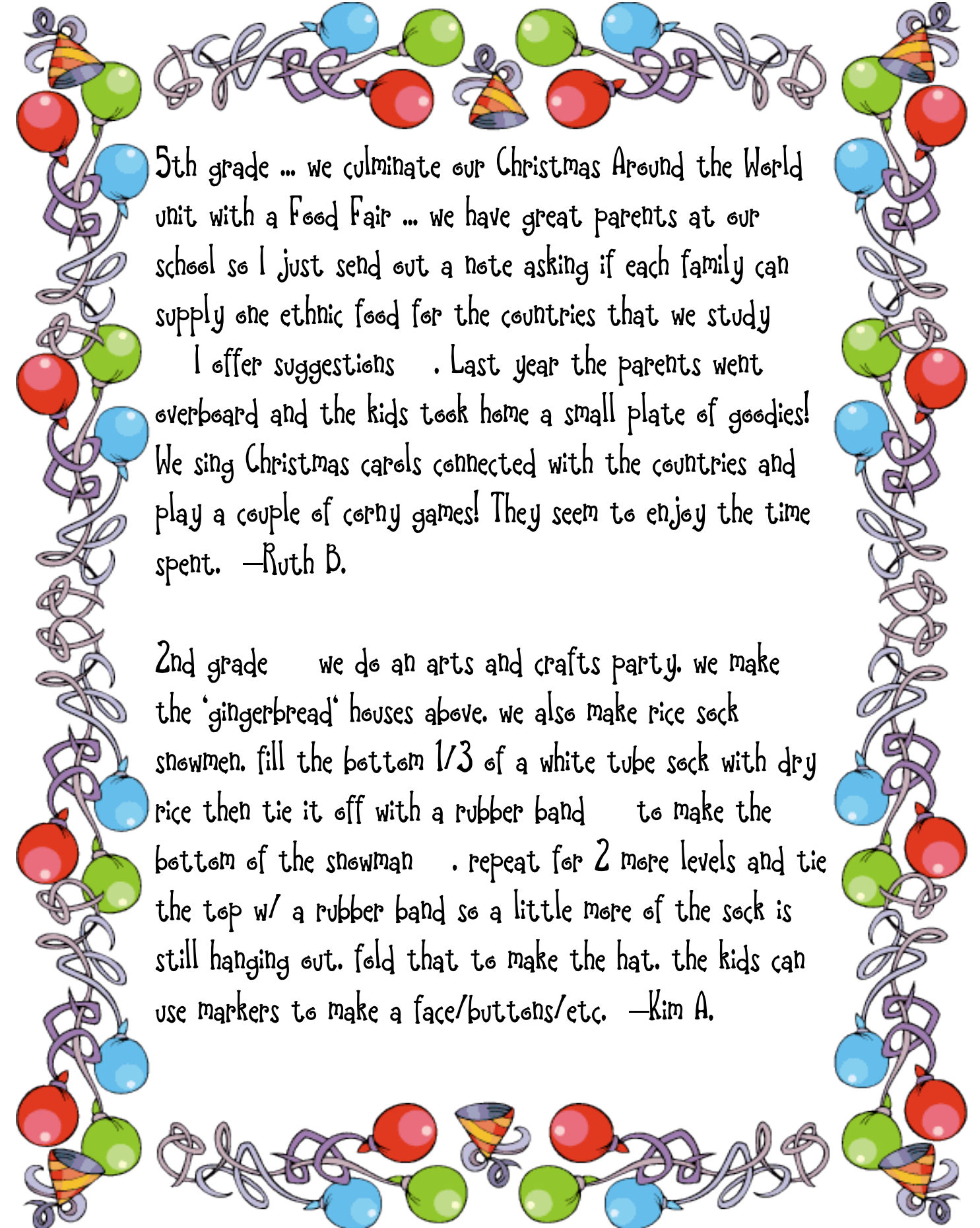
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The OC Blog asked: if you are having a holiday party of any sort, what will you do with your classroom?

2nd grade--we do holidays around the world immersion day, where each one of the nine second grade teachers has a country/holiday and all the classrooms rotate through the classroom! and then in my classroom for our winter celebration I save their milk cartons from lunch and clean them out! I then put graham crackers and different candies in baggies for each student. We put icing in between pairs of students and they make their own small gingerbread house! They turn out super cute and the kids love it!  
-Liza N.

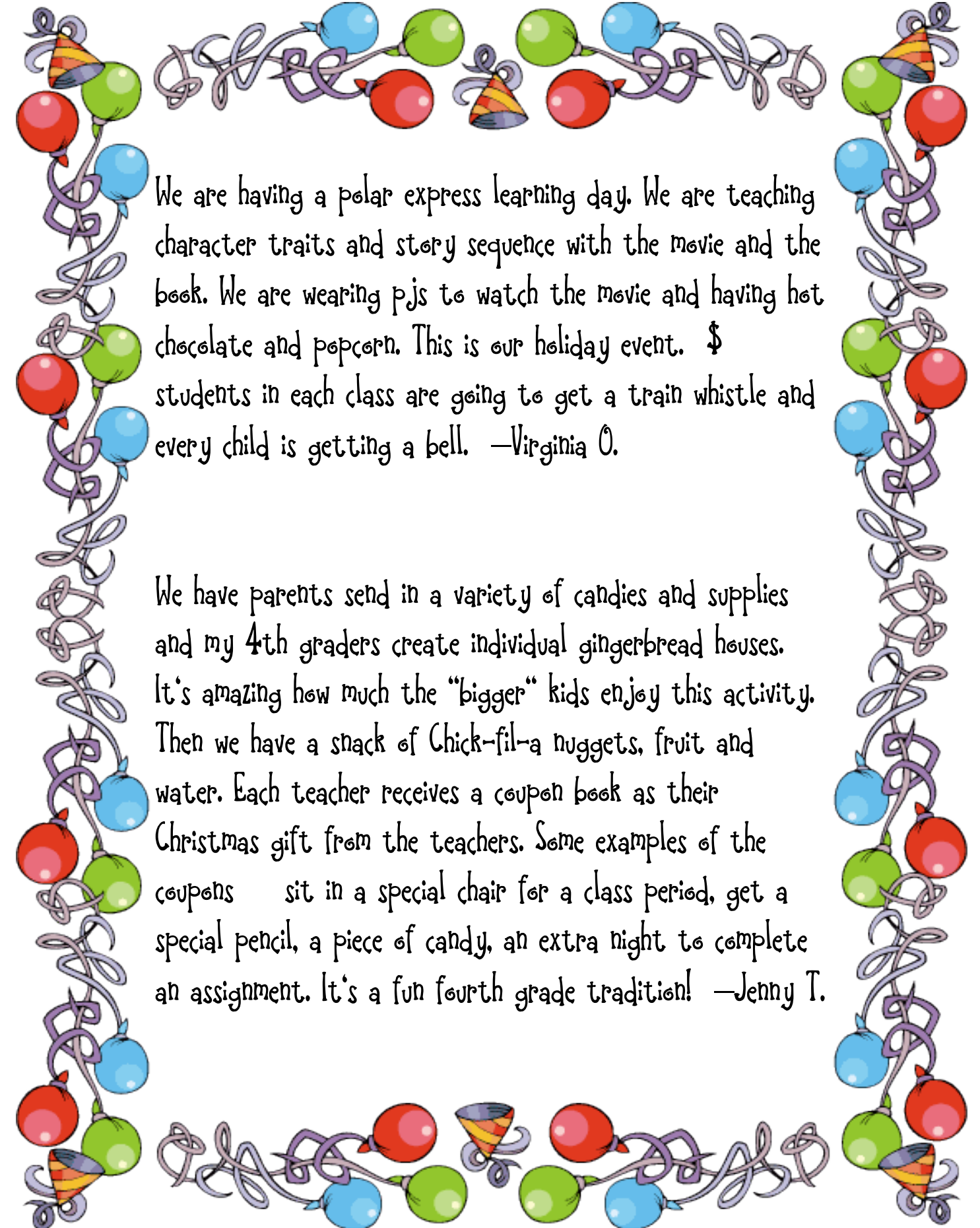
I do a pancake and sausage breakfast for my first graders...they love seeing me in an apron cooking in the classroom when they arrive in the morning.  
-Cindy G.



5th grade ... we culminate our Christmas Around the World unit with a Food Fair ... we have great parents at our school so I just send out a note asking if each family can supply one ethnic food for the countries that we study

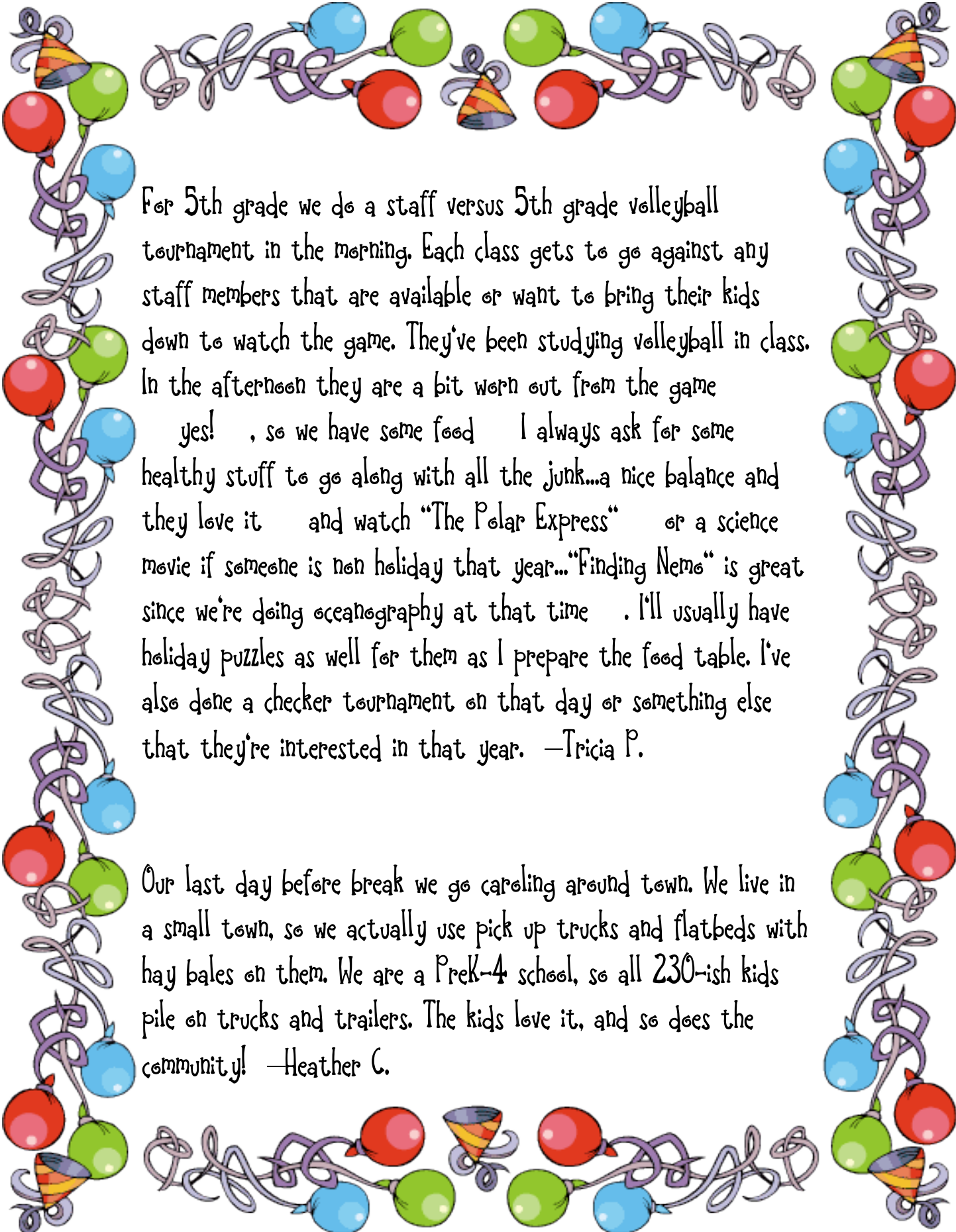
I offer suggestions . Last year the parents went overboard and the kids took home a small plate of goodies! We sing Christmas carols connected with the countries and play a couple of corny games! They seem to enjoy the time spent. —Ruth B.

2nd grade we do an arts and crafts party. we make the 'gingerbread' houses above. we also make rice sock snowmen. fill the bottom 1/3 of a white tube sock with dry rice then tie it off with a rubber band to make the bottom of the snowman . repeat for 2 more levels and tie the top w/ a rubber band so a little more of the sock is still hanging out. fold that to make the hat. the kids can use markers to make a face/buttons/etc. —Kim A.



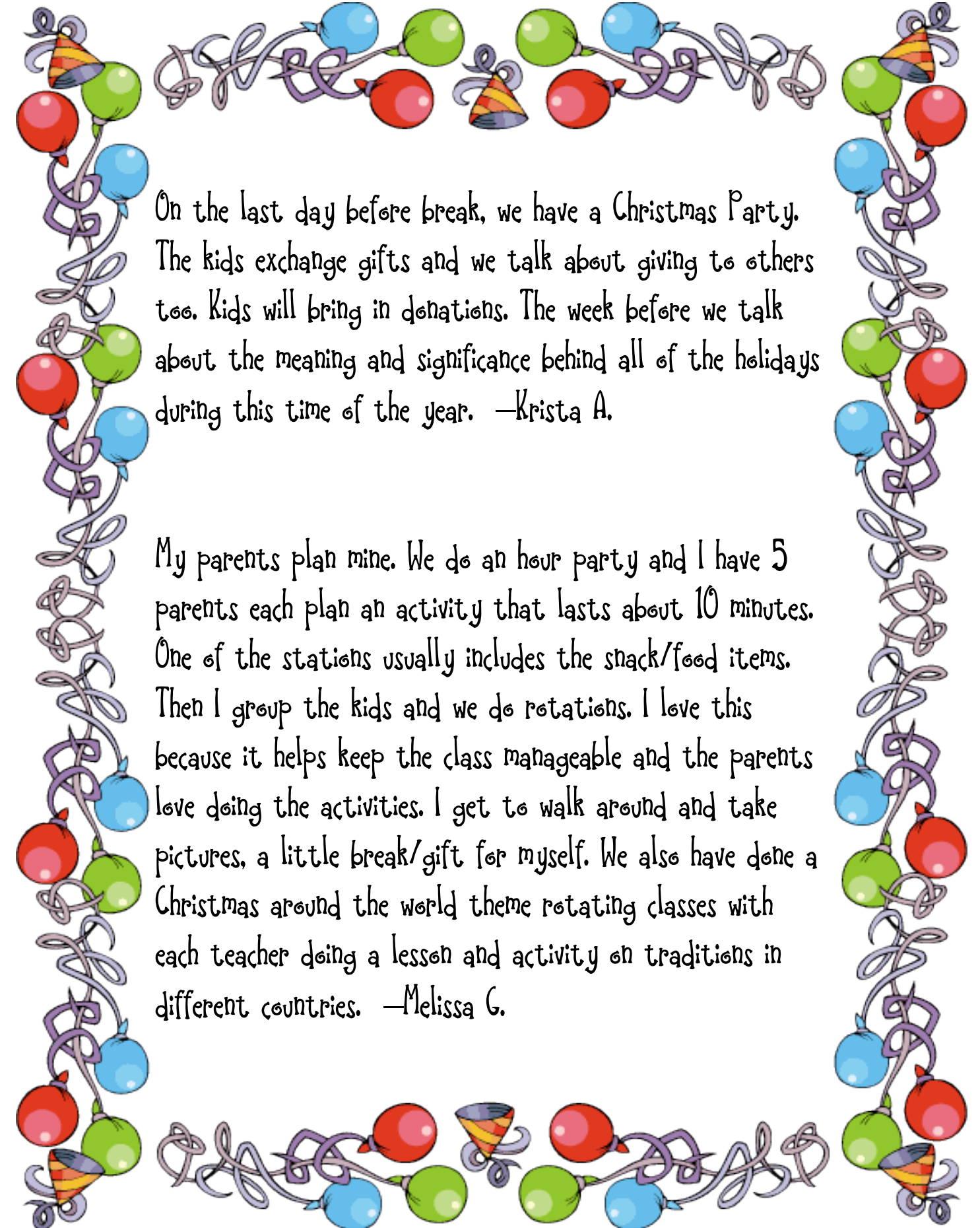
We are having a polar express learning day. We are teaching character traits and story sequence with the movie and the book. We are wearing pjs to watch the movie and having hot chocolate and popcorn. This is our holiday event. \$ students in each class are going to get a train whistle and every child is getting a bell. —Virginia O.

We have parents send in a variety of candies and supplies and my 4th graders create individual gingerbread houses. It's amazing how much the "bigger" kids enjoy this activity. Then we have a snack of Chick-fil-a nuggets, fruit and water. Each teacher receives a coupon book as their Christmas gift from the teachers. Some examples of the coupons sit in a special chair for a class period, get a special pencil, a piece of candy, an extra night to complete an assignment. It's a fun fourth grade tradition! —Jenny T.



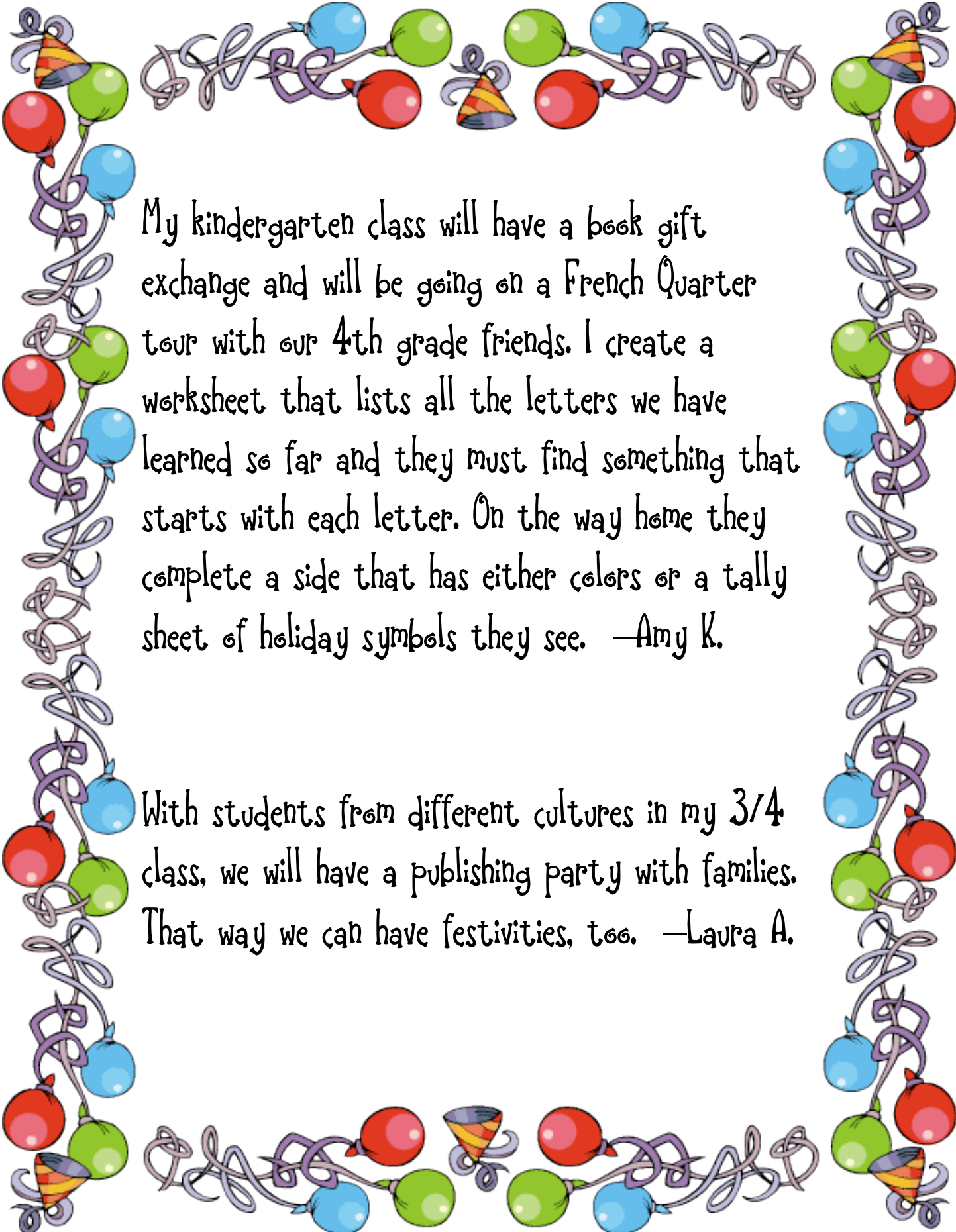
For 5th grade we do a staff versus 5th grade volleyball tournament in the morning. Each class gets to go against any staff members that are available or want to bring their kids down to watch the game. They've been studying volleyball in class. In the afternoon they are a bit worn out from the game yes! , so we have some food I always ask for some healthy stuff to go along with all the junk...a nice balance and they love it and watch "The Polar Express" or a science movie if someone is non holiday that year... "Finding Nemo" is great since we're doing oceanography at that time . I'll usually have holiday puzzles as well for them as I prepare the food table. I've also done a checker tournament on that day or something else that they're interested in that year. —Tricia P.

Our last day before break we go caroling around town. We live in a small town, so we actually use pick up trucks and flatbeds with hay bales on them. We are a PreK-4 school, so all 230-ish kids pile on trucks and trailers. The kids love it, and so does the community! —Heather C.



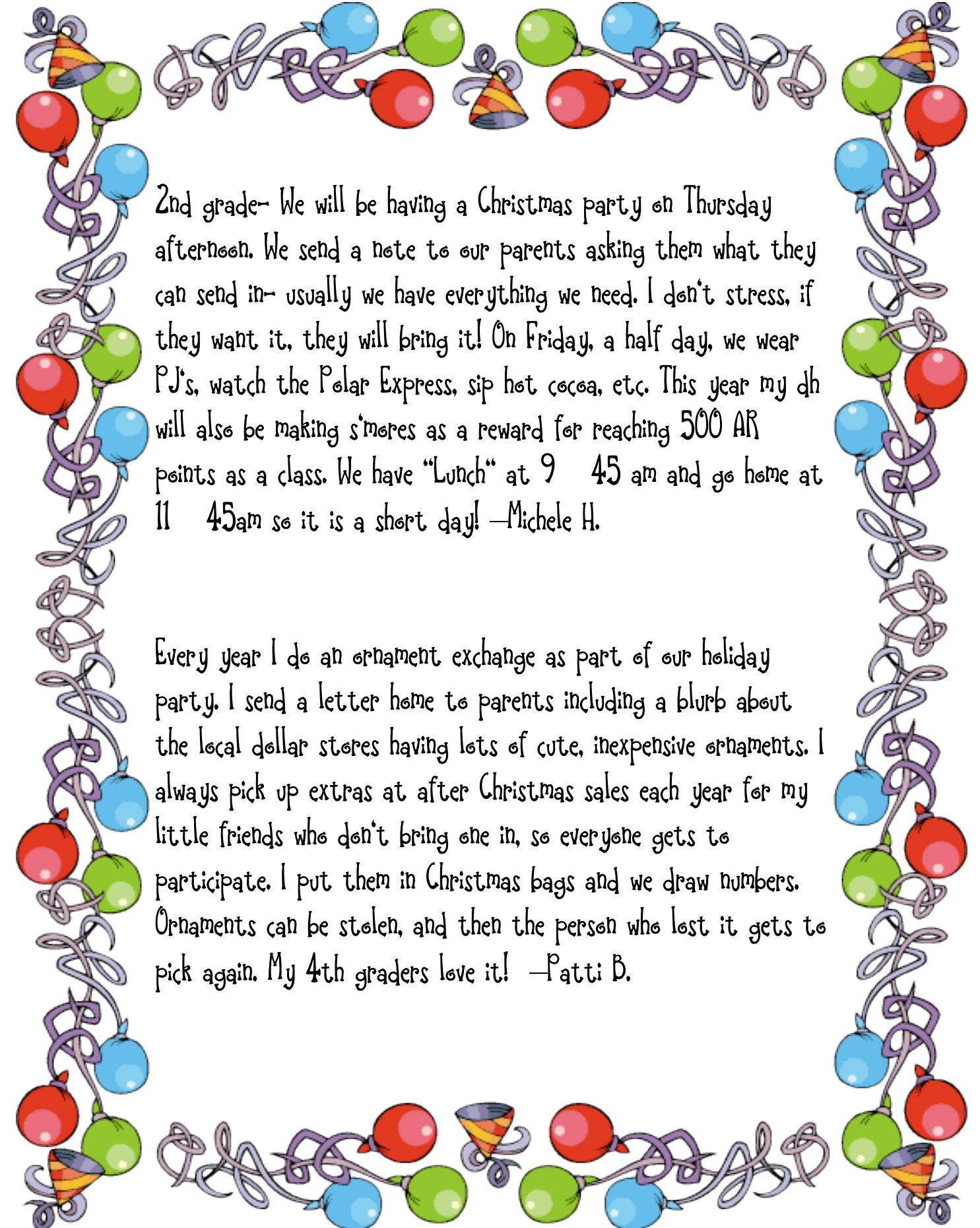
On the last day before break, we have a Christmas Party. The kids exchange gifts and we talk about giving to others too. Kids will bring in donations. The week before we talk about the meaning and significance behind all of the holidays during this time of the year. —Krista A.

My parents plan mine. We do an hour party and I have 5 parents each plan an activity that lasts about 10 minutes. One of the stations usually includes the snack/food items. Then I group the kids and we do rotations. I love this because it helps keep the class manageable and the parents love doing the activities. I get to walk around and take pictures, a little break/gift for myself. We also have done a Christmas around the world theme rotating classes with each teacher doing a lesson and activity on traditions in different countries. —Melissa G.



My kindergarten class will have a book gift exchange and will be going on a French Quarter tour with our 4th grade friends. I create a worksheet that lists all the letters we have learned so far and they must find something that starts with each letter. On the way home they complete a side that has either colors or a tally sheet of holiday symbols they see. —Amy K.

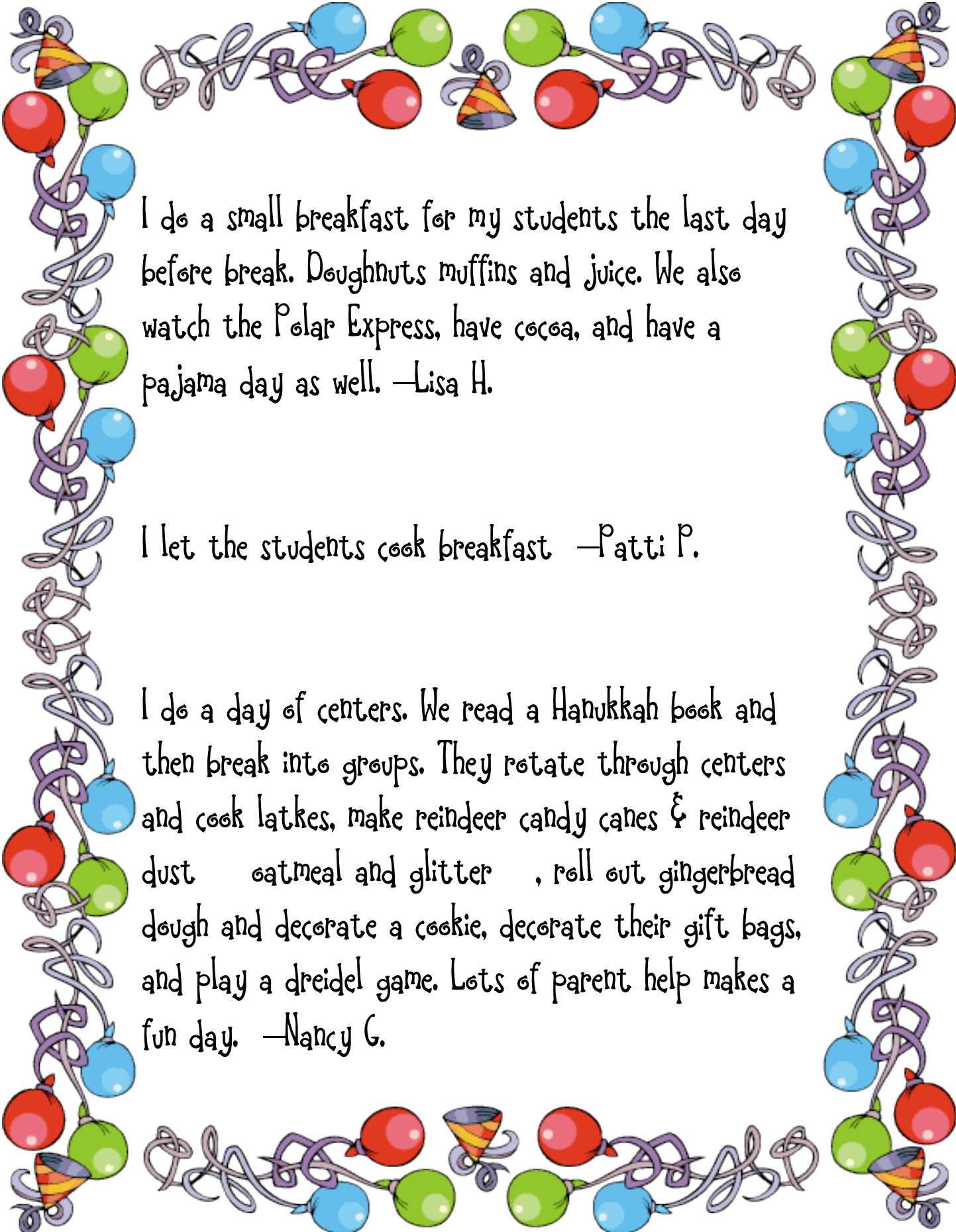
With students from different cultures in my 3/4 class, we will have a publishing party with families. That way we can have festivities, too. —Laura A.



2nd grade- We will be having a Christmas party on Thursday afternoon. We send a note to our parents asking them what they can send in- usually we have everything we need. I don't stress, if they want it, they will bring it! On Friday, a half day, we wear PJ's, watch the Polar Express, sip hot cocoa, etc. This year my dh will also be making s'mores as a reward for reaching 500 AR points as a class. We have "Lunch" at 9 45 am and go home at 11 45am so it is a short day! -Michele H.

Every year I do an ornament exchange as part of our holiday party. I send a letter home to parents including a blurb about the local dollar stores having lots of cute, inexpensive ornaments. I always pick up extras at after Christmas sales each year for my little friends who don't bring one in, so everyone gets to participate. I put them in Christmas bags and we draw numbers. Ornaments can be stolen, and then the person who lost it gets to pick again. My 4th graders love it! -Patti B.

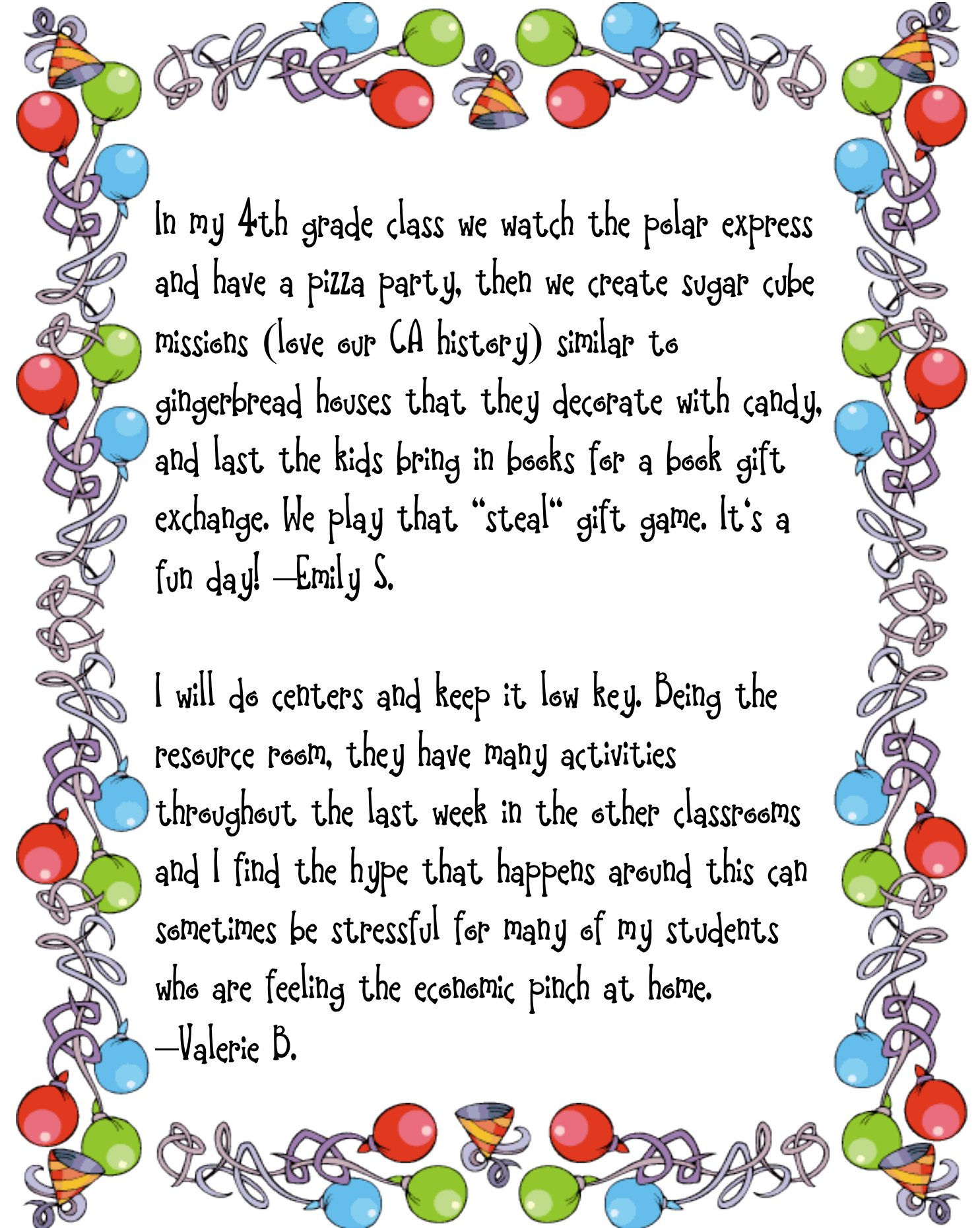




I do a small breakfast for my students the last day before break. Doughnuts muffins and juice. We also watch the Polar Express, have cocoa, and have a pajama day as well. —Lisa H.

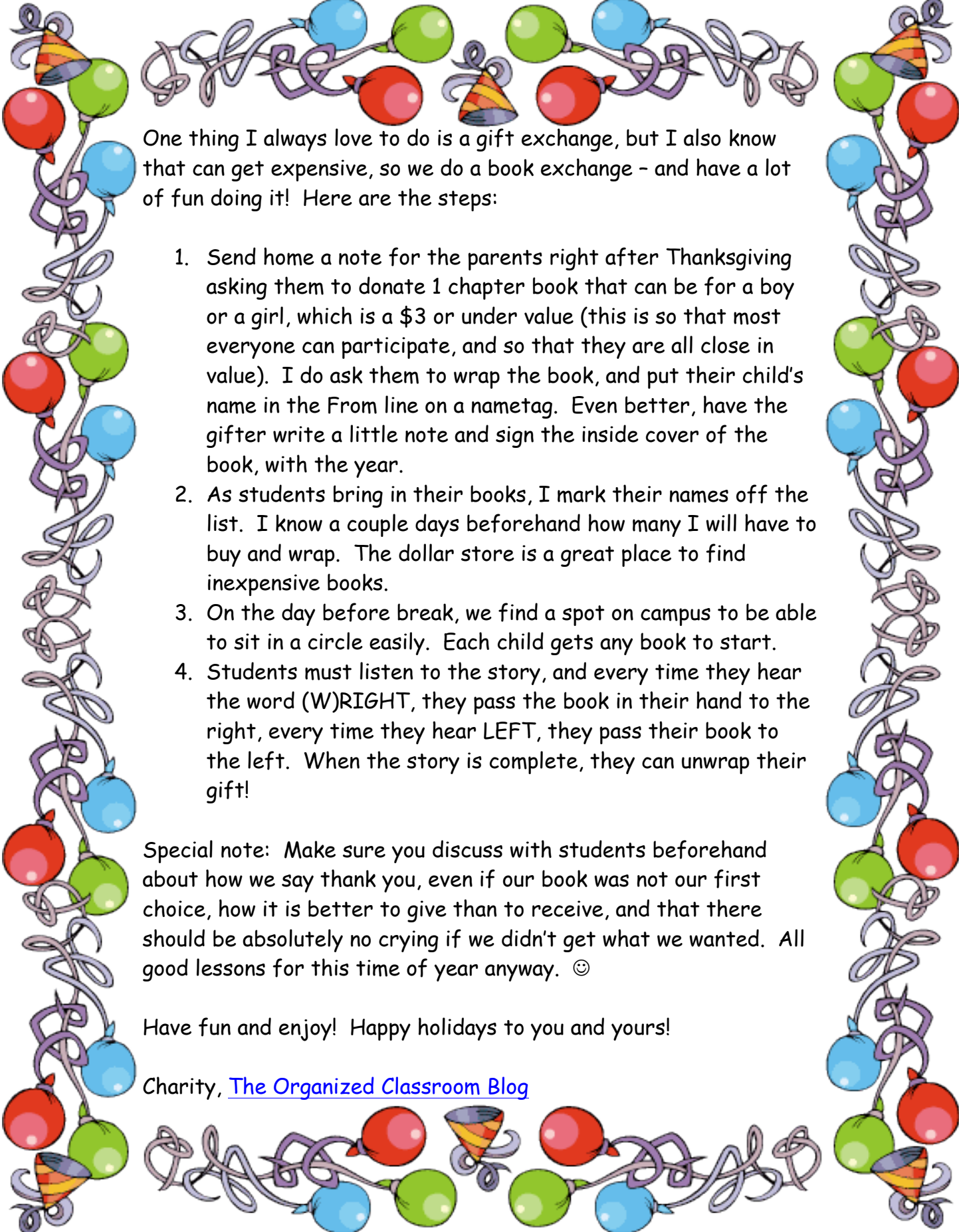
I let the students cook breakfast —Patti P.

I do a day of centers. We read a Hanukkah book and then break into groups. They rotate through centers and cook latkes, make reindeer candy canes & reindeer dust oatmeal and glitter , roll out gingerbread dough and decorate a cookie, decorate their gift bags, and play a dreidel game. Lots of parent help makes a fun day. —Nancy G.



In my 4th grade class we watch the polar express and have a pizza party, then we create sugar cube missions (love our CA history) similar to gingerbread houses that they decorate with candy, and last the kids bring in books for a book gift exchange. We play that “steal” gift game. It’s a fun day! —Emily S.

I will do centers and keep it low key. Being the resource room, they have many activities throughout the last week in the other classrooms and I find the hype that happens around this can sometimes be stressful for many of my students who are feeling the economic pinch at home.  
—Valerie B.



One thing I always love to do is a gift exchange, but I also know that can get expensive, so we do a book exchange - and have a lot of fun doing it! Here are the steps:

1. Send home a note for the parents right after Thanksgiving asking them to donate 1 chapter book that can be for a boy or a girl, which is a \$3 or under value (this is so that most everyone can participate, and so that they are all close in value). I do ask them to wrap the book, and put their child's name in the From line on a nametag. Even better, have the gifter write a little note and sign the inside cover of the book, with the year.
2. As students bring in their books, I mark their names off the list. I know a couple days beforehand how many I will have to buy and wrap. The dollar store is a great place to find inexpensive books.
3. On the day before break, we find a spot on campus to be able to sit in a circle easily. Each child gets any book to start.
4. Students must listen to the story, and every time they hear the word (W)RIGHT, they pass the book in their hand to the right, every time they hear LEFT, they pass their book to the left. When the story is complete, they can unwrap their gift!

Special note: Make sure you discuss with students beforehand about how we say thank you, even if our book was not our first choice, how it is better to give than to receive, and that there should be absolutely no crying if we didn't get what we wanted. All good lessons for this time of year anyway. ☺

Have fun and enjoy! Happy holidays to you and yours!

Charity, [The Organized Classroom Blog](http://www.theorganizedclassroomblog.com)



## Right/Left Christmas Story

This is a story about Mr. and Mrs. WRIGHT. One evening they were baking cookies. Mrs. WRIGHT called from the kitchen, "Oh, no, there is no flour LEFT! You will need to go to the store."

"I can't believe you forgot to check the pantry," grumbled MR. WRIGHT. "You never get anything RIGHT!" "Don't be difficult, dear," replied Mrs. WRIGHT. "It will only take twenty minutes if you come RIGHT back. Go to Fifty-first and Peoria, and turn LEFT at the stop sign. Then go to Sixty-first Street and turn RIGHT, and there it will be on your LEFT," declared Mrs. WRIGHT.

Mr. WRIGHT found the store and asked the clerk where he could find the flour. The clerk pointed and said, "Go to Aisle four and turn LEFT. The flour and sugar will be on your LEFT."

Mr. WRIGHT made his purchase and walked RIGHT out the door. He turned LEFT, but he couldn't remember where he had LEFT his car. Suddenly he remembered that he had driven Mrs. WRIGHT'S car and that his car was in the driveway at home RIGHT where he had LEFT it.

Eventually, a weary Mr. WRIGHT found his way home. Mrs. WRIGHT had been waiting impatiently. "I thought you would be RIGHT back," she said. "I LEFT all the cookie ingredients on the kitchen counter, and the cats got into the milk. You'll just have to go RIGHT out again." Mr. WRIGHT sighed. He had no energy LEFT. "I am going RIGHT to bed," he said. "Anyway, I need to go on a diet, so I might as well start RIGHT now. Isn't that RIGHT, dear?"

MERRY CHRISTMAS

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