

## **UUAA 12.15.19**

*Up Up And Away - Notes from the Upper School Director*

December 15, 2019

I hope you all had a chance to attend the Upper School Christmas concert last Friday night. I hadn't been feeling the holiday spirit fully until I experienced the delight of the students' rousing performances and gleaming faces, capped by the annual "Feliz Navidad" singalong. Bravo to Dr. Antista and Ms. Stafford for their talents in inspiring students to shed their adolescent self-consciousness and perform with such gusto.

We place a premium on the performing arts at St. Michael's for their own sake and for the many dividends that such exposure to music provides. The National Association for Music Education lists twenty separate benefits, from improved language and spatial skills to increased creativity, confidence, teamwork, and empathy. To read the full list, click [here](#).

On that "note" don't forget that this year's school musical, *Into the Woods*, will be here before you know it: January 24-26. For more information, click [here](#).

### **In Other News**

Parent-teacher conferences are scheduled to be held between January 13 - 24. Families will receive progress reports for the second trimester as well as results of the first two rounds of Renaissance standardized testing. Students are required to attend these meetings and will largely be driving the conversations about their general progress, personal triumphs, most challenging obstacles, and goals for the second half of the year.

Please check with your child's homeroom advisor to schedule this valuable session. Some advisors may post their conference calendar as early as this week.

### **Events This Week:**

- **Co-ed Soccer games this week:**

Monday, 12/16 - "B" Team @ Tucson Country Day; students released at 3:00 p.m; game at 4:00.

- There is a (free) **Relaxed Dress Day** this Thursday, December 19 for the entire school.
- 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 10:30 a.m. All are welcome!

#### **Events Beyond This Week:**

We're all ready for a restful **Christmas break**, from December 21 - January 5. We'll leap back into the school year with several special events in January, in addition to the aforementioned parent-teacher conferences:

- There is a noon dismissal on Wednesday, January 15. Students in grades 6-8 will be going off campus that morning to one of a variety of destinations as part of our annual **Community Service Day**.
- On the morning of Friday, January 17, we will host our school **Spelling Bee** for students in grades 5-8. Representatives from each grade will be selected this week.
- There is no school on Monday, January 20, in recognition of **Martin Luther King Day**.

That's all for now...

Best wishes,

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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](#)