

Brodie Fox – MKES HPE Teacher

### Christmas - Family Tradition

My families background is primarily German so we do Christmas a little bit differently. For us Santa Claus comes on Christmas Eve! As a family we spend all day together playing outside, playing games, eating Christmas cookies, drinking hot chocolate by the fire, singing, and watching Christmas movies. Then we have a finger food style Christmas dinner (Germans usually have their big meal for lunch). Once dinner is done and the sun is down it is time for Santa to come. We all go for a walk outside searching the skies for Rudolph's red nose. Some years we see it and some years we don't but the walk is always the most magical part of the evening. The anticipation of wondering if Santa has come is just so exciting. Once we return home we go inside and all of the presents, including those from Santa, are placed under the tree! How amazing! As a family we open presents, laugh, smile, hug, and share the good times together. Finally, we look in our stockings to see what was left for us. When present opening is finished we all sit back and listen to "Silent Night", which was my Oma's favorite Christmas song. We all sing, some in German some in English. I have so many amazing memories of Christmas eve as a child and now, even though my Oma and Opa have past, we still carry on the tradition at my mom and dad's house with my girls. It is a very special evening every year and I can't wait to carry on the tradition this year again with my children. Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays everyone.