

Holiday Pen Pals

An activity of "Old friends stay in touch"

As your school year comes to an end, you may be sad to say goodbye to your 2021 classmates. The good news is that you will be joining your 2022 class very soon! Don't wait until January to reconnect with your school friends. Instead, try having a holiday pen pal to grow friendship.

Pen pals are people who become friends through letters. In the past, having pen pals was an important part of childhood for many kids. Nowadays, kids may not handwrite letters because phones and the internet are quicker ways of keeping in touch. However, there is something special about using "snail mail" the old-fashioned way. Try it!

BEFORE THE HOLIDAYS

1. As a reminder of how important friends are, read these two stories in the *What's Up* October issue:
 - "Old friends stay in touch" (page 1)
 - "Legendary pop band returns" (page 16)
2. Select the classmate who will be your pen pal. Consider asking someone you do not know very well. With permission from your parent/guardian, exchange home addresses.
3. Agree on who should write the first letter.

DURING THE HOLIDAYS

4. Write to your pen pal. Write about your interests, what is happening in your neighbourhood, or anything else that you can safely share with your pen pal.

Take time to choose paper, envelopes, and postage stamps; enjoy walking to a post box to mail your letters. Check your own mailbox regularly for replies; and, of course, reply promptly.

Unlike online chats and social sites, you will have to be patient with snail mail — that is part of the fun.

AFTER THE HOLIDAYS

5. When school re-opens, if all goes well, your pen pal will be there to be a good face-to-face pal. If you go to different schools, then you can continue being pen pals!

