



A Polar Express Celebration

On June 18, 2009 Chris Van Allsburg will celebrate his 60th birthday. Van Allsburg has created a bounty of stories that offer children a beautiful blend of words and illustrations that allow them to enter dream-like fantasies. With the 1985 publication of *The Polar Express* millions of children and adults have enjoyed this heartwarming story of true belief. Join us for a journey that you will never forget.

PROGRAM PLANS

This program will be enjoyed by children in grades Kindergarten and up.

BOOKS

The Polar Express by Chris Van Allsburg

Relive the magical journey of a young boy as he boards a fantastical train to the North Pole.

ACTIVITIES

All Aboard!

Each child will need their very own *Polar Express* ticket to board the train to the North Pole. Visit www.marCIAS-lesson-links.com/polarexpress.html for easy reindeer craft plans and a reproducible copy of a *Polar Express* boarding ticket.

Make your own Polar Express!

The children will enjoy creating their very own *Polar Express* train to take home as a reminder of their magical journey. Visit www.littlegiraffes.com/polarexpress.html for ideas galore.

Be sure to visit the following web sites for more ideas on how to celebrate *The Polar Express* and further information about Chris Van Allsburg and his other writings:

www.houghtonmifflinbooks.com/features/thepolarexpress/

www.chrisvanallsburg.com/polarexp_tresources.html