



The Washington Center Seagull Express

HOLIDAYS AT WASHINGTON CENTER

Prior to the winter break, festive learning activities and excitement have filled the days at Washington Center. Students practiced skills with a holiday twist through stories, crafts, songs and trips. The school was decorated with the seasonal spirit thanks to the our creative PTA volunteers; and, the excitement has been evident as merry reindeer, glittering trees, jolly snowmen, glowing Menorahs and Kwanzaa symbols fill the hall bulletin boards. Yummy aromas of baked treats have drifted from the kitchens, and lessons have introduced world-wide holiday traditions and celebrations.

A donation from Riverside High School made our schoolwide trip to the Children's Museum possible. Other trip destinations have included the Festival of Trees, community programs, restaurants, gift shopping at the mall and a possible peak at Santa. Several classes teamed to decorate trees for the downtown Hyatt Festival of Trees, and the Upstate Therapy Dogs came adorned in their holiday costumes. The Saint Mary's Catholic School band and chorus treated us with a concert of seasonal music.

Our favorite day of all will be Friday, December 18 when Santa arrives. We are sure that Santa and his elves will make their traditional Washington Center appearance, and helpers from the Klaver Klub and the Furman Heller Corps have already delivered a bevy of gifts specially selected for each student. Refreshments, generously furnished by the Daughters of Penelope, are traditions for this annual event. The joy of the season is evident at Washington Center!

Dates to Remember

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| • December 18 | <i>Santa's Visit</i> |
| • Dec. 21-January 1 | <i>Winter Break</i> |
| • January 15 | <i>Teacher Work Day—No School</i> |
| • January 18 | <i>Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday</i> |
| • January 22 | <i>Progress Reports</i> |
| • January 28-29 | <i>Science Activity Fair</i> |
| • February 12 | <i>Valentine Pageant & Dance</i> |
| • February 15 | <i>President's Day Holiday</i> |

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FROM THE PRINCIPAL



Washington Center Friends and Families:

The holiday season here at school has been very busy. The building is decorated; we have high school students coming for a Christmas concert; and, Santa visits are not far away. Several of our teachers decorated trees for this year's Festival of Trees at the Hyatt; and, the Klaver Club girls, the Daughters of Penelope, and students from Furman and from Christ Church School are once again adding to the holiday festivities with visits, gifts and treats. Our big party will be on December 18, and we hope many of you will be here with us to enjoy the celebration.

At this time of the year, we are always reminded of how fortunate we are to have the support of community members, district staff, and of course, our PTA and SJC. I like to say that Washington Center seems to be "touched by the Divine" in that we have such a talented and committed staff, such supportive parents and community members, and amazing students who make us want to do our best everyday. We have much for which to be grateful.

Best wishes to each of you for a joyful holiday and a very happy and exciting new year.

Penny Rogers, Ph.D.

Principal

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Penny Rogers".

PTA News

Happy Holidays to All Washington Center Families!

It's hard to believe that another year is coming to a close. I would like to say thank you to all the staff at Washington Center, for the care and love they show to our children. We are so blessed to have such a wonderful facility for our children to attend.

We had a good turnout with Family Night. It was nice to see so many of our Washington Center families attend. PTA would like to send a big thank you to Sharon Russo for scheduling the different agencies to attend. Thanks also, to all the agencies who gave their time to help our families. Cherrydale Farms Fundraiser did well this year, thanks to everyone who participated and to Gloria Stamps, our Ways and Means Chairperson, for coordinating this fundraiser.

The Run, Walk & Roll will be April 9, 2016, at Furman University. We have added a 5k run this year in hopes of attracting more participants. The one mile walk will still be apart of the event. We need sponsors for our event, so please consider donating or asking family, friends and local businesses for donations. All donations are tax deductible. Sponsor letters are available by contacting the office. The money raised from the event will help cover some of the new nature trail costs, gas for field trips, school supplies, teacher grants, and other activities at Washington Center. If you would like to help with planning of the Run, Walk & Roll, we welcome your help.

We will be selling memorial bricks for the nature trail as a beautiful addition to the site. More information to come soon. Our next PTA meeting will be Thursday, January 7, at 1:00 pm. Please come join us.

*May the Holidays bring you Joy and
the New Year every Blessing,*

*Sincerely,
Susie Robison
PTA President*



Happy

Holidays!!

