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Growing authentic writers and independent readers who demonstrate proficiency and fluency is the goal.

52nd ANNIVERSARY  
1970-2022



# NEWSLETTER

A Lower School Newsletter  
from Harrells Christian Academy

December | 2021

EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION THROUGH CHRISTIAN MOTIVATION

## Reading 'Round the Christmas Tree

The kids in Rooms 137 & 139 at Harrells Christian Academy are becoming acquainted with the kids in Room 3B from the story *Horrible Harry and the Holiday*. This month, second graders in Mrs. Thornton's and Mrs. Long's classes are learning about five different winter holidays: Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, Three Kings Day, and Korean New Year, as they read all about the story's main character, Harry, and his lack of interest in celebrating anything. The reading and discussion of this precious story provides students with a glimpse of different holiday customs and traditions in a fun learning format.



This week, students learned and experienced the customs of Three Kings Day, celebrated mainly in Spain and Mexico. This holiday is different from Christmas in that the children leave their shoes by the door in hopes the three wise men will visit. If they have been good all year, the children get a treat. If not, they get lumpy coal. Thankfully, all of HCA's second graders have been well-behaved. After the "Three Wise Men" came to visit, students checked their shoes they had placed by the door and found they all had received a new box of crayons. Another custom for this holiday is eating a "crown cake" or "King's Cake" in hopes to find the hidden clay doll inside for a lucky year ahead.

Student language skills are directly affected by and are inseparable from the interconnected components of reading, writing, speaking and listening. Second grade achievement is encouraged with the use of playful and tangible stories students bring to life with reading in the classroom. The curriculum builds throughout the year, from writing simple letters to Veterans like Mr. Patrick Walker, a member of the custodial staff at HCA, to reading novels like *Horrible Harry and the Holiday* that incorporate language arts skills. Growing authentic writers and independent readers who demonstrate proficiency and fluency is the goal. Thank you second grade teachers for making learning meaningful for our students!

# For Your Fridge

## DECEMBER

- 2-4** **HCA PRESENTS**  
*Annie Jr.*
- 7** **PTO MEETING**  
*8:15 am Cafeteria*
- 13** **LOWER SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM**  
*6:30 pm Newkirk Auditorium*
- 15** **SCHOOL-WIDE CHRISTMAS CHAPEL**  
*8:15 am Foundation Center*
- 16** **LOWER SCHOOL CHAPEL**  
*Terrific Kids*
- 16-17** **DISMISS AT 1:00**  
*Upper School Exams*
- 20-4** **CHRISTMAS BREAK**

## JANUARY

- 5** **STUDENTS RETURN**
- 11** **PTO MEETING**  
*8:15 Cafeteria*
- 14** **PINK OUT**
- 17** **NO SCHOOL**  
*MLK Jr. Day*
- 30-1** **JR. BETA CLUB CONVENTION**

# Toys for Tots Service Project



In 1947, Reserve Major Bill Hendricks, with his wife Diane, founded the Marine Toys for Tots Program. The program was established to support children in need. In the first year, Major Hendricks, with the help of his fellow Marines, collected and distributed 5,000 toys. The program would later become a nationally recognized charity supported by the entire Marine Corps and is now recognized as the Marine Toys for Tots Foundation. To date, the Marine Corps has distributed 604 million toys and 18 million toys annually.

Each year, the Jr. and Sr. Beta clubs of HCA partner with the Marine Corps to collect toys for the annual toy drive at Christmas. Last year, HCA collected over 300 toys for the charity. This year, the Betas would like to challenge HCA to give "BIG" and from the heart to help area children. Our goal is 400 toys. Will you donate a NEW and UNWRAPPED toy for the drive?

Donation boxes are located in the Lower, Middle, and Upper School buildings. The toy drive ends December 10 when all area toys are collected and distributed to children for Christmas.

**Toy Drive: Now until December 10th**

## Give Cancer The Boot

HCA will host its annual Pink Out Play4Kay event on January 14, 2022. This day of service supports the Kay Yow Cancer Fund and culminates with Pink Out basketball games in the HCA Foundation Center. Every year, a new t-shirt is designed and the funds from the sale of t-shirts are donated to the event. Help HCA "Give Cancer The Boot" by purchasing t-shirts for the whole family and making plans to attend this fun family event in January!

**T-Shirt Order Deadline: December 15th**

