

# Winter/Christmas Carnival

## Overview

The whole notion of a winter carnival can be traced back to New France. It is an outdoor celebration that occurs in the dead of winter. In the beginning, a Winter Carnival was a way to devise activities that would defy the harsh elements of winter and offer an escape from the bleak dark days of the season. Over the last decade winter carnivals are emerging just to celebrate the winter season as a time to be celebrated rather than just endured.

The objective of an outdoor winter festival /carnival is to offer another event to bring families and school together to help promote parent engagement and build stronger communities.

## Tips for planning a Winter/ Christmas Carnival:

- Make the community aware of the date and general format.
- Allow kids to contribute ideas.
- Use an online ideas page to help the community to submit ideas.
- Involve parents at every level from planning to the actual event.
- Allow parents to form a supportive group that will take on the bulk of the planning and actual set-up.
- Support the ideas of the parents wherever possible.
- Embrace the day positively with your students.
- Adjust your winter festival according to the weather/ environment of your area.
- Have kids research a Winter Festival from another part of the world.
- Approach community businesses for funding to help enhance the day ie. Food, decorations, prizes.
- Make sure that most of the teachers in your school will attend.



