# PEP TALK 2019

# December

Supporting the education and well-being of gifted learners of Carroll, Guernsey, and Tuscarawas Counties.

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## Calendar of Events

**Dec. 25** ~ Merry Christmas!

**Jan. 1** ~ Happy New Year!

**Jan. 20** ~ Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

**Feb. 1** ~ Franklin B. Walter Nominations due to ESC

**Feb. 6** ~ Law Day

**Feb 17** ~ Presidents Day

**Feb. 21** ~ Young Authors' & Illustrators' Conference and Competition Part 2

## Congratulations!

Our November winner of ***Wordical*** is:

Buffy Monteath

From:
Dover City Schools

## Coordinator's Corner: Just a Little Jingle:

### "The Teacher's Busiest Time of the Year"

(to the tune of "It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year")

*It's a teacher's busiest time of the year.*
*The school year's half over yet standards go slower when Christmas is near.*
*It's a teacher's busiest time of the year.*

*It's a teacher's busiest season of all.*
*With last minute changes, and schedules gone crazy, and lesson plans -- where?*
*It's a teacher's busiest season of all.*

*There'll be projects ongoing*
*Instructions for following*
*And homework is always a go.*
*There'll be anticipation*
*For Christmas vacation*
*Excitement continues to grow.*

*It's a school's busiest time of the year.*
*With students rehearsing for Christmas performances where loved ones come hear.*
*It's a school's busiest time of the year.*

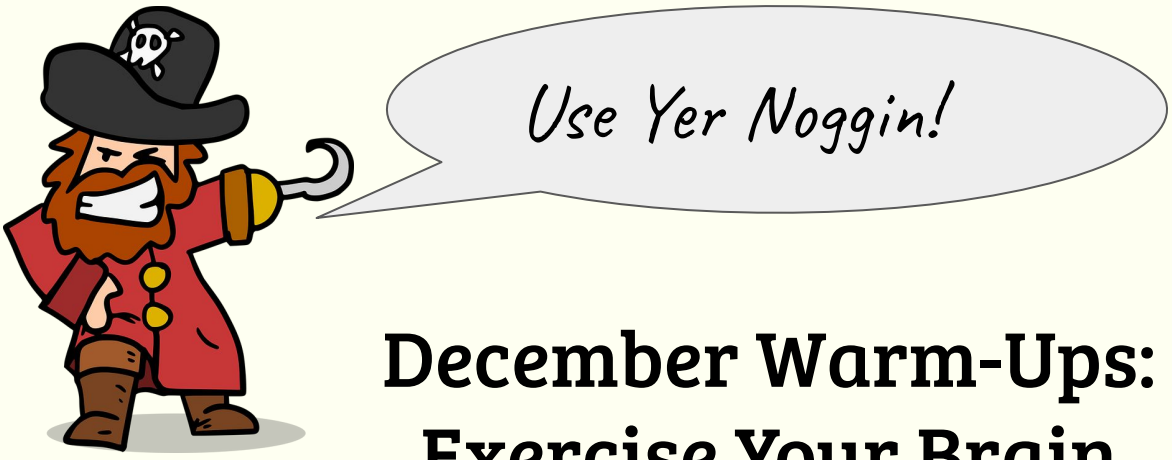
*The projects are ending*
*And programs completing*
*The week before break appears*
*Gifts will be given*
*And shopping continuing*
*For those the teacher holds dear.*

*It's a teacher's busiest time of the year.*
*With anticipation for some relaxation then Christmas is here!*
*It's a teacher's busiest time of the year!*

While the holiday season brings a lot of stress coupled with excitement, take time or make time to enjoy each passing moment. Look for the beauty of life in each student, project, lesson and each other. During break, sit down with a cup of hot chocolate or favorite drink, read a good book, cuddle with a pet or loved one but most important, take some time for you. Relax and enjoy the much needed break.

Have a joyous Christmas and Happy New Year!

Written by: Lisa Burrell
Gifted Coordinator




# December Warm-Ups: Exercise Your Brain

- For each letter in DECEMBER, name a city in OHio that begins with that letter.
- Design a Job Application Form an elf might complete to work at the North Pole.
- Complete this sentence: A lizard is like a snowflake because…
- How many hours are there in December? How many minutes?
- Hanukkah is a Jewish holiday. Choose five other holidays in December other than Christmas and draw a symbol for each (Example: a wreath could symbolize Christmas.)
- List six gifts you could give if you didn't have any money.
- Underdog Day (December 16): Write a poem about someone who you think should get some positive recognition, but who hasn't yet. If possible, share your poem with them.
- Describe what you think was the most important event of 2019.
- Write a conversation two reindeer might have while pulling Santa's sleigh.
- Describe a winter holiday celebration/custom from another country.
- Mary Todd Lincoln, wife of President Abraham Lincoln, was born on DEcember 13, 1818. List a fact about four other spouses of important world leaders today.
- List ten sounds of winter in Ohio.
- Read or watch the news to find five places with temperatures above 65 degrees during the last two weeks of December.

# Teacher Corner:
# Strategies that Encourage Discussion

**Controlled Think-Pair-Share**

Class is divided into partner groups. The most verbal of the two is designated Person A and the other becomes Person B. Present the content and/or question to be discussed. Person A talks for one minute (shorter for primary students), discussing the content/question. Person B only listens and cannot speak during the minute. At the end of a minute, Person B will respond and talk for a minute, using one of the following response starters: “I really liked what you said about...” or “What you said reminds me of...” or “Another way to look at this is...” or “Here’s what I heard you say...”. The two partners will then be given another minute in which both of them can talk to clarify and bring closure to the conversation.

**Roving Exchanges**

This is a good way to stimulate movement in the room and to help those quiet students engage in dialogue. Divide the class into groups of four when possible. Several groups of three are more desirable than a group of five. The teacher asks an open-ended question related to the unit’s content. Students then discuss a response, with a facilitator making sure that everyone shares at least one idea and listens to what was discussed within the group. Students are told that someone in each group will have to summarize the discussion. As modeled in the session, a student from each group is picked to travel to a new group to share the summarization. The new group then compares/contrasts their previous discussion with what they just heard summarized from another group. In the math classroom, this activity can be adapted to solving word problems. Each group gets a different word problem, based on the unit of study, and the student who moves must verbally explain to the new group how the previous group solved the problem.

**Take a Stand**

Students move to place themselves on a value line that shows the position they take on a given issue raised by the content. Students who feel strongly about the issue on either side will line up at opposite ends of the value line, while those with moderated feelings line up in between. To engage students in productive discussion, split the line in half and have students slide down to determine a partner. This will be modeled during the session. Partners then discuss two issues. They first explain to each other why they took the position that they did in the value line. Next, they find one area concerning the topic under discussion on which they can reach consensus.

## Did you know…..?

*Acceleration is an efficient and effective way to provide gifted students with challenging curriculum. The State of Ohio recommends an individual, data-based approach when considering whether acceleration will work for a student. The time and effort involved in making the decision is worth it, though; in 2009, researcher James Hattie found acceleration to have an effect size of 0.88 (the closer to 1 the better) as an influence on student achievement. Out of 138 factors influencing student achievement, acceleration ranked #5.*

**Register to Win!**

the monthly game giveaway…
Email your name and school district by
**Dec.16 to:**

lisa.burrell@ecoesc.org

Or

rachel.winters@ecoesc.org

## Monthly Game Giveaway

## Distraction Card Game

Strengthen your memory with this laugh-out loud card game. Players take turns drawing number cards and remembering a growing sequence of digits. Draw a Distraction card and you must answer a quirky question before reciting the numbers in order. Get caught repeating the sequence incorrectly and collect the cards – the first player to run out of cards wins. Distraction is the perfect way for anyone young or old to improve memory through loads of laughter and fun.

For more information, please contact:

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## *Fun Facts:*

December was originally the tenth month of the year in the Roman calendar which had 304 days. It became the twelfth month when January and February were added but it's name stayed the same. Seven historical facts that happened on December 25th in year:

1. 800: Charlemagne is crowned Holy Roman Emperor
2. 1066: William the Conqueror is crowned King of England
3. 1766: George Washington and the Continental Army crossed the Delaware River
4. 1814: Treaty of Ghent ends the War of 1812
5. 1868: President Andrew Johnson issues a final pardon of Confederate soldiers
6. 1914: World War I Christmas Truce is reached
7. 1968: Apollo orbits the moon

(https://www.history.com/news/7-historical-events-that-took-place-on-christmas)