

Eagle Talk

Dear Santa

SAYRE SCHOOLS

December 2015



“SEEING ISN’T BELIEVING. BELIEVING IS SEEING.” ~THE SANTA CLAUSE

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Looking for a Letter

In my daily rush amidst the buildings of our campus, perhaps my most favorite hallway to linger in is the elementary. I am unsure why—maybe it is the monthly display of art projects, essays, or coloring pages that without fail coordinate with the upcoming season or holiday. Sayre Elementary teachers are amazing like that—always on target and appropriately themed with every special event in a child’s life. But that is what memories are made of—school hallways splashed with the creativity of children.

I must admit that I walk these halls a bit slower in the month of December, looking for brightly colored pictures and perhaps a letter made out to Santa Claus himself—after all, friendly letter writing is a learning objective—

and who doesn’t want to write a letter addressed to the North Pole? As I thought back through the first half of this school year, I began to wonder what a letter to Santa might look like from a

1. Grace

First on the list would be the grace to handle whatever comes our way. A school district needs a certain amount of this quality to

"Believing in others is easy. It's believing in ourselves that's the real challenge"

~Giuseppe Bianco

school district—better yet, from OUR school district. It’s a silly concept I suppose—but nonetheless, an idea with the same basis as any wishful hope. One lays out what they want, what they wish for, and what they hope is theirs in the end. A letter to Old Saint Nick from the Sayre Eagles might look a little bit like this....

Dear Santa,

All I want for Christmas is...

get through times that might otherwise seem insurmountable. Let us hold our heads high and walk through moments of strife with ease and dignity. May we continue to serve students to the best of our ability—giving them the time and attention they deserve. We wish for the energy to continue to pour out our time and effort. Give us the grace to understand the importance of a quality education---and all of the aspects that it entails.

2. Transformation

Next, we might wish for the gift of transformation—in so many ways. Thanks to the recent bond passage, we will literally watch our campus transform before our eyes in the coming months. With these changes comes new technology, new classrooms, and new growth. However, realistically this renovation usually does not come without temporary inconveniences, inevitable construction delays, and frustration (for which we will refer back to Christmas Wish #1-Grace).

We will wish to transform academically—allowing our curriculum mapping and benchmark testing initiatives to break boundaries in student assessment and achievement. Giving teachers the data and tools they need to be successful.

We will continue to transform the way we think about a student's education. Preparation, technology, and achievement in one hand---human connection and compassion in the other. A healthy balance of striving for success—while still sustaining our sensitivity and attention to detail.

3. Health

A healthy school is a happy school—which is why it might be next on our Christmas wish list. Health can be a variety of things—especially to a school district. We would wish for the health of our students, athletes, and faculty—that sickness and injuries will stay at bay, allowing

teachers to teach, students to learn, and athletes to compete.

We may wish for a healthy attitude—to take change in stride, handle obstacles with poise, and strive to uphold the new standard we are implementing within our district.

It is our hope to maintain a healthy perspective---one that is focused on the horizon instead of the long journey. We hope to view challenges as opportunities to grow and become a stronger, more united team.

4. Belief

Lastly, we might wish for a sense of belief---during this season and throughout the entire school year. Let it not just be a belief in Christmas magic—but a belief in our school, our town, and most importantly—ourselves. Much like the letters that line the hall of our elementary, let the childlike wonder of believing that anything is possible take flight in Sayre Schools--propelling us to the place we hope to land.

These are our Christmas wishes: grace, transformation, health, and belief. Our tree is lit and our maroon and white stockings are hung with care—patiently awaiting our time to shine.



December Highlights

- ✓ Dec 4- HSBB vs. Cheyenne (H) 6:30pm
- ✓ Dec 7-School Board Meeting 6:00pm (central office)
- ✓ Dec 7-MSBB vs. Mangum (H) 4:30/6:30pm
- ✓ Dec 8- 5th/6th BB vs. BFDC (T) 4:30pm
- ✓ Dec 9- 6th-8th Math Benchmarks
- ✓ Dec 10- 6th-8th Reading Benchmarks
- ✓ Dec 10-12- Mooreland Tourn. (TBA)
- ✓ Dec 11- 8th Science & History/ 7th Geography Benchmark Tests
- ✓ Dec 11- Snow Biz 3rd/4th Christmas Program @ 2pm
- ✓ Dec 12- Shortgrass Honor Band Aud (Cordell)
- ✓ Dec 12- FFA-MFEALD (OKC)
- ✓ Dec 14- Art Show (HS Lobby) @ 6pm
- ✓ Dec 14- Band/Vocal Concert @ 7pm
- ✓ Dec 14-18- PTO Santa Store (Elementary Media Center)
- ✓ Dec 15- HSBB vs. Thomas (H) 4:00/6:00pm
- ✓ Dec 15-Eng II/Bio I/Eng III Benchmark Tests
- ✓ Dec 15- PK/Headstart perform at InterBank @ 9am
- ✓ Dec 15- MS/HS perform at InterBank @ 1:30pm
- ✓ Dec 16-Alg II/ Alg I/Geom Benchmark Tests
- ✓ Dec 17- Semester Exams (Evens)
- ✓ Dec 17- FFA Christmas Party @ 6:30pm
- ✓ Dec 17- Christmas Caroling/MS Student Council @ 6pm
- ✓ Dec 18- Semester Exams (Odds)
- ✓ Dec 18-End of 1st Semester
- ✓ Dec 21-Jan 1: Christmas Break

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