



Happy Thanksgiving!



Wishing you the best of everything always.

It is our hope that each one of you will be able to celebrate Thanksgiving with family and friends, that you will be able to reflect on the blessings of this past year, and that the time away from work and school will be a great time to relax and refocus.

Each year we receive calls asking what is permissible in celebrating Christmas within the public school. We have included a couple of articles in this newsletter concerning that matter.

We also have a Thanksgiving piece thoughtfully written by Jim Garnett that you will want to read.

The PEI offices will be closed beginning Wednesday at noon and we will reopen Monday at 8:00 am.

Happy Thanksgiving!



Tis the Season!

What can I do for the Holiday Season in the public school? What is legal? What is right? Every year we have this question asked of us. It is only natural for us to want to enjoy Thanksgiving and Christmas as we believe we should. Can I have a Christmas tree? Can I tell the Christmas Story? Can my students exchange gifts? Can I have a star? Why are we taking a big vacation, anyway?

Here are some recent rulings:

Ramsey County, Minnesota courthouse banned red poinsettias because someone deemed them a "Christian symbol."

Pittsburgh renamed Christmas "Sparkle Days" so no one would be offended by "Christmas."

Indiana University School of Law removed a Christmas tree and replaced it with a generic depiction of winter.

In Rochester, Minnesota two 13 year-old girls were suspended from school for wearing red and green scarves and saying "Merry Christmas" in a school video.

We did some research and have a couple of excellent articles for you. [Myths/Fact Sheet](#) from Alliance Defending Freedom looks at 7 Myths about Christmas in the public school, and [The Twelve Rules of Christmas](#) from the Rutherford Institute speaks to everything from jewelry to cards, Christmas songs and trees. We have also linked to one of our favorite all time everything Christmas websites at [MyMerryChristmas.com](#).

As you endeavor to do what is right for you and your classes, please be aware of what your district wants and mandates. By the time you have read all of these materials, you need to realize that it is possible that the officials in your district did not research this but took a popular stance. We give this to you as a tool to pass on and use wisely.

We at PEI celebrate Christmas and Thanksgiving. **"Merry Christmas!"**



How to Turn Your Thanksgiving into Thanks-Living

With Thanksgiving just around the corner, I want to share with you something that I have been trying to implement in my personal life. That would be the cultivation of a daily "attitude of gratitude." I have such a long way to go in this area, but I have found that occasionally considering the four questions below helps make me become more conscious about being thankful for what I have. [Read more](#)

Our next newsletter is our scholarship edition

As you plan your end of the year giving, you will be able to see a part of the results of your generous contributions to the PEI Foundation.