

HIGHLANDS LATIN SCHOOL SPRING MEADOWS CAMPUS 2013 CHRISTMAS EVENTS

The Christmas season is upon us! Listed below is all the information you will need to make the next few weeks smooth, merry, and meaningful for your family. Any grade specific information will be sent by your child's teacher.

All of our students have been hard at work since the beginning of the school year to prepare for their Cantatas. As a courtesy to the performers and other families, we recommend that families with young children find a babysitter for the performances. The Cantatas are lengthy performances (*at least* 45-60 minutes) and therefore tiresome for little ones. If you choose to allow young children to attend, please do not bring hand-held electronic games which can diminish the significance of these reverent occasions and distract others in the congregation. *Thank you for your consideration!*

1. Thursday, December 12 – Primary Christmas Cantata, Cooke Hall, 2:45 PM

- This is a regular school day for all students. Students should wear performance uniforms.
- Families who attend must park behind and around Cooke Hall. Students will be dismissed from Cooke Hall. If parents do not attend, students will be escorted to the Primary building for carpool. Siblings may be picked up at their normal carpool locations.
- **Performance begins at 2:45PM**

2. Friday, December 13 – Grammar School Christmas Cantata, CHBC Sanctuary, 4:00PM

- This is a regular school day for all students. Students should wear performance uniforms.
- Make plans for your child to be transported to CHBC after school (2:15 dismissal).
- Please pack a snack for your student to eat on the way.
- **Students should report to the sanctuary in performance uniforms for rehearsal at 2:45PM**
- **Performance begins at 4:00PM**

3. Thursday, December 19th is a non-uniform day!

- Children may dress casually and comfortably. Students may wear jeans. Please no flip-flops, tank tops, sweatpants, t-shirts with inappropriate graphics, or hats.
- **9th Annual “Twas the Night Before Christmas Book Exchange” (K-6)**
Each student should bring a wrapped book, appropriate for the culture of HLS, for a student in his age group. Book exchanges will be made during the reading of a very special version of “Twas the Night Before Christmas”. First through sixth grade boys and girls will be divided into separate groups to exchange, so your book choices should be gender-specific. However, Kindergarten book choices may be suitable for either gender. Possible gift items include classic storybooks, novels, or biographies,

blank books or journals, stationary or note card sets. Please limit your gift selections to *the simple, the classic, the lovely...* avoiding *the trendy, the cartoonish, the controversial*. For example:

- * A cloth-bound journal or blank book, *not a Spiderman spiral notebook*
- * An illustrated, children's version of Pilgrim's Progress, *not Disney*

- **7th -12th Secret Santa Book Exchange**

This year we are going to do a *Secret Santa Book Exchange* in the Upper School. For the purposes of this event, the Upper School will be divided into Middle and High School as well as by gender. Each student will fill out a small card, stating their favorite genre of book and give some examples. Students will then pick a name at random.

- ✓ Books can be gently used or new, and cost no more than \$15.00
- ✓ Books are to be turned in **no later than Tuesday, Dec. 17th** to either Mrs. Booker or Mr. King. You may hand them in sooner.
- ✓ Books should be gift-wrapped and labeled with the name of the recipient. Students should sign the inside cover of the book and are encouraged to write a message to the recipient as well.

- **Class Christmas Parties**

Students in 3rd – 6th grades will have the book exchange in Cooke Hall from 10:45 - 11:00 and then “lunch goodies” in their classrooms from 11:00 – 11:55. Students in Primary School will have their book exchange in the cafeteria from 10:45 – 11:00 and parties in the classroom from 11:00 – 11:55. **Please remember that HLS strives for a simple celebration that focuses on the joy of the season, not on the commercial and material aspects. We ask that you not send in goodie-bags or individual gifts for your child's classmates.** It not only becomes expensive, but reinforces the evermore popular view that a “party” means “getting” something. According to the HLS Parent Handbook, “...celebrations do not include elaborate plans, food, gift bags and trinkets.” Parents are welcome to attend but are certainly not expected to. The parties are brief. Also, if possible, it is usually best to make arrangements for younger siblings.**

4. Thursday, December 19th - Early dismissal

- All HLS students will be dismissed at 12:00PM. Please pick up at your regular carpool location.

5. Thursday, December 19th - Upper School Christmas Cantata, CHBC Sanctuary, 7:00PM

- **7th and 8th grade students should report to the sanctuary in performance uniforms at 6:15PM for rehearsal.**
- **Performance begins at 7:00PM.**

**If you indicated on the volunteer form you filled out this summer that you would like to help with Christmas activities, someone from Parent Council will contact you shortly about assisting with the parties or Cantatas.