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HOLIDAYS IN THE CITY

Tuesday, December 16, 2008

By **MELISSA CHAPMAN-MUSHNICK**
STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE



KIDS IN THE CITY
Melissa Chapman-Mushnick

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- I recently read an essay by a 50-something mom who was longing for the days when her kids were young and every holiday season was filled with their screaming voices, sibling rivalry and oodles of time spent carting them to holiday plays, tree lightings and menorah ceremonies.

Her words were so full of longing for those early years that it made me realize not only do I take those very moments for granted, but I actually dread them. Between managing the stress of the holidays and two kids under the age of 8, I've found myself yearning to fast-forward to a period when my kids will be old enough to fix their own sandwiches and plan their own play dates.

While this mom sheepishly acknowledged harboring similar feelings at the time, it's ultimately those seemingly simple moments, like watching her kids' faces light up at the sight of a Santa and their attempts to fry up potato pancakes while littering the kitchen floor with oil drippings, that she wishes she would've appreciated more.

So, parents, I'll leave you with those thoughts to hold close to your heart as you embark on some of your holiday expeditions. Time is fleeting, and when it's gone, you'll only remember the good stuff! Here are some of my picks for great ways to celebrate the holidays with your kids in tow.

HANUKKAH AT THE JEWISH MUSEUM

Families can rock out to the Mama Doni Band at Family Day at the Jewish Museum as they perform "latkelicious" songs including "The Funky Gold Menorah," a kid-friendly hip-hop dance tune, and "La Vida Dreidel," a Jewish twist on Latin style.

Address

1109 Fifth Ave. at 92nd Street, Manhattan.

Date

11 a.m. to 4 p.m., Dec. 25. Mama Doni's shows at 12:30 and 2 p.m.

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