



Perris Press Release

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Traditional Breakfast with Santa Delights the Little Ones

The Perris residents who came to the City-sponsored "Breakfast with Santa" last weekend said a sense of tradition prompted them to spend a couple hours with the big guy in the red suit.

Many of the 150 people who ate sausage, eggs and pancakes at the Perris Senior Center said they mark their calendars so they won't miss the annual event.

Some said the tradition started when they were kids and now they are taking their own children to see Santa and tell him what they want for Christmas and whether they've been naughty or nice.

"This starts our Christmas season," said Alison Grayson, who brought her three children to eat Breakfast with Santa. "Every year we check our calendars to make sure we don't miss it. It's a great event, something the whole community can get involved in."

Grayson said her children—Wyatt, 10, Riley, 8, and Ella Kay, 6—are hoping for video games this Christmas. There also was talk about an iPad but Grayson said "that ain't happening."

Grayson's sister, Katie Acosta, said she enjoys Breakfast with Santa because "it's a tradition that's easy to do and traditions are so important at this time of the year."

She came to Breakfast with Santa with her daughter, Isabella, 2.

The toddler is hoping Santa will deliver toy characters from the cartoon series "My Little Pony." Other popular toys in demand this year include Barbie dolls, stuffed animals, electronic devices and video games like Modern Warfare and Saints Row.

Acosta said she enjoys spending the event as much as the children.

"The kids love it," she said. "They like getting to see Santa without having to wait in a long line. We love getting as many pictures as we can."

Perris Mayor Pro-Tem Joanne Evans helped serve breakfast and served as Santa's personal escort. She said she remembers bringing her own children to see Santa in Perris many years ago. She says Breakfast with Santa provides families a brief respite from "all the stresses in their lives."

"Perris is a City that really cares about its residents," Evans said. "This City continues to provide functions for families throughout the entire year."

Johnny and Lorena Santiago said they hope to start a tradition by bringing their 2-year-old son, Jayden, to Breakfast with Santa every year. He's a big fan of Thomas the Tank Engine.

"I've been in the City of Perris since I was two years old and I'm 25 now," Johnny Santiago said. "I like living here. Hopefully, we can raise our son in the City."

Lorena Santiago said she likes the City because it promotes "warm, family friendly events."
"It's like a big family," she said.

Ivonne Aguilera said 2011 marked the second time she brought her children to Breakfast with Santa. She said her family—including children Janet, 8, Cielo, 6, and Scarlett, 1—will take away fond memories of the day with Santa.

"The kids have a great time," she said. "They get to see Santa, we get to take pictures and we get to keep the memories. This is a great event for families and children."



Katie Acosta with her daughter, Isabella, at the Breakfast with Santa: "It's a tradition that's easy to do."



Johnny Santiago and his wife Lorena, and son, Jayden, sit with Santa and Mrs. Claus.



Perris Mayor Pro-Tem and her granddaughter, Morgan West, chat during the Breakfast with Santa at the Perris Senior Center.