



# Looking Forward

December 8, 2023

## From the Principal

Good Day SLA Family,

Christmas is the best time of year and the best holiday of all holidays!! Yes, my opinion and my bias!

Y'all should know why this is the case. Besides the obvious, Christmas celebrates the birth of our Savior and I could stop right there without any other reasons, what other holiday allows you to:

- Support your local power company.
- Think of someone else besides yourself!
- Go crazy putting lights up on your house and then can't wait to get home from work to approach the glow in the sky that is your house!
- Make your house inside look festive, whatever that looks like for you. For me, it's garland, lights, bows, Christmas village, the scent of balsam fir, Nutcrackers in every room (almost), and a lovely Christmas tree (I splurged this year and bought a rotating base. Now my tree rotates, which forced me to decorate the back side of the tree!)
- Lastly, listen to Christmas music non-stop for a month, six weeks if you want to stretch it.

As the song says, "And these are some of my favorite things...". On a side note, if anyone knows where I can find an outdoor nativity set, that's the part I'm missing.

I hope you enjoy the season of our Savior's birth as much as I do. This season is truly our salvation! Have a Merry Christmas, a relaxing vacation, and do something nice for someone, it really doesn't have to involve spending money!

Merry Christmas!

Be Blessed and Encouraged,  
David Branum, Principal



Jacob is caught decorating for Christmas!

## Upcoming Dates

- Dec 8 - P-6 Christmas Concert
- Dec 15 - 7-12 Christmas Concert
- Dec 16 & 17 - Journey to Bethlehem on SNEC Grounds
- Dec 21 - Christmas Break Begins - HALF Day of School
- Dec 21 - Elementary Spirit Day - Celebrate Christmas
- Dec 22-Jan 1 - Christmas Break - No School
- Jan 2 - School Resumes
- Jan 9 - Ski Season Begins
- Jan 12 - End of 2nd Quarter/1st Semester
- Jan 15 - Martin Luther King Jr. Day - NO School

# Stockings for Soldiers

For this Veterans Day, SLA committed to donating stockings to Stockings for Soldiers. In the end 40 stockings were mailed out to the veterans and active duty soldiers. These stockings contained cards and letters from SLA students, snacks, games, etc, to share some love with the men and women who work so hard to defend the freedoms we enjoy in the United States.



## A Native American Experience

Merrilynn Braman visited the third grade last week and taught them about Native American culture. She played Native American songs on several different flutes, and also played a traditional drum. Mrs. Braman told the class a story about the No Face Doll, which explained why Native American dolls have no faces.



# High School Spirit Week!



PAJAMA DAY



**HIGH SCHOOL Spirit Week**  
11/27 - 12/1/23

**Monday: Pajama Day**  


**Tuesday: Soccer Mom & Barbecue Dad**  

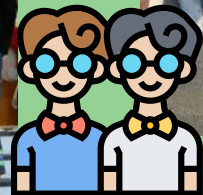

**Wednesday: Twin Day**  


**Thursday: Dress as Your Grade**  


**Friday: Class Colors**  


**Seniors:** Seniors - Citrus  
**Juniors:** Adults  
**Sophomores:** Soldiers/Kids  
**Freshmen:** Babes

**Seniors:** Black  
**Juniors:** Pink  
**Sophomores:** Blue  
**Freshmen:** Red



# SA Winter Banquet



The SA Winter Banquet took place on Thursday, November 30th, at the Chocksett Inn in Sterling. Here's a peek at what happened... more pictures to come next time!



# Pep Rally!

This year's Pep Rally occurred on Friday, December 1st, on the last day of the High School Spirit Week, and the day after the Winter Banquet. There were a couple of basketball games, one where the 7/8th grade girls beat the JV boys at basketball, and also some dodgeball games, and other fun events.

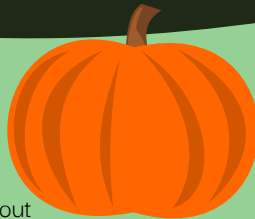


# Fourth and Sixth Grade go to The Nutcracker!

On Friday, December 1st, the fourth and sixth grade classes went to watch The Nutcracker play at the Monty Tech High School auditorium in Fitchburg. This field trip is a tradition for the fourth grade class, and the sixth graders had a great time going as well.



## The Latest on Pumpkin Jack



The kindergarten class is learning about decomposition and regeneration with the help of Pumpkin Jack, who has now been inside of this jar for a month and a half. There is barely any evidence that a pumpkin once filled this jar.



# LOST & FOUND



**Lost sweaters and winter coats** are starting to pile up! Please stop by and look through the Lost and Found collections, or inquire at the offices. There are water bottles as well.

Elementary Lost & Found is in the hallway to the right, by the library and bathrooms.

High School Lost & Found is just up the stairs to the right.

**Please LABEL SCHOOL SWEATERS!** Items that are not labeled might get taken by someone else, as nobody has any way of knowing who the rightful owner may be. If items are labeled, they can easily be returned to their rightful owners. **Names can be written on the labels inside the left hip, on the inside of the logo, or along the red and white stripes at the neck.**



## Fourth Grade Reading Partners



# Ski Club!



**Ski Program Registration still open for experienced skiers only.**

**Beginner Lessons are SOLD OUT, so beginner skiers can no longer register.**

THE SLOPES ARE ALREADY COVERED WITH SNOW AND OUR PROGRAM WILL BEGIN JANUARY 9TH!

**South Lancaster Academy Ski Program Online codes \*\*\* SLASC \*\*\***

[www.wachusett.com/schoolgroups](http://www.wachusett.com/schoolgroups) 

Please call Linda Oetman, Coordinator with any questions: 617-834-8797 or email at:

[loetman@mysla.org](mailto:loetman@mysla.org)

## Children's Church Singers Needed!

SLA's next Children's Church is coming up in February and Ms. Renzi and her squad of high school helpers are busily preparing for it already! If your elementary child would like to help lead out in song service at this next Children's Church, please let Ms. Renzi know at: [nrenzi@mysla.org](mailto:nrenzi@mysla.org)

## Crusaders Snack Shack!

This year Laurie Collins has very graciously taken on the task of running the Crusaders Snack Shack. Laurie is stocking, setting up, training volunteers how to run everything, and cleaning up the Snack Shack, but she needs help actually running it during home games! Volunteers are needed just to show up and sell! It's a great way to help out, and it's also a lot of fun! No previous experience is required.

Sign up to help in the Snack Bar:

[https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1AaFns8qR173kdm\\_bGpQQ05De3qVxeZ058HxQQIOS2yJtE/edit#gid=0](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1AaFns8qR173kdm_bGpQQ05De3qVxeZ058HxQQIOS2yJtE/edit#gid=0)



# Sports News

## Basketball Season is Here!!!



- **Crusader Gear Available for Sale**
  - \$15 per shirt
  - Sizes available: Youth Small - Adult Large
  - All profits go to the Athletic Department
  - Support the Crusaders in style!
- **"God Family Basketball" Hoodies available for Pre Order SOON!**
  - Players going on the Texas Basketball Tournament Trip get a free hoodie.
  - If anyone else is interested in purchasing one of these hoodies, keep an eye out for more details - pre order information coming soon.



- Games have begun! Stay up to date with all the game schedules on Arbiter Live. Find game dates, times, locations, and records of wins/losses on Arbiter Live:  
<https://arbiterlive.com/Teams?entityId=21380>
- Players, be sure to stay on top of your grades so you can continue participating with your team! Student Athletes are not allowed to play games if good grades are not maintained.

## Wreaths for an International Nursing Home



Preschoolers, pre-kindergarteners, kindergarteners, first graders, and fifth graders made 96 wreaths for the residents at the Shoreham Village of Continuing Care in Chester, Nova Scotia, Canada. The residents of the nursing home, one of whom is Mrs. Imperio's grandfather, were thrilled to receive the wreaths!





# SLA's On-Site Uniform Store

New Uniform DELIVERY! More sweaters, hoodies, and polos were delivered today!

New uniforms are sold at full price, and gently used uniforms are available for sale at 50% off retail price.

To purchase uniform pieces from the store, please see Denisse in the high school office. The uniforms are kept in the high school building.

SLA's uniform store will have limited styles and quantities, so to order online from our uniform vendor visit:

<https://www.globalschoolwear.com/school/S/OUT01>



# Grades 4-6 Basketball Victory!



On Sunday, December 3, the Grade 4, 5, and 6 Basketball Team had their very first victory! They won against ... Congratulations boys!



# Christmas Party for a Cause

Our SLA kids performed two interpretive songs at the "Christmas Party for a Cause, Cancer Patient in the Philippines" last weekend. They did this to honor children who suffer from cancer. This is a way of giving back to God, the talents He has given us.



# Holiday Bulletin Boards

SLA students are feeling the winter chill in the air as well as the holiday spirit, and school bulletin boards are starting to reflect that.



## Hot Lunches

Hot Lunches are class fundraisers for our high school, and 8th grade classes.

All orders must be placed through your FACTS Family Portal under Student > Lunch.

Lunch orders close by 9am Monday mornings! Late orders will not be accepted.

If you do not get a receipt from FACTS after you paid for the lunches, then the order might not have been completed. You must complete the payment for the order to go through.

See the lunch instructional flyer for directions on how to place an order.




## What's for Lunch?

- Monday - Vegetarian Hotdogs
- Tuesday - Cheese Pizza
- Wednesday - 2 Grilled Cheese Sandwiches
- Thursday - Cheese Pizza
- Friday
  - 2 Cheese Empanadas
  - OR 2 Pizza Empanadas




# Pre-Arranged Absences



If your family is going on a trip, and your child will be missing school due to that trip... A parent must fill out a Pre-Arranged Absence Form and send it in to the school offices before the trip. [You can find the form on the school website HERE.](#) 



## Dress Warmly!!!

Elementary parents, please send your child to school with sufficiently warm clothing (more than just a sweater). Children go outside for recess unless it's raining or the temperature or wind chill is 20 degrees or lower. 

## Journey to Bethlehem

Our very own Mrs. Gardner is spearheading this massive project! Journey to Bethlehem will be like taking a step back in time to the town of Bethlehem on the night Jesus was born.

To help out in any way, please contact Ollyce Gardner at [vp@mysla.org](mailto:vp@mysla.org)



## JOURNEY TO BETHLEHEM

DEC 16-SAT  
17-SUN  
2023

COME AND JOIN US  
6-9pm

A live walkthrough experience of the nativity

LIVE MUSIC-FOOD-Animals  
Exhibit- firepits-fun family activities-  
hot cocoa-dress warm for the  
outside exhibits



To Register go to:  
[bit.ly/jtbsnecsignup1](https://bit.ly/jtbsnecsignup1)

Location:  
34 Sawyer St, South Lancaster, MA 01561

Radio 1225

**J-O-Y!**

Where the BEST songs are songs about Christmas!

by Vicki Wright



South Lancaster Academy  
Preschool to Sixth Grade  
Friday, December 8, 2023  
7pm at the College Church

**TONIGHT**

**merry CHRISTMAS**

**BUY YOUR STOCKINGS!**

**FILLED WITH TREATS & GOODIES**

ONLY \$5.00 PER STOCKING TO GIFT TO YOUR FRIENDS FAMILY, OR YOURSELF!

**DUE: DECEMBER 15, 2023**  
**\$5.00**  
**TICKETS AT THE FRONT DESK**



*Lessons and Carols*

South Lancaster Academy  
7th/8th grade, SLA Band, SLA Bells, SLA Choir, II Voice  
Friday, December 15, 2025  
7:00 p.m. at the College Church



**Paint Night**

**December 9th at 5 pm**

**At the Village SDA Church  
75 Sawyer Street, South Lancaster, MA**

**\$40** Per Person  
Includes Painting Supplies, Canvas, Instruction and Snacks!

Please come support this Pathfinder fundraiser!

Contact Lisa Drew at  
978-990-0192 to  
purchase your ticket!



**CHRISTMAS CANDY GRAM**

The class of 2025 presents the "Christmas" fundraiser! Wish your friends, teachers, and family a Merry Christmas by purchasing a candy bag that has the option of containing a dairy-free or a Chocolate treat. All orders must be in by December 18th and will be delivered on December 21st. The cost for the candy bag is \$4 each. Fill out the name, and grade, circle the choice dairy-free or Chocolate, attach the cash or check to the order form, and return to the office. Happy Holidays!

