Excelsior Charter Schools
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Student Services News for Excelsior Families

EXCELSIOR TALON TIMES Holiday Newsletter

NEW DROP! EXCELSIOR'S ONTARIO CAMPUS CELEBRATES THE GRAND OPENING OF THE GIVING CLOSET!

Excelsior Charter Schools is proud to announce the grand opening of our brand-new Giving Closet at the Ontario campus—an exciting initiative designed to support students and ensure everyone has what they need to thrive.

Created by our Student Services Department and organized by Krysta Stanfield, the Giving Closet is a welcoming resource space that provides free school supplies, hygiene products, and clothing to our students in need. Whether it's a notebook for class, a fresh outfit, or essential personal-care items, the Giving Closet aims to remove barriers and help students feel confident, prepared, and supported every day.

To bring this vision to life, Krysta partnered with IKEA, working closely with their design team to create a functional, inviting space for students. In an incredible act of generosity, IKEA furnished the entire facility at no cost, helping transform the Giving Closet into a bright, organized, and student-friendly environment.

"We want every student to walk onto campus knowing they have the tools they need to succeed," Krysta shared. "Sometimes even small items can make a big difference, and the Giving Closet helps ensure no student feels left behind."



Krysta Stanfield (above) of Excelsiors Student Services Department at the Grand Opening of the Giving Closet at the Ontario Campus.

The Giving Closet is now open and ready to serve students throughout the Ontario campus community. If you'd like to access the Giving Closet, simply reach out to your school principal for assistance. We are grateful for Krysta's vision, IKEA's generosity, and the teamwork that made this resource possible. We're excited to see the positive impact the Giving Closet will bring to Excelsior students for years to come!

Wellness Nest

DEA Issues Warning About New Drug Risks

The U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) is alerting communities about two emerging dangers found in illegal drugs entering the country: nitazenes and bromazolam.

Nitazenes are a type of synthetic opioid. They are chemically similar to fentanyl—one of the most dangerous opioids currently involved in overdoses—but some forms of nitazenes can be just as strong or even stronger. Because they are often mixed into other drugs without people knowing, they greatly increase the risk of accidental overdose.

Bromazolam is another substance the DEA is monitoring. It is a type of benzodiazepine that is not approved for medical use in the United States. It has been found in counterfeit pills that are made to look like medications such as Xanax.

These fake pills may contain unpredictable doses or dangerous combinations of drugs.

The DEA has released detailed reports about both nitazenes and bromazolam to help schools, families, and communities stay informed. Although the reports were delayed during the recent federal government shutdown, the agency is urging the public to take these risks seriously and stay aware of substances showing up in counterfeit or illegally sold drugs.

If you have concerns or want to learn more about drug safety and prevention, talk to a school counselor or visit trusted health and safety websites. Staying informed is one of the best ways to stay safe. You can also visit **GET SMART ABOUT DRUGS: a DEA resource webpage at https://www.getsmartaboutdrugs.gov/**

"Seeing is believing, but sometimes the most real things in the world are the things we can't see."
~ The Polar Express

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Merry Christmas Around the World!

Did you know "Merry Christmas" sounds different everywhere? In Mexico it's Feliz Navidad!, in Germany Frohe Weihnachten!, in France Joyeux Noël!, in Italy Buon Natale!, in the Philippines Maligayang Pasko!, in Sweden God Jul!, and in Japan Merī Kurisumasu!

No matter the language, the holidays are all about joy, kindness, and spreading cheer. Try saying it in a new language this year—you might just make someone smile!



Holiday MOVIE TRIVIA

1. In Home Alone, what are the names of the "Wet Bandits"?
   A.) Marv & Gus B.) Kevin & Harry C.) Harry & Marv

2. In Elf, what are the 4 food groups according to Buddy?
   A.) Candy, candy canes, candy corn & syrup
   B.) Sugar, Syrup, Chocolate & Candy
   C.) Chocolate, candy, syrup & cupcakes

3. In A Christmas Story, what gift does Ralphie want more than anything?
   A) Red Ryder BB gun B) A sled C) A toy train

4. In The Polar Express, what's the first question the conductor asks children when they board the train?
   A.) "Do you believe in Santa Clause? B.) "Ticket, please." C.) "Where are you headed?"

5. In How the Grinch Stole Christmas! (2000), what is the name of the mayor of Whoville?
   A) Augustus Maywho B) Max Whoville C) Harold Mayor

6. In National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation, what does Clark Griswold receive instead of his x-mas bonus?
   A) A Christmas card B) Jelly of the month club membership C) A fruitcake

7. In The Santa Clause (1994), what triggers Scott Calvin to become Santa?
   A) Putting on the red suit B) Kissing Mrs. Claus C) Santa to falling from his roof

8. In Die Hard (1988), which Christmas song plays during the opening credits?
   A) "Jingle Bells" B) "Let It Snow! Let It Snow! Let It Snow!" C) "Silent Night"

Answers: 1. c, 2. a, 3. a, 4. b, 5. a, 6. b, 7. c, 8. b