

UUAA 3.1.20

Up Up And Away - Notes from the Upper School Director

March 1, 2020

Along with Ms. Hart, I have just returned from the National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS) annual conference in Philadelphia. I had the fortune to be able to visit the William Penn Charter School, founded in 1689, as well as participate in a number of sessions on topics ranging from social-emotional wellbeing and social media to faculty growth and educational innovation. (I also got to hear an inspiring and hilarious keynote speech from Angie Thomas, author of the best-selling *The Hate U Give*.) I'm looking forward to sharing some insights with colleagues, parents, and students in the coming days. Such professional development opportunities, which our school supports robustly, are both energizing and exhausting as one realizes all the paths for growth that are possible in a school environment. I am certainly committed to pursuing those paths!

There is a LOT going on in the Upper School over the final three months of the school year. Please pay close attention to the school calendar and weekly announcements, as nearly every remaining week contains some peculiar twist or exciting event. Speaking of which...

Events This Week:

● **Love of Reading Week** arrives tomorrow and extends through the week of March 2-6. It kicks off in All-School Chapel with a visit from Wilma and Wilbur Wildcat, and it concludes for Upper School with a special guest speaker: **David Yetman**, author, social historian, and former host of *The Desert Speaks* and current host of *In the Americas* on PBS. He will talk to the Upper School on Friday, March 6, from 2:30 to 3:15 p.m. Parents are welcome to join us in the Student Center.

Also, please consider visiting the **Book Fair**, which will be held on campus this week from Tuesday through Friday. Furthermore, we will be holding a book drive for the **Angel Heart Pajama Project**, a non-profit organization that

provides books to children in need. Boxes will be placed outside classroom doors. Please bring in any new or gently used books by the end of the week.

- Eighth Grade Community Service **Team One** will spend the morning of Tuesday, March 3, at the Community Food Bank. Two driver-chaperones will likely be needed.

- The Eighth Grade will have its rescheduled **graduation photo** taken on Wednesday, March 4, near the end of the day. All 8th graders should wear their graduation tee-shirts that day.

- Second trimester **report cards** are due to go home this Wednesday, March 4. The reports themselves can be kept, but please sign and return the manilla envelopes containing them.

- The basketball season kicks off this Friday with the following games:

Girls' Basketball

Friday, 3/6 - "A" team (only) @ home vs. Gregory School, 4:00 p.m.

Boys' Basketball

Friday, 3/6 - @ Gregory School: "A" team early release at 3:00, game at 4:00. "B" team game at 5:00.

Events Beyond This Week:

- The next **\$2 Fee Dress** is scheduled for Wednesday, March 11.

- The **Intermediate (6th grade) and Advanced Choirs** will perform at the Tucson Festival of Books at noon on Saturday, March 14, on the main food court stage.

- Wednesday, March 18 is a **half day** with no academic classes. Students in grades 6-8 will be going off campus for the morning—Sixth Grade to Sabino Canyon; Seventh Grade to the county's recycling center; and Eighth Grade to the Biosphere. Fifth Grade will remain on campus for the next in a series of special art sessions with Audra Scovil.

● All Upper School students participate in the **Declamation Day** tradition as part of the Language Arts / English curriculum and should be in the process of memorizing a published poem approved by their teacher. A select number of seventh and eighth graders will then recite their poems in our judged Declamation Day competition on the morning of Friday, March 20.

● As you have heard from Mr. Sullivan, the school will be visited by a team from the Southwestern Association of Episcopal Schools (**SAES**) during the week of Monday, March 23, as part of our re-accreditation by that organization.

● You may have seen the recent announcement that our wonderful, long-time fifth grade teacher, Mrs. Garcia, is retiring at the end of this year. Keep an eye out for details on how we will celebrate her illustrious career later in the spring. In the meantime we are actively recruiting for the position--so please spread the word!

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](#)