

## **Highlands Latin School Spring Meadows Campus**

### **2017 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. If young children attend, we ask that they not use hand-held electronics during the performances. These diminish the significance of the occasions and distract others in the congregation. *Thank you for your consideration!*

#### **1. Friday, Dec. 8 – Grammar School Christmas Cantata, CHBC Sanctuary, 4:00PM.** **Rehearsal begins at 2:45PM.**

- This is a regular school day for all 3<sup>rd</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade students. Third through sixth grade students should wear performance uniforms.
- Please go directly to CHBC after picking up your student at Spring Meadows. It provides for a more meaningful performance if all students arrive for a proper rehearsal before the performance. **Students should report to the CHBC sanctuary in performance uniforms for rehearsal promptly at 2:45PM.**
- Remember to pack a snack for your student to eat on the way.

#### **2. Tuesday, Dec. 12 – Primary Christmas Cantata, Middletown Christian Church, 8:15AM**

- This is a regular school day for all K-12 students. Primary students should wear performance uniforms.
- **K-2 families should arrive at Middletown Christian between 7:45AM and 8:00AM**, drop off your student to his or her teacher in the church gathering space and be seated. We will dismiss class by class following the cantata so parents may take their children to Spring Meadows for the remainder of the school day.

#### **3. Thursday, Dec. 14<sup>th</sup> 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.
- **11<sup>th</sup> Annual “Twas the Night Before Christmas Book Exchange” (K-6<sup>th</sup> grades)**  
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*A list of literature choices for all ages may be found on the HLS Website under Students/Summer Reading.
- **7<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> 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 filled out a small card, stating their favorite genre of book. Students will receive the name of a classmate for whom they will buy a “Secret Santa” book.

- ✓ Books can be gently used or new. We suggest you spend no more than \$10.00.
  - ✓ Books are to be turned in **no later than Friday, December 8<sup>th</sup>** to Cooke Hall. You may hand them in sooner.
  - ✓ Books should be gift-wrapped. The name of the recipient should be written on the wrapping paper.
  - ✓ Students should sign the inside cover of the book and are encouraged to write a message to the recipient as well.
- **Class Christmas Parties\*\***  
**If you plan to attend or help with your child's party, please make other arrangements for younger siblings.**

**Kindergarten** teachers will communicate specific book exchange/party plans.

**Students in 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> Grades** will have their book exchange in the cafeteria from 10:45 – 11:00 and parties in the classroom from 11:00 – 11:55.

**Students in 4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> grades** will have book exchanges in the common area of the Patrick cottage from 10:45 - 11:00 and then “lunch goodies” in their classrooms from 11:00 – 11:55.

**ALL Students in 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades go directly to CHBC at 8:00AM. They will eat breakfast in the CHBC cafeteria from 8-8:50 and have their book exchange from 8:50-9:10. They will then have cantata rehearsal until the noon dismissal.**

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. As stated in the Parent Handbook, “Holiday celebrations should focus on the significance of the holiday and our sense of community and family. Celebrations should be age-appropriate and classy without excessive commercialization.”

#### **4. Thursday, December 14<sup>th</sup> - Early dismissal**

- All HLS students will be dismissed at 12:00PM. Please pick up at your regular carpool location.
- **PARENTS OF SM UPPER SCHOOL STUDENTS: You may pick up your student in the back parking lot carpool loop, on Birchwood Avenue, or you may park in the CH Library lot and walk over to get them (the easiest).**

#### **5. Thursday, December 14<sup>th</sup> - Upper School Christmas Cantata, CHBC Sanctuary, 7:00PM**

- **7<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> grade students should report to the sanctuary in performance uniforms at 6:15PM for rehearsal.**
- The HLS choir is a performance choir with a pass/fail grading scale. A student’s grade is partially determined by attendance and participation in HLS performances. Students are expected to arrive on time, dressed in performance uniforms.