



Holiday Happenings

By Barbara Gilmour

“Hi everyone. Welcome back. We have two guests today. Please say “hello” to Gracie and Hiroshi.” Tanner, Nicole, Rudy, Stephen, Carmen, and Truman the dragon all greeted their guests by standing, making eye contact, shaking their hands and telling them their names. “I’m so proud of you. Great introductions.”

Truman said, “Thank you! I introduce myself so people know that I’m friendly. I don’t want kids to be afraid of a dragon.”

Nicole patted Truman on his arm and said, “That is so kind and soooooo cool.”

“Today we are going to talk about the holidays and parties.”

Tanner was first to share, “My grandparents live far away, so we have a big family party.” Nicole added, “I help my Mom plan a big party for our neighbors. It’s lots of fun.”

Truman said, “We collect food and clothing in my town and have a party for kids.”

Gracie said, “That’s so kind.” Hiroshi added, “And so cool!”

We don’t all celebrate the same way at holiday time. How do you think a “Cool Kind Kid” should act about the way people celebrate holidays? Stephen waved his hand, “I know. Respect their customs.” Everyone agreed that it would be fun to learn about other’s customs.

“Holiday parties are fun for everyone. Gracie and Hiroshi wanted to join us today because they love parties. They are party animals.” The kids all laughed. “Let’s think of some cool things a good guest should know. We’ll call these Gracie’s Guest Guidelines.”

Nicole was first to say, “Let the person know you’re coming to the party.” Tanner added, “RSVP to the invitation. That’s French and means respond.”

“If we have a party at home and invite friends from school, we should invite everyone in the class so no-one feels left out,” Carmen added.

Rudy said, “I was left out of Robbie’s party and it hurt my feelings.” Truman put his arm around Rudy and said, “I know how you feel.”

“A good guest finds out what to wear, what to bring, and arrives on time,” shared Gracie. “A good guest is happy and fun, and has good manners,” Nicole added.

“Obey the rules and offer to help is what my mom says,” according to Rudy. Stephen added, “My mom always reminds me to say “thank-you” when leaving. A good guest will always be invited back.

“Now what should a cool, kind host know? Let’s call these Hiroshi’s Host Hints.”

Hiroshi had his hand up first, “Always ask permission to have a party or kids come over.” Good one.

Nicole raised her hand next, “Be sure to help plan and get ready for the party.” Tanner added, “And, help clean up.”

Carmen said, “It’s kind to talk to everyone.” “Tell guests what they’ll be doing and about the food,” added Rudy. Truman shared, “Say thanks for a gift, and thank them for coming.” “Cool Kind Kids” remember to send a thank-you note for a gift or a good time.

Barbara Gilmour, Tanner’s grandma, is the creator and developer of the Tanner’s Manners: Be a “Cool Kind Kid” Social Skills, Character Values and Anti-Bullying educational materials and the award-winning “Cool Kind Kid” Audio CD. © Cool Kind Kid. 866-KID-KIND. www.CoolKindKid.com.