

Singing in the Holidays

“Feliz Navidad, Feliz Navidad, Feliz Navidad, prospero ano y felicidad,” sang the fifth and sixth grade classes. Although Spanish class may not have been the easiest, the experience of Christmas caroling in Spanish was worth the effort to learn the songs. A few of the favorite songs were “Feliz Navidad” and “Campana Sobre Campana.” The trip into Reading was more than just caroling because the fifth and sixth graders were able to experience culture, language, people, and reaching out to others. Madalyn Weaver in sixth grade exclaimed, “I liked the different culture! We tasted this fruit and sugar cane drink, and it was kind of good.” The Spanish culture is very welcoming, and when stepping into their world, there is a good possibility that the opportunity to taste a bit of something exciting will arise. Sophia Burkholder in fifth grade was eager to experience the Pagoda, a big building with red lights around the edges. She enjoyed the evening and thought that it was fun, as well as interesting, to see so many people.



The fifth and sixth graders sang at multiple houses and then traveled to a big Christmas tree and sang by it. According to Miss Sophia Burkholder, “It was awesome, and there were a

lot of people watching us!” The trip to Reading to Christmas carol was widely enjoyed by the fifth and sixth grade classes.

Due to the enjoyment and talent revolving

around music here at EMS, it is no surprise that so many events relating to Christmas caroling happen during the month of December. Christmas caroling is a great way to reach the community and live out the motto “Learning to Serve.” Friday, December 13th, Stuco planned a caroling event. Students traveled to Landis Homes to sing to the residents. Carols such as “Silent Night,” “Away in a Manger,” and “Joy to the World” fell on the ears of willing listeners. Senior Jeremy Weaver shared his thoughts on Christmas caroling: “I love caroling because it reminds people of what Christmas is all about, and it is a great way to proclaim the gospel.” A smiling face and an enthusiastic expression can go a long way even if one does not feel they have the “voice of an angel” or great talent in music. Upon returning to the school, carolers were treated with hot chocolate and a snack. After the snack, Room 305 was filled with laughter as students played versions of Drop the Blanket (yes, that game played at barn parties) and another entertaining group game called Look Up. Overall, the evening was filled with melodies of joy and just, joy.

Another Christmas caroling event that December held happened on December 17th. The first and second graders went caroling at Fairmount Homes. The residents were touched by the elementary students effort to share Christmas cheer.

~Shanda Nissley



The students who visited Sattler College →

It Never Hurts to Learn

12 hours of driving, a mile walk lugging our baggage, filling out applications, and less than 36 hours later- 5 students returned from an enlightening and fruitful trip. Around 10:45 we left on a coach bus with 5 other guys from local schools. As we traveled, we were given the opportunity to personally talk with the president of Sattler College, Mr. Dean Taylor. He put forth a strong effort to get to know each of us, enable us to know him, and make us feel welcome. When we arrived in Boston, we settled into our rooms and then went to meet other potential students. We concluded the evening by interacting with student ambassadors and professors while enjoying a pizza party. The next morning we woke early to head over to Sattler College where Doctor Finny Kuruvilla, Dean Taylor, and several ambassadors spoke about the school over breakfast. At one point, potential students and visitors were given a chance to ask enrolled students questions about life as a student. Soon after, the 5 of us were given a personal tour by Dylan Martin (alumni of EMS) before we had to load back up into the bus and head home. Although the trip was short, I believe that each of us learned a great deal about Sattler specifically but also all that a college might expect of us and how we can prepare for college while we attend high school.

~Taryn Mellinger

EDITORIAL

Giving Abundantly

What do you value? How much do you value your possessions, your money, your “things”? Many people, including Christians, hold fast to their money like it’s the most valuable thing on earth. Sadly, many people forget or don’t realize that their money is going to rot and decay when they die. All the money in the world is going to turn to ash and be counted as nothing when Jesus returns. But what will last is what each person has decided to do with the money that God has entrusted them. That is why it is essential for every Christian to prioritize giving abundantly, not just because it is a command, but because of the joy and advancement of the Kingdom it brings. Giving begins in the heart. 1 John 3:17 asks, “If

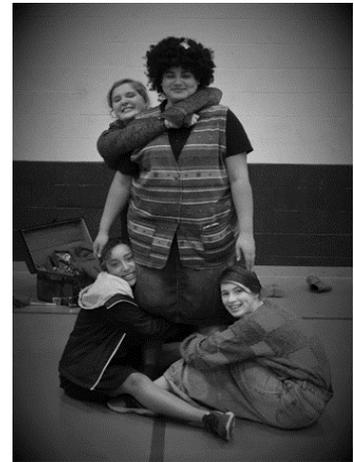
anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person?” When we realize how much Christ has given to us, our hearts should gravitate towards giving to the needs of others. Giving is also an insurmountable blessing to others. God recently put it on my heart to give to the homeless people in Lancaster City. So on Thanksgiving eve several of my friends and I bought gloves, jackets, and beanie hats to hand out on Thanksgiving morning. Once we got into the city that morning, my good friend and I paired together to venture into the city. After talking with several people, we came to a square where several homeless people were

gathered. I decided to approach a scraggly young homeless man. When I offered him a pair of gloves, his eyes lit up like a Christmas tree, and he accepted them joyfully. I then had the opportunity to share the gospel and pray with him. Not only did this experience bless a homeless man, but it blessed me with a joy I have never felt before. God has assigned each of us to be stewards of what he has given us. Part of being stewards is giving to others. Giving financially, not just through tithing but spontaneously as God lays a need on your heart, will be a blessing and joy. It is God’s calling, it is his command, and it should be our joy to give out of our abundance.

~Bradley Hurst

HUMOR

Awkward Christmas Photos



~compiled by Taryn Mellinger

The Untold Story

Hello, my name is Elizabeth. Most people know about me, but I'm often a minimal part of the Christmas story. Let me clarify; that's exactly how it should be. The main attraction of the Christmas story shouldn't be anyone other than Jesus. Jesus is my Lord, and he is also the son of my cousin. I still can't fully comprehend how that's possible, but I know that it's nothing short of miraculous. Imagine babysitting your cousin's child and watching him be the perfect human, but yet not human. Yes, I know, it was the greatest, most confusing thing I've ever experienced in my life. The second greatest-most-confusing moment was when my husband Zechariah came home from performing his once-in-a-lifetime priestly duty, making signs to me that I was going to have a

baby. Long story short, my husband had a vision in the temple and was struck dumb. I had a baby, and his



name is John. John has loved his second cousin Jesus ever since they were in the womb, literally. When

Mary came to visit me after receiving her news, John leapt inside of me (Luke 1:41). From then on, I knew that my cousin was a part of one of the greatest prophecies to be fulfilled. Jesus grew up and became the greatest role model, leader, doctor, teacher, preacher, and Lamb to ever live, die, and live again f o r e v e r. My son John was tragically murdered by King Herod. Joseph was a renowned carpenter, and Mary kept all these things and pondered them in her heart (Luke 2:19). To this day I'm still amazed at how this Child changed the world! I'm so thankful that he was willing to become a baby and be born in a stable (that's a story for another time), humble himself, and then die to rescue a world that might never love him back. That leads me to this question, do you know and love Jesus? ~Shanda Nissley

A Feast Fit for Kings

As things came to a close in the first semester of the 2019-2020 school year, many of the students enrolled in Ephrata Mennonite School prepared for their final examinations before they switched classes after Christmas break. Although the sophomores gained abundant knowledge in Home Economics class, there was hardly a better way to prove that they were erudite in culinary matters than through a final exam. However, the Home Economics instructor, Miss Caroline Farrar, planned an examination of sorts that would not only allow the students to demonstrate their skills to her, but to their parents as well. The sophomores were assigned to set up the gym in a dining hall fashion, prepare multiple dishes, and serve their parents as guests of honor. They were divided into multiple groups, each specifically designated to accomplish a task such as

food preparation, decorations, serving, and entertainment. The parents began showing up at 5:30 and were served appetizers at 5:45. Then at 6:20 the main course was served: stuffed chicken breast with rice and asparagus for the ladies, and roast beef with mashed potatoes and broccoli for the men. After the main course was finished, the parents were given their choice of five deserts: plain cheesecake, cheesecake with strawberries or raspberries for toppings, peppermint cheesecake, and chocolate cake with peanut butter icing. The meal was completed with a chocolate fountain and beverages including coffee, both regular and decaf, and several types of tea. During the dining, the parents were serenaded with instrumental music from Kevon, Dustin, Denver, and Jackson, as well as a song sung by Micah. As the evening concluded, Miss

Farrar led the parents in a round of applause for the work and dedication shown by the sophomores. Overall the event was a wonderful success and blessing to the parents who attended.



EMS patrons gather to fellowship and honor their children by partaking in a delicious dinner made by the sophomore class.

~Hans Burkholder

Stuco Update

As December wraps up, Stuco is pleased to look back on a busy month. Near the beginning of the month, secondary students caroled at Landis Homes before coming back to the gym to drink hot chocolate and snack on popcorn. The talent show preparation started at the end of November and included sign-ups, auditions, and a performance on the last day before Christmas vacation. After the talent show secondary played bingo with M&M's before heading back to homerooms to play games and eat food as individual classes. Stuco heralded Christmas break by handing out cookies and candy canes to



the entire student body to spread more cheer and excitement for Christmas. Looking ahead to January, secondary students prepare to have a PSAT/SAT practice day in the morning while Stuco plans an afternoon with sports and games.

~ Taryn Mellinger (Stuco Secretary)

January Calendar

1st-3rd: NO SCHOOL- CHRISTMAS VACATION

6th: Israel Trip 2020 Bible Study @ 7:00PM

7th: HS Girls JV & V Basketball vs. Alumni (home) @7:00 PM

9th: HS Guys Basketball vs. Fairview (home) @6:30PM

11th: 9th Grade Guys Basketball vs. Terre Hill (Away) @9:00AM

14th: 7th-12th PSAT/SAT (Practice Test)

17th-18th: Faith Mennonite HS Basketball Tournament

20th: Middle School Basketball vs. TEACH (home)@ 6:00 PM

24th: HS Girls Basketball @ Schaeffestown- 3:30PM

28th: 10th Grade Basketball vs. Faith (Away) @6:30 PM

24th-31st: Senior Trip to Nicaragua

Equipped to Serve

Thanks so much to all of you who supported the senior class by purchasing subs and sandwiches! We were able to sell a total of 1,696 products and are very excited to serve in Nicaragua. We welcome your prayers of safety and opportunity as we travel, work, and witness! Have a wonderful Christmas!

~Timothy Burkholder (Senior Class Representative)

Ephrata Mennonite School

598 Stevens Road, Ephrata, PA, 17522

Phone: 717-738-4266

E-mail: office@ephratamennonite.org

Learning to Serve

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@ephratamennonite

