

A Season To Be Thankful, Year End Reflections

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In the midst of the hectic pace of a school year, we can easily forget to take the time to be thankful for all that we are blessed by at Holland Hall. As the first semester draws to a close, I find myself reflecting upon the accomplishments of our middle school students and faculty.

The talents of those in our community bless us on a daily basis. Throughout the year, Middle School faculty members create dynamic learning opportunities and capitalize on the teachable moments both in and out of the classroom. I have observed our faculty mentoring students in...

- Increasing active reading skills
- Expanding basic understandings of math concepts
- Guiding our young writers in constructing essays
- Leading dissections in science labs
- Preparing our music and theatre ensembles for performance, and artists for presentation
- Readyng our athletic teams for competition
- Developing cross-age experiences where our students interact with Primary and Upper School students
- Providing academic help in before and after school sessions
- Collaborating as teams and with parents to accelerate student learning
- Caring about them first and foremost

And that is an abridged list. As I look forward to the second semester, I anticipate great successes for our students. In January alone, students will compete on our athletic fields and courts, perform onstage at the Walter Arts Center, demonstrate their knowledge in the Geography Bee, experience hallmark grade-level events, and sit for ERB tests. Yes, the Middle School is alive with activity!

There is overwhelming joy in watching our students engage in their learning, parents taking pride in their children's accomplishments, and our faculty skillfully creating the experiences that allow the students to identify new interests and passions.

As our students finish the first semester, they will experience joy. For many, it is the joy of being done for a few weeks. And that's good. All of us deserve a break. However, we also deserve what Winter Vacation provides each of us beyond the needed respite. We deserve the time to focus on family, to reflect upon our blessings and to ready ourselves for another exciting term in the Middle School.

I wish you a blessed Christmas. I hope you and yours enjoy the holiday season and all that it has to offer.