



# The Eagle Newsletter

## CHRISTMAS MUSIC PROGRAM

We are lucky to be able to have such a good music program at Taylor's Crossing. Mrs. Campbell has been working for over two months with her music students to prepare for the Christmas Music Program. Here is what is in store for you December 11th, at 1:00 p.m.:



- Elementary (K-6) will sing festive new songs for the season.
- The Middle School Choir will perform, as well as the High School Choir, Melodacies.
- Beginning and Advanced Band students will play several holiday selections.

Be sure to come early to get a good seat, and feel free to bring cameras and video recorders! It will be a great program!

## VETERANS DAY HIGHLIGHTS

Taylor's Crossing has hosted a Veterans Day program each year since the school was founded eight years ago. The first two years, a veteran came to speak to three or four classes at a time in the trailers. The third year, since construction was not yet finished on the new school building, the assembly was held outdoors in front of the school. For the past five years, the assembly has been held in the gym, where it takes every available chair in the school to accommodate all the students and parents in attendance.



This year's program was particularly moving. We had veterans representing World War II and every conflict since, including recent Iraq and Afghanistan conflicts. Here and on page three, you can see some photos and highlights from this fantastic program.

*Left: Veterans were asked to stand as their service to our country was honored.*

### TO DO LIST:

- Mark your calendars for Winter Break, Dec. 18–Jan. 4
- Make sure to review new bus lane and car pool drop-off procedures

### SYNC YOUR CALENDAR:

Dec. 10, 6:00 p.m. — Board Meeting

Dec. 11, 1:00 p.m. — Christmas Music Program, elementary students, choirs, and band, @ school gym

Dec. 12, 8:30 a.m. — December Citizen of the Month Assembly for elementary grades

Dec. 12, 7:00 p.m. — High School Winter Semi-Formal Dance, @ school

Dec. 17, 6:00 p.m. — PFA meeting, high school commons

Dec. 18 – Jan. 4 — Winter Break, no school!

Jan. 8, 7-9:00 p.m. — DARE graduation for 5th graders, Hillcrest Performing Arts Center

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Please be courteous to our neighbors and continue to use only Lincoln Road to Wood River Road to access the school.



## SHOP ONLINE, BENEFIT THE SCHOOL!

Taylor's Crossing is excited to be a part of the AmazonSmile program. Through this program, when you shop at AmazonSmile (smile.amazon.com), 0.5% of your purchase price will be donated to our organization. You use your normal Amazon account, but simply put "smile." in the web address before amazon.com.

How do I select to support the school when shopping on AmazonSmile? On your first visit to AmazonSmile (smile.amazon.com), you need to select a charitable organization to receive donations from eligible purchases before you begin shopping. The site will remember your selection, and then every eligible purchase you make at smile.amazon.com will result in a donation.

## PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES

Parents, take note: our next Parent Teacher Conferences are scheduled for January 21 and 22, at the end of the second quarter.

# HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

## Winter Dreams: HIGH SCHOOL SEMI-FORMAL DANCE

The high school student government is busy planning their next event, a winter dance to be held December 12 from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m. at the school. The dance will be a semi-formal dress dance, and tickets will be available for \$7 per student or \$10 per couple. Attire for boys should include a button-up shirt and tie, and girls should wear Sunday-dress or semi-formal to formal-dress.



## HIGH SCHOOL CREATIVE WRITING SPOTLIGHT

We are pleased to be able to highlight some of the excellent writers from our current Creative Writing class, taught by Sherry Newell. Today we highlight Braydon Anderson's "letter to the editor."

### Holiday Season

In today's world, the holidays are just another day to most people. Now, people go out and stand in line for hours upon hours, just trying to get great deals. The United States has gone from starting Black Friday sales on Black Friday, to Thanksgiving evening. This honestly is just absurd. How are people suppose to celebrate the meaning of the holiday season, when they are out shoving past people, cursing at one another, and running around like crazy? Did people even sit down to have a real meal or just throw a pre-made turkey in the oven and be on their way! The Holidays are nothing more than money, low prices, and sales tactics today.

This year, the big sales started as early as 4 p.m. on Thanksgiving. Driving to work that evening, I saw lines of people standing outside of stores waiting, when they should be at home. My personal view on the holidays is that we have gone from Christmas songs about enjoying the time with family, to standing outside listening to rock music, getting pumped up to go in and rage at people. We really could use a turn around to get back to traditional roots, but we as a world are so deep in greed and getting what we want, that it may not be possible anymore. To add a positive note, we could all stay home and enjoy our meals, come together as people and engage in "Holiday" festivities. We as students need to teach the younger generations what the holidays are really about.

## CHARACTER CONNECTION: SERVICE

Two years ago during the Christmas season, you could find Sara Haroldsen, now a junior, outside of Shopko, ringing bells for the Salvation Army Red Kettle campaign. Altogether, she spent 42 ½ hours providing this service to the community. Why? Because she was fulfilling one of Taylor’s Crossing High School’s more unique requirements for graduation: spend 50 hours per year providing service to others.

The Service Learning graduation requirement is designed to promote high school students’ awareness and activity in the community. The ways students fulfill this requirement are as varied as the students themselves: babysitting, Eagle Scout projects, and donation drives are just some of the ways this requirement has been met.

Several school-wide service projects have been formed by students over the years to help focus on community needs. “We all got together and brainstormed what would be helpful to the community,” says Hannah Johnson. Some of the projects organized include a recycling campaign, collecting blankets for babies, and gathering new and used stuffed animals for local hospitals. “Overall we’ve been successful,” says Hannah. “I think the kids learn they can’t just get by, just showing up to school. They need to learn to work for it.”

Recognizing their ability to make a positive impact on the world is one of the top benefits of the Service Learning requirement. Reflecting on her experience as a Salvation Army bell ringer, Sara says, “It felt good that you could help people, especially at Christmas, for those who weren’t able to help their own families.”

“It’s hard to fit in all the hours,” adds Sara. But she agrees that the requirement probably gives those who are headed on to college good experience and leadership.

Most students see the benefits of their service close to home—they’ve helped to install bark for the school’s new swing sets, or helped elementary students in an after-school reading program. Yet there have been far-reaching effects from their service, too—such as blessing the lives of orphans in Guatemala by gathering shoes. Almost 3,000 pairs, in fact, were gathered in 2013—one of the school’s top service projects to date. Such an outreach is the payoff for the Service Learning requirement—you never know whose life you are going to bless.

—by Sarah Droegemueller



*Above: The “row of honor” held more than 20 veterans who have served our nation.*

*Below: The kindergarten students, including from left Miles Bailey, Brooklyn Staker, Dexter Olason, Ian Trosper and Preston Knight, sang “I Pledge Allegiance to the Flag” with great enthusiasm.*



*Above: The sixth grade Boy Scouts provided an honor guard to present the colors.*



## PFA NEWS

With the new year coming so soon, we are looking ahead to the annual spring dinner and fundraiser. We hope to see many parents join our planning committees to make this event as successful as it has been in the past! This is the key fundraiser for our PFA, and it allows us to focus our efforts on one big fundraiser, instead of creating “funding fatigue” by having to ask for donations and holding sales drives throughout the year.

You can help our efforts in many ways. 1) You can buy tickets and attend the event. 2) You can donate goods to the auction. 3) You can volunteer to set up, clean up, or gather donations from local businesses.

Our next board meeting is Dec. 17th. We will discuss the fundraiser and set up committees, so please attend if you can. It will be held at 6:00 p.m. in the high school commons.

Each volunteer makes this event more successful, and it just wouldn't happen without the awesome, active parents who care about our school. Thanks for your participation!

## ADDED SAFETY WITH NEW DROP-OFF ZONES AND BUS LANE

The construction of the new bus lane and staff parking lot went well, and we are excited for the additional safety it will add to our school campus.

The busses load and unload each day in the bus lane north of the school. This provides bussed students a safe, separate area to load, away from other vehicles coming to and leaving the school.

Students who carpool to the school also have added safety, thanks to the new drop-off procedures. Parents and caregivers who are transporting students to school should enter the parking lot through the designated west entrance. They can then loop around to the front sidewalk and let students disembark near the front of the school.

In the afternoons, the students who are waiting for pick-up will line up along the sidewalks according to grades. Please pull your vehicle up to your waiting student, allow him or her to enter, then pull forward to any

other waiting students, until all students have been safely loaded. If a student is late to the loading area, pull around the parking lot again, or park and wait until you can walk the student to your vehicle.

Please remember to avoid parking along Wood River Drive. The road is narrow and vehicles parked there block the view of students on foot. With the new parking lot, there are many more open spaces in the original parking lot available for visiting parents.

As part of this new parking lot, the school has also paved a new fire lane behind the school. This will allow any emergency vehicles to access the fire hydrant behind the school. It also allows delivery and service vehicles a safe way to maneuver around the school grounds.

We appreciate how our parents stay conscientious about the safety of each student. Thank you for following these new procedures!

## NOTES FROM THE KITCHEN

Do you have a budding artist in the family? Let them design a poster for the Idaho School Nutrition Association Art Contest! The theme for the contest is “Eat Smart, Play Hard.” Students from K-12 can participate by creating an original drawing on an 8 ½ x 11-inch sheet of unlined white paper. The theme “Eat Smart, Play Hard” must be printed on the artwork.



Contest forms are available in the office, and must be signed by Cafeteria Manager Beth Long and the school principal. Entries must be postmarked by Dec. 19.

Grade categories for the art contest are K-5, 6-8 and 9-12.

Three winners from each grade category will be chosen. Each winner will receive a cash prize from the Idaho School Nutrition Association and their art work will be displayed in the Idaho School Nutrition Association Magazine. 1st prize = \$20.00, 2nd prize = \$15.00 and 3rd prize = \$10.00.