

Dear Parents,

December 1, 2011

Here's hoping that you and your families had a joyous Thanksgiving. It is hard to believe that we're in December already.

First, I want to salute the PTA and more specifically, President Kimberly Langley and Candlelight Tour Chair Joanna Mc Dearmon. The thirty-fourth annual Candlelight Tour of Homes takes place this Sunday, December 4th at five beautifully decorated homes in the area. Dick and Donna Verilli, John and Alice Wilson, Keith and Camie Marion, Pete and Joanne Mace, and Lynne Haubelt have all opened their beautiful homes for the tour. We are thrilled that they have volunteered to help EDS and our PTA to support student and faculty programs at the school. Members of the community like these great people help Episcopal Day School fulfill our mission to provide a strong foundation for lifelong learning through quality education in a Christian environment, and we are so grateful to them. All proceeds from The Candlelight Tour are put to excellent use for programs voted on by our parents. We are also grateful to The Country Bookshop, Coolsweats, Natures Own/195 Restaurant, Gulley's Garden Center, One Eleven Main Gifts and Table Home, Lady Bedford's Tea Parlour and Gift Shoppe, and Emmanuel Episcopal Church for selling tickets to this wonderful event.

Just outside my office on the big bulletin board right next to The Golden Awards you will see some terrific new sweatshirts/ hoodies, t-shirts, and long sleeved shirts with the new EDS logo which are for sale. They'd make a great Christmas gift, I'd say. Thanks to Kimberley Langley for getting these made. The price range is \$12.00 for t-shirts to \$25.00 for the hoodies with some in adult sizes. You will love these new EDS shirts and sweatshirts.

Under the heading of, "It gets better every year", the music department's Christmas Musical under the direction of Lisa Gessner will be presented on Thursday, December 15th in the Emmanuel Parish Hall. The 3's, 4's, and kindergarten musical is at 8:30 AM, and the first through fifth grade's is at 6:30 PM. The joyful noise coming from our students will definitely put you in the Christmas spirit if you're not already there.

We have added four students since the beginning of the year and have openings in kindergarten, first, and second grades. I am greatly impressed by the students' work inside the classroom and out. There is great spirit here at EDS. The faculty is working extremely hard to provide the best for all our students, and the new writing program is a terrific addition to our curriculum. If you have friends who may be interested in Episcopal Day School, I would love to give them a tour of our school. Most all our students come to us by word of mouth so please spread the word.

Best wishes to all of you for a joyful and blessed Christmas, and thank you so much for being part of Episcopal Day School.

Jay St. John
Headmaster