

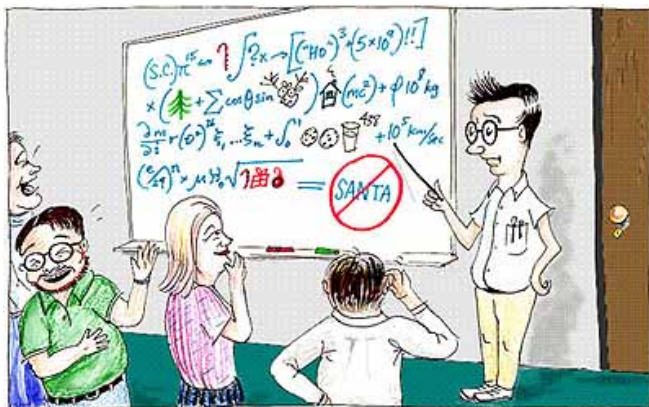


## Weekly Newsletter

December 9, 2004

### Celebrate this Season of Light

The new 6<sup>th</sup> grade science curriculum includes the study of energy and analysis of the physical interactions of light and matter. Many cultures around the world celebrate this time of year with symbols of light. Menorahs are lit by



Jewish families celebrating Hanukkah. Muslims celebrate Ramadan by lighting lanterns called Fanoos. In India small clay bowls of oil are lit by Hindu people to celebrate Diwali, the festival of lights. In China lanterns are carved out of ice and lit to celebrate Yuanxiao. People of African descent celebrate Kwanzaa with the lighting of a Kinara. In Mexico Farolito or little lanterns are lit to guide Mary and Joseph as they search for a place to stay the night. A crown of candles is the symbol worn by young girls during the winter celebration of Santa Lucia in Sweden. For native peoples all over the world, the winter solstice is celebrated with huge bonfires and Yule logs.

Maybe you and your students can plan your own scientific celebration of light.

<http://www.learner.org/teacherslab/science/light/index.html>

### Sensational Seasonal Science Links

<http://www.aip.org/isns/reports/2003/086.html>

A fractal Christmas – math activities

<http://sciencespot.net/Media/christmasbulbs.pdf>

Christmas chromatography activity

<http://www.hypography.com/topics/christmasscience.cfm>

Christmas science links

[http://www.suite101.com/article.cfm/science\\_surfing/104866](http://www.suite101.com/article.cfm/science_surfing/104866)

Astronomy for Christmas

[http://science.nasa.gov/newhome/headlines/ast24dec98\\_1.htm](http://science.nasa.gov/newhome/headlines/ast24dec98_1.htm)

Interplanetary Christmas

<http://www.thursdaysclassroom.com/18dec01/thenight.html>

'Twas the Night before Christmas (NASA version)

<http://www.commonplacebook.com/humor/xmas/xmastech.shtm>

'Twas the Night before Christmas (Scientific version)

<http://www.txtwriter.com/Onscience/Articles/Santa.html>

The Scientific Theory of Santa Claus

[http://dsc.discovery.com/news/briefs/20021223/santa\\_print.html](http://dsc.discovery.com/news/briefs/20021223/santa_print.html)

Arctic Ice Cap Melting – Santa Concerned

<http://journals.aol.com/johnmscalzi/bytheway/entries/3113>

Santa and the Scientist



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