

It's starting to look like Christmas at Benjamin Davis. Snowmen, reindeers, candy canes, and Christmas trees are beginning to fill the hallways. What a magical time of the year. This month, we're SUPER busy. Our calendar is full of many planned activities, fitting for the month of December. As principal, I get to share in the excitement and anticipation of the Christmas season with all the students here at BD. So much fun to witness!

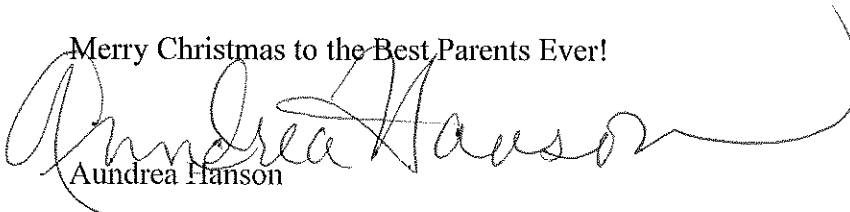
As we prepare for the holiday season, let's not forget about the true meaning of Christmas. Christmas is a time for LOVE, JOY, PEACE, GIVING, and RENEWED HOPE. Thomas Mason says, "Christmas is the spirit of giving without a thought of getting. It is happiness because we see joy in people. It is forgetting self and finding time for others. It is discarding the meaningless and stressing the true values." In other words, it is the generous giving of ourselves that produces the generous harvest.

With that being said, Benjamin Davis Student Council is sponsoring a school-wide community service project for the month of December. We have decided to adopt Riverside City Center, Genesis Health Care. I feel this is a wonderful service project because it will allow students an opportunity to experience the joy of giving to others and a way to apply academic learning to real human needs. In return, we hope our community will follow the lead of our students who have chosen to impact others less fortunate than themselves in the local community.

This time of the year, I often find myself reflecting on the school year. I ask myself, "Do we need to adjust our sails" or "Do we stay to course"?? Without a doubt, we will stay to course. We have some remarkable teaching/learning at Benjamin Davis and I'm so proud of the students and teachers for what they have accomplished thus far.

Next week, we will start winter testing. Make sure your child is at school on time. When we return from the break, we will spend time analyzing student, teacher, and school data. Your child's teacher will be sharing your child's scores. We're expecting a 20% or more gain in reading/math. Remember, students are overly excited about Christmas and we will need your help in keeping them on task as we close out the year. Thank you for your partnership!

Merry Christmas to the Best Parents Ever!


Aundrea Hanson