



December 12, 2011

Hola! December has rushed in and caught us with lots of things to learn about Christmas. And our time is so very short! To get things started with the children, I will show them a new video about Christmas customs in Mexico. They will discover that nativity scenes (el nacimiento) are far more important than Christmas trees in Mexico. The 9 days of festivals before Christmas, Las Posadas (places to stay), end on Christmas day. Those that celebrate parade a statue of Mary and Joseph to different houses where they ask if they might come in. Of course they sing and carol along the way and are never let in until after the 3rd stop where the celebration begins. Fireworks, pinatas, festive food, etc. add to the festivities. They all rest on Christmas day and have a good dinner of leftovers. "Where are the presents?", they will ask. Children send their wishes (tied to helium balloons) to the 3 kings in hopes they will find gifts on January 6th, 3 Kings Day, when the Magi arrive. The Christmas season in Mexico lasts for about two and a half months, ending in February with a candlelight mass where they dress the nativity baby Jesus in new clothes and pack him away for next year.

Next we will study Christmas vocabulary. There are lots of things waiting in my Christmas boxes at home to illustrate holiday words! I have attached lists for these items. Fun activities and games will be enjoyed by all even though our time is short!

We will also begin learning 3 spanish Christmas carols and will carol throughout the school, in the Las Posadas fashion - with jingle bells, for our last spanish class before Christmas break. It will be festive and fun! The words to those carols are also attached. I hope the children will serenade you at home!

Please note that the vocabulary I have attached may not yet have been presented in class yet but will be during the coming month.

May you have a blessed Christmas!

Feliz Navidad,
Senora Thornton