



**SIERRA**  
SCHOOL

December 2018 Issue

### December 2018 Events

Week of 12/3	Gr. 6-12, ESL Progress Reports Mailed home
12/14	Winter Songfest 3-4pm No extended care after Songfest
12/17-1/1	Winter Recess NO SCHOOL
1/2/2019	School Resumes



**Does the Office have your best contact information?**

Please contact the office if you have any changed contact information or send updates to [info@sierraschool.com](mailto:info@sierraschool.com)

# Sierra School News

## Welcome to The Month of JOY, Sierra Families!



### *From the Principal's Desk*

Traditionally in our country, this is the season of both giving thanks and giving to others. On a daily basis, we are grateful to this community for their continued support of Sierra School; sending their children here for the exceptional, individualized and differentiated educational program that we have offered since 1974.

We are also very thankful for:

- The families who help drive our students to and from various fieldtrips throughout this past fall (and throughout the entire school year!)
- The families who turned out on November 8<sup>th</sup> to listen and learn from our speaker, Mrs. Susan Stone-Belton
- The families who participated in our Second Harvest Food Drive. As usual, all of our food barrels were filled to the brim with food our families donated to our surrounding communities.
- Our wonderful Thanksgiving Feasts on November 20<sup>th</sup>
- The families who participated in our Giving Tree Holiday Wish Drive, donating gifts, toothbrushes, and money to surrounding communities.

- Those families who volunteered to cover our classrooms on Monday, December 10<sup>th</sup> while we celebrate our Sierra Staff at our Holiday Staff Luncheon

We greatly appreciate you all and wish you a very happy holiday season

## Sierra School's Annual Songfest!

December is the month of our annual Winter Songfest, led by Mr. Jim Burris.

The Songfest will take place on Friday, December 14<sup>th</sup> in our main hallway from 3-4pm. Join us to enjoy *The Reindeer Games* and holiday music from K-5 and our Upper level Show Choir! Hot chocolate will be offered along with some holiday cookies.

The festivities begin sharply at 3pm. Parking can be difficult at this event so please plan accordingly.

December can be quite chilly so please be sure to dress warm and come prepared for the cold. Reminder: There will be No Extended Care available after the Songfest.



## New Sessions of After School Enrichment Programs Have Begun!

The winter sessions of our after school enrichment programs have begun. If you are interested in a program please be sure to sign up promptly. It will ensure a smooth start to the class since minimum participation is required.

## Winter Break Holiday Care

We will be offering holiday care from Monday December 17<sup>th</sup> thru Friday December 21<sup>st</sup> for our K-6 families. Sign up fliers have been going home in the Monday folders. Sign-ups are **due no later than Friday December 7<sup>th</sup>**.

## How Great it Was to Give

*Giving Tuesday was November 27, 2018*

Sierra School would like to say thank you to our Sierra families for their support during this giving season. Your generosity made our Giving Tuesday at the Family Giving Tree a huge success!

Our K-8 students spent the day learning about how to “pay it forward” during a season when the need is great.

Students spent time working in groups to create personalized holiday cards and wrapping gifts.

All of our students did a wonderful job representing our school.

## Counselor’s Corner

### Serving Our Community: Sierra School Community Volunteer Program- Grades 6-12

**Why Volunteer?** Volunteering can teach your student about empathy, compassion and concern towards others. It helps to build real-world problem solving skills and gives children the opportunity to be an active citizen in their community. Service work benefits both the community and the individual in many ways. **Some of the many benefits of community service include:**

- Encourages personal development and leadership skills.
- Gives exposure to and appreciation of diversity.
- Helps define career goals and gain job experience.

**Did you know?...**Making a commitment to volunteer shows maturity, self-assurance, enthusiasm and responsibility. Many colleges and employers recognize this and encourage service activities.

**What Qualifies as Community Service?** Any service that involves active, helpful participation in your community that is unpaid. This action should involve helping others and making a positive difference. The service should make a connection between the skills you have and the needs of your community. Keep in mind that services like babysitting and chores around your own home do not qualify as community service. Community service should be selfless and a learning experience.

**How to get started?** Have your student research community projects that interest them. Review and discuss why those ideas may or may not be good options for your child.

Stop by the Sierra School to pick up an hour record sheet.

Contact the organization your child would like to volunteer with and arrange a schedule that works for both.

Hold you student accountable for sticking to their commitment and recording their hours.

## SIERRA’S THANKSGIVING FEASTS

