



DECEMBER NEWSLETTER

Mrs. Hahn's ALA/SS Classroom

Dear Parents,

It is going to be a busy and exciting three weeks of school until winter break begins on 12/19. Hold onto your (Santa) hats!

Invention Convention

Thank you for reading the letter your child brought home yesterday. If you have any questions throughout this process, please don't hesitate to ask. Students need to have an invention idea secured by Wednesday (tomorrow). They will bring home their "Intent to Invent" document then; please sign and return this with your child by Friday. After they sketch their blueprints, students will have approximately three weeks to work on their invention at home. I am asking the students to keep an inventor's log and photo album of sorts of their progress; this will help them write their reports and create their commercials later on. Thank you in advance for supporting your children through this challenging process.

Mark your calendars for the 2nd Annual Invention Convention: **Tuesday, January 20, 2015**. One-hundred percent of last year's class was present for the convention; I would be so happy to see all students and parents attend this event and marvel at the kids' inventions.

A Christmas Carol Field Trip

We will be taking our much-anticipated field trip to the Goodman Theater on Thursday, December 11. I am encouraging the students to dress nicely (no jeans, if possible) and warmly. Please make sure your child comes to school with a completely disposable lunch that is easy enough to eat on the bus. We will leave school around 10:30 and return around 3:30 (depending on traffic). Students who are involved in spirit squad or the boys' basketball team are welcome to attend the home game once we return home. The rest of us will congregate in the life skills room for a post-trip "Victorian feast." We are keeping it authentic by ordering pizzas and bringing snacks. ☺ Thanks in advance to any families who are able to send their student to school with a beverage, snack, or dessert.

Thank you to Mrs. Hudson, Mrs. Hatfield, Mrs. Cabe, Mrs. Jonas, Mrs. Panfil, and Mr. Hahn for chaperoning the trip. Please arrive through the main office at 10:00 A.M. and meet us in the cafeteria. I will have your group lists and tickets ready for you then.

A Christmas Carol Service Project

A major theme of our current novel is goodwill—spreading kindness and joy to brighten the lives of those around us. Karen Hess, who wrote the introduction of one edition of Dickens' classic novel said it best with, "**One kind deed, one compassionate act, one thoughtful gesture is enough to change the course of an entire lifetime.**" As a result, each class has conceived a project that will spread holiday joy.

AM Class--“Operation Cocoa”: students will sell cocoa-grams (a riff off the popular Valentine’s Day candy-grams) for \$1 during lunches. FJHS students who purchase them will write a note to a friend, who will then get the cocoa-gram (packet of hot chocolate and a candy cane) delivered on Friday, December 19, during 1st period. All money raised will benefit charity (to be determined).

PM Class—“Caroling for Cheer and Charity”: as Buddy the elf says, “The best way to spread Christmas cheer is by singing loud, for all to hear.” Students will print flyers and distribute them to the houses right around FJHS, notifying them of our project idea. Homes that are interested in hearing our student carolers sing will tape the sign to their door on the night of **Friday, December 12 from 4:30-6**. In two chaperoned groups, students will go house-to-house singing carols, in an effort to simply spread cheer. Students also wanted to take on a “penny wars” challenge. Ask your kids the details of this fundraising game; they’re pretty excited! Any donations the kids receive from caroling, and all penny wars money, will be donated to charity (to be determined).

Finally, students voted today to do a “Secret Snowperson” (our non-denominational, gender equal symbol). This is COMPLETELY OPTIONAL. Students who choose to participate will purchase a \$5 gift for another member in their class; this gift needs to be wrapped and placed under our “holiday evergreen tree” by December 19.

Important Dates to Remember:

12/11: Field trip to the Goodman Theater
12/19: 2:05 PM dismissal for winter break
1/5/15: School resumes; 2nd quarter novel project due
1/9/15: 2nd quarter ends
1/20/15: Invention Convention, 6-8PM FJHS big gym

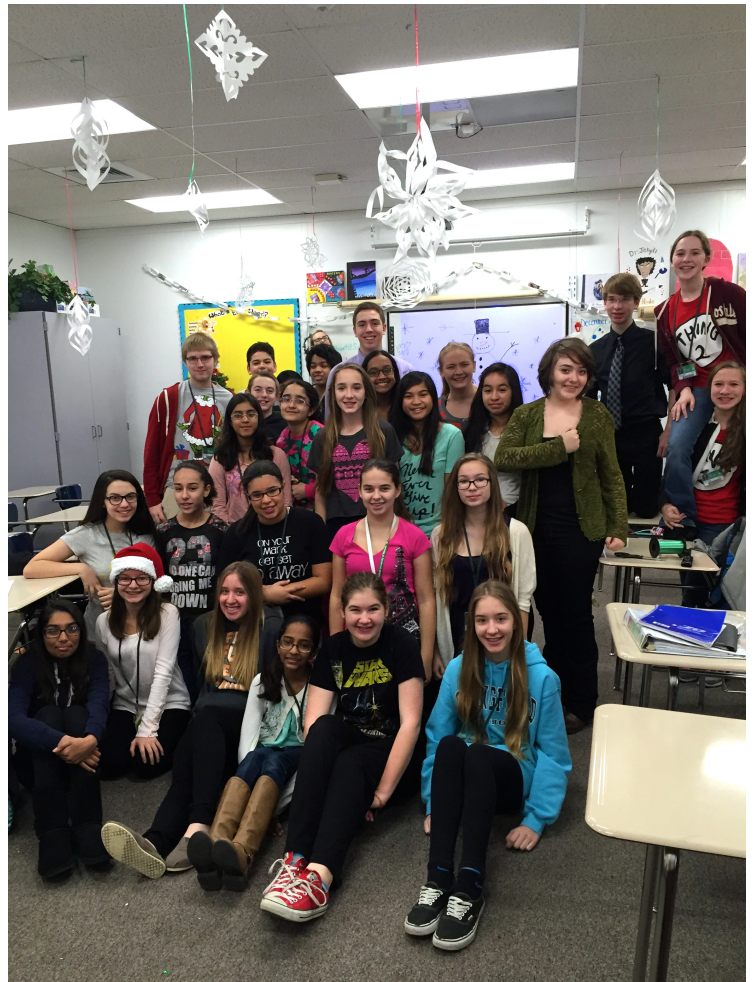
May the spirit of the holidays bring joy to each and every one of you. As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Kristin Hahn

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The Decorating Elves of 210B
12/2/14