

Take a NOURISH Step!

December: ** Healthy Holidays with the NOURISH Step ***

December FUN Days!

12-1 to 12-7: Cookie Cutter Week

12/8: Pretend to
be a TimeTraveler Day!
What era would
you travel to and
why?

12/19: Nat'l Ugly
Holiday Sweater
Day! Wear your
favorite one
proudly

12/21: Crossword Puzzle Day!

> 12/23: Family Roots Day.

Share your stories this holiday season, what a special gift!!

More at brownielocks.com

Enjoy your favorite holiday traditions while still feeling your best!

Taking a NOURISH Step makes it simple to balance celebration with wellness through small, practical choices.

- Start by filling half your plate with colorful fruits & veggies.
- Snack smart with nuts, seeds, beans, yogurt, and avocado dips, and be mindful of portions when enjoying those festive buffets.
- Add extra nourishment to your holidays by including lean proteins and fiberrich foods such as turkey, beans, or hummus.
 - Protein helps you feel full and curbs sugar cravings—try building a colorful charcuterie board instead of a dessert tray! My family has a lot of fun building the charcuterie board together.
 - You can also do a topping tray for chili, baked potatoes, or tacos.
- Limit sugary drinks and salty sides by reducing sugar and sodium in recipes
 —most turn out great even with half the amount.
- **Stay hydrated** with festive drinks like cranberry-lime sparkling water, fruit, veggie, or herb-infused water, or cozy hot tea.

Creative Ways to Use Cookie Cutters

- Use mini cookie cutters to cut out pie crust toppers or cut shapes of plain cake and make into mini layer cake with fruit and sugar-free whipped topping, etc.
- Cut pepperoni and other pizza toppings into fun shapes.
- Cut fruit and cheese with small cutters and use for kabobs, salad toppers, or garnishes.
- Look up craft ideas to make with cookie cutters
- Use the cookie cutter as a stencil, fill with cocoa, sprinkles, sugar-free jam, such as a cake garnish.



Photo courtesy of Chef Lori Fernandez

*NOURISH stands for: Nutrient-Rich Foods, Omega-3s & Healthy Fats, Understand, Recipes, Increase Protein & Fiber, Sugar & Sodium Awareness, and Hydrate.

Frozen Yogurt Bark or Yogurt Parfait

Ingredients:

- 1 cup yogurt, plain, vanilla or flavor of your choice. (use Greek or Icelandic yogurt for more protein)
- 1 tbsp maple syrup, pure or honey (optional)
- ¼ cup blueberries and ¼ cup strawberries or ½ cup of desired fruit for layers
- Granola, Chia, flax, hemp hearts, or nuts (Optional)

Directions for parfait:

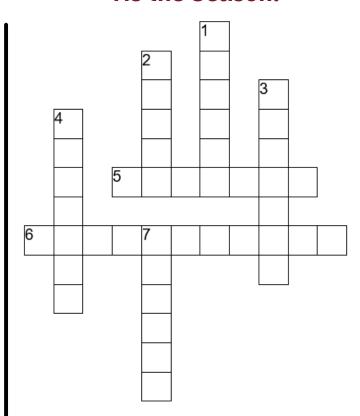
- Alternate layers of the above into the desired glass or dish.
- Garnish with fresh herbs, cinnamon, or berries.



Directions for frozen yogurt bark:

- Mix yogurt with maple syrup, extract flavor or your choice, nuts, & seeds if you wish and place onto a parchment-lined cookie sheet.
- Top yogurt with fresh or frozen fruit.
- Freeze for 6-8 hours or overnight.
- Break into sections and serve. ✓ Note: it starts to melt quickly, so be sure to keep frozen until ready to serve.

'Tis the Season!



Across:

- 5. Spiced warm beverage/tradition
- **6**. Spiced cookie or house.

Down:

- 1. Potato pancakes served on Hanukkah.
- 2. Hot Chocolate
- 3. Spinning top played with during Hanukkah.
- 4. Dried cod soaked in lye.
- 7. Holiday dairy drink.

Crossword Puzzle Answers

1. Latkes 2. Cocoa 3. Dreidel 4. Lutfisk 5. Wassail 6. Gingerbread 7. Eggnog



If you want more pep, take a NOURISH Step! For more information visit: gwaar.org/nourishstep

