

UUAA 12.8.19

Up Up And Away - Notes from the Upper School Director

December 8, 2019

Looking for great gift ideas for the holidays? Even if you're not, I'll provide my two cents...

Of course I will start with BOOKS, whether compelling novels that build a reading habit or gorgeously glossy nonfiction books targeting a child's interests--the galaxy, Roman history, rabbits--or graphic novels with images that leap off the page. (By the way, there are fantastic graphic novels these days that explore topics from the Civil Rights Movements to the Manhattan Project.) Consider touching base with your children's teachers for recommendations that might fit with their interests and maturity level.

My other main recommendation is what you might call interactive philanthropy. Organizations like Kiva (kiva.org) allow donors to lend rather than simply give money to individual entrepreneurs in developing countries around the globe. It teaches children not just compassion but the basics of microfinance and even geography. As these microloans get repaid, you can decide on a new recipient and continue spreading seed money from project to project. It's a wonderful feeling. So consider giving the gift of giving!

In Other News

The Upper School **Christmas program** is quickly approaching on the evening of this Friday, December 13, from 7:00 - 8:00 p.m. Students must arrive between 6:30 - 6:45 p.m. Eighth graders not in Band or Choir won't be performing but are certainly encouraged to attend. (The Eighth Grade will play a central role, however, in our Fine Arts Night show in the spring.) Please look out for communications from Dr. Antista and Ms. Stafford with further details about Friday night's performance, including attire.

That afternoon is also the Lower School **St. Nick's Day** program from 2:00 - 3:00 p.m. Upper School students with siblings in Lower School are allowed to attend only with written permission in advance from parents and must sit with their families.

Events This Week:

● The **Our Lady of Guadalupe Chapel** will occur in the church during Tuesday Chapel at 2:25 p.m. on December 10. The program includes presentations by the Sixth Grade and the Spanish Club, as well as the Advanced Choir. You all are invited to attend.

● There is a \$2 “**Fee Dress**” day this Wednesday, December 11.

● The **Sixth Grade** will be attending the **Southwest Nutcracker** on the morning of Friday, Dec. 13. Transportation is provided.

● **Co-ed Soccer** games this week:

Wednesday, 12/11 - "A" team @ home (Sewell Elem.) vs. Casas: early release at 3:00; game at 4:00.

Thursday, 12/12 - "A" team game @ Leman Oro Valley (810 W. Naranja Drive): early release at 2:25; game at 4:00.

Events Beyond This Week:

● The next free/relaxed dress day is Thursday, December 19.

● The next group to miss school time for 8th grade community service is **Team One**, who will be spending the morning of Thursday, December 19, at the Community Food Bank.

● The final school day before Christmas break, Friday, December 20, is a half day with a noon dismissal. It begins with the **Geography Bee** at 8:05 a.m. and is followed by our beautiful **Las Posadas** procession around campus and **Lessons & Carols** service in the church, beginning around 10:15 a.m. All are welcome!

That's all for now...

Best wishes,

Alex Hawes

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Links of Note:

[Main School Website](#)
[School Facebook page](#)
[School Instagram page](#)
[St. Michael and All Angels Church](#)

[PlusPortals \(online grades\)](#)
[Eagle Express Blog](#)
[Google Classroom](#)
[McGraw-Hill ConnectEd Textbook Login](#)

[School Uniforms](#)
[Hot Lunch Ordering](#)
[Student-Parent Handbook](#)
[SMA Volunteer Page](#)

[Main School Calendar](#)
[5th Grade Test Calendar](#)
[6th Grade Test Calendar](#)
[7th Grade Test Calendar](#)
[8th Grade Test Calendar](#)