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The holidays' finest attire

By Lockie Hunter
WNC Parent contributor

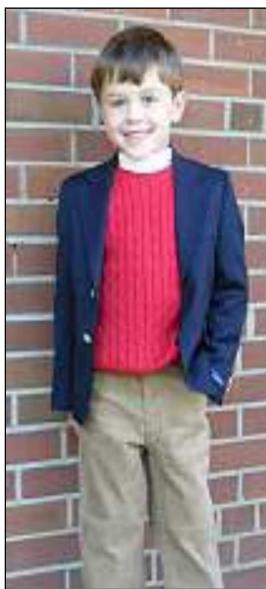
Special occasions call for special dress. Luxe fabrics like velvets and corduroys pair with soft cottons. The reds and greens of the season play with deeper royal purples, serious navy and colorful prints. Formal marries function, as many of this season's picks can be worn year round but are still elegant enough for the family portrait.

Fun and merry

Thea Youngblood-Sailors, owner of William and Grace, said "velvets have already been a big seller for Christmas 2009."

Velvets paired with silks add dimension and further elegance for that special holiday dress for girls.

Bishop-style dresses are also in great demand. "Bishops are my most popular style of dress,"



William, of William & Grace, wears the classic brown wool pea coat for winter paired with labrador embroidered pants. Pea coat retails for \$90 and the labrador pants are \$66.



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said Youngblood-Sailors. "The Santa Safari bishop dress is fun and merry. It is still the classic bishop with a fun twist the girls love."

Boys' clothing is steeped in tradition this year.

"For boys this holiday season, the traditional look is very popular," said Youngblood-Sailors. Camel cord pants, warm cable knit sweaters and classic blazers in traditional navy all make their way onto the scene this season. Look for elements of whimsy such as embroidered animals or other designs.

Stylishness and versatility

"There is a trend this season toward clothing that has a festive look but can also be worn throughout the winter, not just for holiday events," said Sallie Broach, owner of Just Ducky Originals. "Girls' dresses and boys' longalls that mix red and green fabrics with floral patterns and checks are versatile enough to be worn every day and special enough

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PHOTOS SPECIAL TO WNC PARENT

Grace, of William and Grace, is wearing the Santa Safari bishop dress, topped with festive hairbows. The Santa Safari retails for \$82.

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Holiday Wear For Children

William & Grace, the children's boutique in Biltmore Village, offers classic clothing for children. This year, brown velvet with blue trim are the perfect fashion to make the holidays a memorable time. Matching boy/girl outfits are available in sizes 12 month to 6x. Velvet Empire Dress shown is \$90.00

Found at

William & Grace

4 Swan Street
Biltmore Village
828-277-8991



Start a new holiday tradition by bringing the family to Claying Around to paint your own pottery. This full-service studio offers pottery pieces ranging from \$1-\$70. You can also use the pottery wheels, create a mosaic, try glass fusing or work with silver clay. Release your inner artist!

Found at:

Claying Around

1378 Hendersville Rd Suite D • Asheville
828-277-0042 | www.clayingaround.com



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Holiday attire

Continued from Page 13

for family pictures. Reversible styles are popular since they can be made with holiday colors on one side and nonholiday colors on the reverse to ensure kids get plenty of wear out of the outfit."

Consider creating a family portrait with matching outfits for the children for a sense of continuity of colors or designs.

"Matching brother/sister outfits are always very popular," said Youngblood-Sailors.

Oh, what a beautiful morning

Rosiland Whiteley, owner of Heaven Rains, opened her doors six years ago carrying Thea nightwear.

"Remember opening your first present on Christmas Eve?" asked Whiteley. "Your present traditionally was your new Christmas nightwear. You would don them immediately in grand anticipation of what would follow on the morning to come."

Heaven Rains captures this spirit by



Special nightgowns, like these from Heaven Rains Boys and Girls in the Grove Arcade, are a holiday treat.



Floral prints add versatility to holiday outfits. And reversibles, like these longalls, include a holiday theme on one side and nonholiday pattern on the other. Both are from Just Ducky Originals. The skirt is \$44.95, the longall is \$58.95, plus \$15 for applique.

offering the finest cotton nightgowns they could find in the international market. These gowns reflect the look of Old World Europe, while offering both comfort and elegance.

"We have mother and daughter matching Victorian-style gowns," Whiteley said. "I often have customers whose yearly tradition is to buy a great Christmas nightgown to complete their special holiday family time."

Parents can feel good about their purchase on many levels. The gown manufacturer is Thea, which is an acronym for Thread of Hope for Economic Advancement. Thea works with many organizations assisting refugees and providing humanitarian aid, training, jobs and skills for more than 100 women in a co-op. These women are among the poorest in Manila. Working with Thea they receive a decent wage.

Whiteley also notes that Heaven Rains "still carries some fun, less expensive holiday pajamas such as an organic red and white stripe long johns from Under the Nile, and a red set with black moose throughout from Lazy One. Each will be able to outfit the entire family."

From graceful embroidered nightgowns for those special mornings, to sumptuous dresses for those holiday evenings, special holiday outfits craft memories that will last a lifetime.



Luzette Kinkaid, of Marion, and Alanna Hanson, of Asheville, model bright coordinating holiday jumpers from Just Ducky Originals. Red contrast jumper, on left, \$42.95. Red empire waist jumper, on right, \$53.95.

WHERE TO BUY

A sampling of where to buy holiday fashions

- ◆ Bon Bebe (new location)
8 Town Square Blvd., Biltmore Park, Asheville, 687-7200
- ◆ Heaven Rains Boys and Girls
1 Page Ave., Asheville, 252-1484
- ◆ Just Ducky Originals (new location)
10 All Souls Crescent, Biltmore Village, Asheville, 277-7084
- ◆ William & Grace
4 Swan St., Biltmore Village, Asheville, 277-8991

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