

# AFTER-SCHOOL ENRICHMENT NEWSLETTER



## *A Flurry of Enrichment*

& Just like that – December is here! Bringing with it crisp air, cozy routines, & a fresh burst of energy across our enrichment programs. As we are settling into the season, our classrooms are buzzing with activity. In this issue, you'll find stories that celebrate the small moments that make our community shine and carry us into the new year with excitement!



**MRS. STEELE**

### *Meet Mrs. Steele!*

Mrs. Steele, ELA teacher and Crochet Club advisor, loves sharing a craft that students can carry with them for life. A proud mom of two, a Celtics fan, and a marathon finisher, Mrs. Steele fills her classroom (and her life) with creativity, curiosity, and a whole bunch of yarn.

MEET OUR STAFF

Get to know her in this month's IG feature!

### **DID YOU KNOW?**

December has the fewest school days of any month, which makes every enrichment session count a little extra! Perfect for trying something new, reflecting on learning, and ending the year on a high note!

### *Notable* **DATES**

**12-22 - 1-2**

Winter Break!



**1-22**

Quarter 2 / Semester 1 Ends



**@WHENRICHMENT @WMSEN RICHMENT @HMSEN RICHMENT**

## A LITTLE HOLIDAY MAGIC AT HMS ✨

This season, the Greater Good Club proudly teamed up with My Brother's Keeper to bring joy to families in need through our Angel Tree initiative. A holiday tree was displayed in the school foyer, adorned with 100 gift tag ornaments offering ideas for children of all ages. Over the course of the week, students and staff eagerly selected tags and went above and beyond to fulfill them.

On Tuesday, December 9, My Brother's Keeper visited HMS to collect the donations—and the results were truly heartwarming. Of the 100 gift tags placed on the tree, 91 were taken and returned, each accompanied by not just one gift, but bags filled with generosity and care.

We are deeply moved by the kindness and compassion shown by our HMS community. Thank you to every student, staff member, and family who participated in any way. Your generosity helped make the holidays brighter for many and beautifully reflected the spirit of giving that defines our community



## *Around the World* PRESENTED BY PORTUGUESE LANGUAGE & CULTURE CLUB

In Brazil, the season is celebrated with Bolo Rei, or "Kings Cake!" This sweet, ring-shaped cake is decorated with colorful candied fruits and nuts. Traditional fruits include candied cherries, pineapple rings, & orange peels. A tiny figurine (or a fava bean for the adults) is hidden inside! Whoever finds it is "king or queen for the day."

It's a fun, tasty tradition that brings friends and family together to celebrate Epiphany and the New Year.



## CLUB SPOTLIGHT

The Dance & Step Club brings rhythm & movement to life! Students explore diverse dance styles and step routines, learning choreography, performance techniques, and teamwork along the way. Members share their skills at school events, basketball games, and more! They most recently dazzled the crowd at the Whitman Tree Lighting. It's a vibrant space for self-expression, fun, and the joy of performing!

### DANCE & STEP



## COORDINATOR CORNER

### HAPPY DECEMBER

As we wrap up a successful 2025, I am filled with pride and gratitude for the dedication and enthusiasm our students have shown. It has been an exciting few months, with so many accomplishments to celebrate, and I want to take a moment to highlight some of the incredible things our students have been involved in.

As we look toward to the second semester, we are excited to continue fostering creativity, curiosity, and leadership through our various clubs and activities. Whether it's academic enrichment, artistic expression, or community-building, our students continue to thrive and grow. We can't wait to see what new adventures Semester 2 will bring!

As we take a well-deserved break for the holidays, I want to wish all of our students, families, and staff a safe and joyful holiday season. Thank you for your continued support, and I look forward to another exciting semester ahead!

**CHRISTOPHER SZKUTAK**

21st Century Community  
Learning Center Coordinator



**HAVE ANY QUESTIONS?**

EMAIL OUR COORDINATOR AT:  
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