

Drug and Alcohol Prevention Sessions: January 14-17

We are pleased to welcome back Mr. Rodney Poole, a drug and alcohol prevention specialist, to speak with both students and parents during the week of January 14-17. Mr. Poole will meet with all Middle School students to discuss the impact of alcohol and drug use, promote healthy decision-making, and share strategies to help students avoid or delay using alcohol, tobacco, or other substances.

A special session for parents will be held on **Thursday, January 16, from 8:00-9:00 a.m.** in the Middle School Erwin Library. This session will offer support and guidance on helping students maintain a drug-free adolescence. Topics will include effective communication about drugs, current drug use trends, addressing personal experiences, and identifying early warning signs of substance use. All parents are encouraged to attend.

Gate and Concession

We'd like to thank all of our volunteers that helped out at the Gate and Concession Stand for the month of December. Your support to our athletics department means so much, and we are so grateful that you take time out of your schedules to help! Special thanks to:

Taylor Washburn, Chase Crocker, Kevin Paskey, Karen Lammers, Amber Read-Zamilpa, Kristen Moyers, Misty DeSalvo, Lydia Hunjan, Lesley Roberts, Mary-Margaret Marks, Beth Jones, Andre Bernard, Robin Mangan, Susan Harbour, Amy Dougherty, Susan Hoskyn, Katie Ransdell Todd, Amy Delgado, Jessica Phillips, Raven Wells, Mollie Campbell, Alexis Freeman, Nikki Luebke, Kal Khasawneh, Latese & James Rowell, Shawnte Garrett, Riley Adams, Erica Fields, Sandy Barakat, Leslie & Jeff Humiston, Erica Archat, Hannah Painter, Skipper Ray, Leacock Family, Elizabeth Daniel, Wallace Family, Maya Goree, Theresa Wyrick, Kelly Fitzgerald, Melissa Weatheron, Emily Johnson, Elizabeth Grotte, Nan Dement, Eyona Mitchell, Elizabeth Irby and Margaret Staley

Thank you,

Laura Schnackenberg and Mary-Margaret Wippo

Save the Date- Parents' Auxiliary Meeting

January 31, 2025, at 8:00 am in the Upper School Building, room 215

French E Auction- February 22, 2025

Buy your tickets today!

A Note from Mrs. Schuhmacher

Welcome back, Wildcats! While it was a short week due to the weather, it was an exciting one hearing students reconnect with friends and prepping for all the snowmen they planned to build. Report cards were posted on Wednesday and are available on Veracross. Please contact **Julie Fitz** if you are unable to access your child's report card.

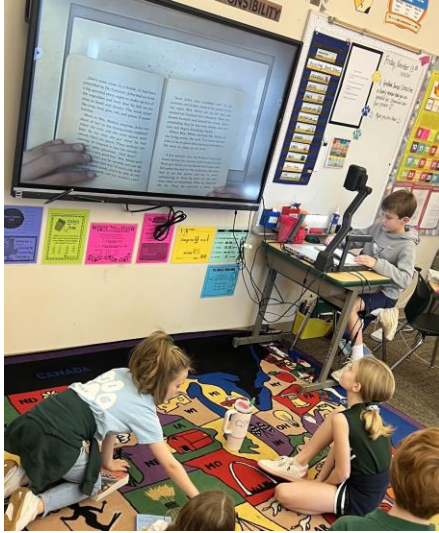
As we enter these really cold next few weeks, please make sure you label your child's outerwear. If you are missing items, our Lost and Found is in the PA room which also houses used uniforms.

Wishing you a wonderful, warm weekend!

Catherine Schuhmacher
Head of Lower School

Classroom Highlights with Doctor House

In Mrs. Moore's 3rd grade class, students are encouraged to read a variety of texts for different purposes. While we want them to dive into and analyze the novels we assign, we also aim to teach them how to read for information and discover books they enjoy for pleasure. Research shows that students who enjoy reading tend to read more often, becoming stronger readers and thinkers. To help foster this love for reading, Mrs. Moore has students share a paragraph or page from a book they're currently enjoying with the class. This activity benefits both the students sharing and those listening. Sharing allows students to showcase their favorite books, motivating them to keep reading, while the listeners are introduced to new books they might not have encountered otherwise. Peer recommendations are particularly powerful, encouraging students to read more. Students are also motivated to read on their own because they want to have something exciting to share with the class. Sharing is fun and makes them feel important and smart, creating a sense of pride and accomplishment. By dedicating a few minutes each week to these book shares, Mrs. Moore is helping her students develop into lifelong readers and learners.



Chapel News:

In Godly Play this week students heard the story of Epiphany and experienced the sights and smells of the gifts of the Magi!

In our PreK and Kindergarten chapels we watched a video about the Visit of the Magi. In our Community Chapel, Father Rob shared a message about Epiphany. We'd love to have you join us in chapel any time!

- PreK 4: 8:20-8:40am, Braunfisch-Stella Boyle Smith Library
- PreK 3: 8:50-9:10am, Braunfisch-Stella Boyle Smith Library
- Kindergarten: 9:20-9:50am, Braunfisch-Stella Boyle Smith Library
- 1st-5th: 2:30-3:00pm, Erwin Performance Hall & Gymnasium

In Godly Play next week we'll talk about Baptism and the light that is inside each of us.

Grace & Peace,

Michelle Moore
Interim Lower School Chaplain

Pride Patrol- January 13-17

Pride Patrol is a leadership opportunity for our 4th and 5th grade students. These students should arrive by 7:30 am, help open car doors, welcome students, and walk our youngest Wildcats to their classrooms. Pride Patrol student leaders next week include:

- Thomas Utter
- Aaron Virani
- Louisa Young
- Peter Adkins
- Bella Alvarado
- Nayah Banks
- Austyn Brown
- Evelyn Bumpass

Looking Ahead

January 20 | MLK Jr. Day - No School

February 14-17 | Mid-Winter Break - No School

Quick Links

Lower School Live News

Find the [LS Calendar](#) here.

A Note from Dr. McCormick

Hello, Everyone,

And Happy New Year to all of our MS families! This short week we have talked to our students about the new semester and new year being a fresh start and will be setting some goals when we return from the snow recess!

This coming week, we welcome back Mr. Rodney Poole to our campus. Rodney has worked with our students around alcohol and drug education for the past 10 years at least. His focus will be meeting with our eighth grade students, but he will also speak in chapel and have meetings with sixth and seventh graders as well. Rodney will do a parent program for interested Episcopal parents next Thursday, January 16, from 8-9am, in the Middle School's Erwin Library, and share some of what he talks to our students about. We hope that you will choose to attend!

Tomorrow (Friday) is a Virtual Learning Day in Middle School. As class periods 6-7-1-2-3 would normally meet, students will have work assigned in those classes. The assignments will be in the modules sections of their Canvas pages in a top module

labeled "Snow Day Canvas Module." These should be uploaded by 8am Friday morning.

Hope that everyone stays safe and warm this weekend!

Best,

Chuck McCormick

ISACS Parent Webinar Series- Wednesday, January 15

We are excited that the 3rd offering of the ISACS Parent Webinar Series will occur on Wednesday, January 15th, at 6:30 PM with **Phyllis Fagell: How to Raise Socially Skilled Tweens & Teens Who Can Navigate Friendship Challenges**. You can learn more about the presenter [here](#). Each person who plans to attend the live webinars or watch the recordings MUST pre-register for each webinar on Zoom to receive their event ticket.

You may pre-register at [this](#) link. You will have the option to register for all of the webinars in the series and for them to be added to your calendar for easy access to the Zoom meetings.

A Note from Dr. Graham

I hope this note finds you and your family safe and enjoying the snow. My teammates and I are thrilled to welcome our kids back to school. Tuesday was devoted to first-semester exam review, and Wednesday officially kicked off the second semester. Across the board, we want to help our students raise their own bar, in their academics, athletics, moral and character development, and extracurricular pursuits.

Please take a look below at tomorrow's virtual learning day plan. I believe our plan strikes the right balance: hopefully, kids have the opportunity to enjoy the snow, and they have school work assigned tomorrow to help keep them on track in these important, early days of the semester.

I look forward to seeing many of you soon.

Thank you,

Kellen

Updates, Reminders, and Action Items

Plan for Friday (Virtual Learning Day)

Our teachers have assigned work for our students to complete on Friday. Those assignments are posted on Canvas and, in most cases, have also been communicated in person. Your child may complete their assignments on their own time, at their own pace. There are no formal classes or school activities on Friday. As Dr. Griffin mentioned in his note on Wednesday, we want to strike a balance between making sure our students are safe in the inclement weather AND making sure they stay on track with their studies and build momentum for the rest of the semester.

Contact Us if Your Child is Absent, Late, or Checking Out

Parents, if your child is absent from or will arrive late to school for any reason, or if they need to check out during the school day, it is imperative that you contact the School and let us know. If your child is absent, please either call us in the Main Office at **501-372-1194 ext. 3** and leave us a detailed message or email Selby Boyd at [**sboyd@episcopalcollegiate.org**](mailto:sboyd@episcopalcollegiate.org). Upper School students are expected to communicate any known absences with their teachers, coaches, and advisor in advance. Parents, we also expect to hear directly from you any time your child is absent.

College Counseling News

The Princeton Review SAT Test Prep course will begin for registered juniors this Sunday from 2:00-5:05 pm or on Monday from 3:45-5:20 pm, depending on their group. An email will go out Saturday to students and parents if the Sunday workshop needs to take place virtually due to snowy conditions. If in-person, students should bring their laptop, charger, and a writing utensil.

College Admissions Case Studies Workshop- Saturday, January 25, from 8:45 am - 2:45 pm.

Admission deans from Agnes Scott College, Florida State University, Rhodes College, University of California - Santa Cruz, University of Tulsa, and Williams College will bring their expertise and wisdom of the college admission process to juniors and their families of Episcopal Collegiate School and Arkansas Commitment on Saturday, January 25th from 8:45-2:45. Lunch will be provided.

Juniors and their families should **RSVP by Friday, January 17th**

Beyond Next Week (Mark Your Calendars...)

- MLK Day (No School) - Monday, Jan. 20
- College Admissions Case Studies Workshop - Saturday, Jan. 25
- Drugs & Alcohol Education for Upper School Students - Monday, Jan. - Friday, Feb. 1
- Family Night - Wednesday, Jan 29
- Winter Spirit Week - Monday, Feb. 3 - Friday, Feb. 7
- All-School Pep Rally - Friday, Feb. 7
- Winter Dance (Theme: "Emerald City") - Saturday, Feb. 8
- Pancake Supper (Sponsored by Class of '26) - Tuesday, Feb. 11
- Class of '24 Valentine Lunch - Thursday, Feb. 13
- Winter Break - Friday, Feb. 14 - Monday, Feb. 17
- Parents' Auxiliary Auction - Saturday, Feb. 22
- End of 3rd Quarter - Friday, Feb. 28
- Fine Arts Showcase - Monday, March 3
- Spring Conference Day - Friday, March 7

Episcopal Wildcats Hudl Page

Wildcat Athletics has moved live streaming to the Episcopal Collegiate Hudl Fan Page. This page includes a live stream of events as well as highlights, team schedules, and rosters.

Episcopal Wildcats Hudl Page

Please note, we will no longer be using the Episcopal Athletics Youtube Page.

The Hudl Fan App is supported by Roku TV, Amazon Fire TV, Apple TV, and Android TV.

Go, Wildcats!