

'Tis the Season to Celebrate

Joel Bicknell

Sitting here two weeks from Winter Break, it strikes me how surprised I am each year when we reach the mid-point of the school year. Each week, each day really, is packed with the stories of teachable moments that occur in all reaches of our campus. If you forget to take the time to reflect, the pace can make it seem as if the days are slipping away from you. With the end of the first semester in sight, it's a great time to celebrate the tremendous accomplishments of our students and faculty.

Consider the following...

Our fourth graders read over 65,000 pages in preparation for B.E.A.R. night.

Our fourth and fifth graders engage regularly in co-curricular programs like Science Club, Dutch Buzz, and Student Leadership. Our fifth graders created and lead us through an entertaining, interactive, and informative Brain Fair;

Our sixth graders immersed themselves in curricular events like S.O.O.D., the Greek Fest, and eye dissections.

Our seventh graders collaborated with our third graders in a writing project for Grandparents and Special Friends Day, created artifacts for a comprehensive unit on the colonies, and used manipulatives to synthesize concepts of genetics.

Our eighth graders wrote Civil War songs, grappled with complex ethical issues in their essay writing, and demonstrated their understandings of large mass movements in the nit and grit of hands-on activities.

Our students applied their growing vocabulary and grammar skills in their oral and written expression during their daily Language studies.

Our students learned the life-lessons of competing on our athletic fields and courts.

Our students developed their understanding of the creative process in project-based learning during our daily Fine Arts classes.

Our students manipulated technology across the curriculum to demonstrate their learning.

Our students exercised their empathic skills in multiple service learning projects and community events.

And I could go on. The value of a Holland Hall education plays out everyday when our students capitalize on the learning opportunities provided to them. In the next two weeks alone, students will compete athletically, demonstrate their musical talents in rehearsal and performance, participate in an open creativity event, provide service to the greater-Tulsa community, and prepare for and take their first semester finals. It is a great time to be in the Middle School!

As the first semester closes, I hope you and your family experience the many joys of holidays. Whether it brings a vacation or a 'stay'cation, may we enjoy the time to focus on family, reflect upon our blessings, and ready ourselves for a second semester equally full of activity.

From my family to yours, God Bless.

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