

HIGHLANDS LATIN SCHOOL SPRING MEADOWS CAMPUS
2012 CHRISTMAS EVENTS

Thursday December 13th is a busy day for Highlands Latin School! We have tried to list below all the information you will need to make that day smooth, merry, and meaningful for your family. Any grade specific information will be sent by your child's teacher.

1. Thursday, December 13th 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.

2. 8th Annual “*Twas the Night Before Christmas Book Exchange*”

Each student should bring a wrapped gift, appropriate for the culture of HLS, for a student in his age group. Gift 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, special pens or pencils, 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 nice metal, refillable pen and pencil set, *not a My Little Pony glitter pen*
- * A cloth-bound journal or blank book, *not a Spiderman spiral notebook*
- * An illustrated, children's version of Pilgrim's Progress, *not Disney*

It is such a treat each year to see the high quality literature you choose to share with other students. Faculty and students alike look forward to this tradition!

3. Class Christmas Parties

Students in 3rd – 6th grades will have the book exchange in their cottage common areas from 11:00 -11:15 and then “lunch goodies” in their classrooms from 11:15 – 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. Early dismissal

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

5. Annual Christmas Cantata, 4:00, in the CHBC Sanctuary.

- All students should arrive by 3:00PM and report to the Sanctuary.
- There will be a rehearsal in the Sanctuary from 3:00-3:45PM. Parents and guests feel free to *sit quietly* in the sanctuary and watch while Dr. Bailey works with the students. You may also relax in the lobbies or room 211 until the rehearsal ends at 3:45PM.

- All students should wear their performance (ceremony) uniforms. Specific requirements can be found at www.TheLatinSchool.org. The Cantata is a special occasion, and students' appearances should reflect that.
- The students have been hard at work since the beginning of the school year to prepare this Cantata "gift" for all of us. As a courtesy to the performers and other families, we recommend that families with young children find a babysitter for the evening. The Cantata is a lengthy performance (*at least* 50-60 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 this reverent occasion and distract others in the congregation. *Thank you for your consideration!*

**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 the Cantata.