

2020 DECEMBER NEWSLETTER

2020 | HELENA MIDDLE SCHOOL | 2021



I'm going to be honest, how many times this year have you heard the words "In this crazy time"? Personally, I've heard it way too many times to count, but quite truthfully how else would you describe it? Between the Australian wildfires (Oh right that happened too), the global pandemic, Murder Hornets, California fires, Schools shutting down, and many other events...yeah, its been a lot. But there have also been many good things that many of us have overlooked. This time, year, era, whatever you want to call it, has given us opportunities. It has taught us important lessons and given us ways to connect that we never had before, or overlooked. This whole world of people have been transformed into innovators, tech-fixers, and creativity harnessers. From the random recipe trying and the couch potato days, to juggling online school and at-home working, 2020 has indeed been "crazy." But hey, we pushed through the tough days. Now we can thank 2020 for it's many lessons, and bid it farewell as we start heading into another great year. -Written by Eva Skibicki

Student Council Activities

Find out all that you need to know about the activities STUCO is hosting in this festive month! Page 3

GOODBYE TO 2020

2020 has certainly been interesting, here's what we have to say in remembrance/saying goodbye to this year full of surprises. Page 1

THE HOLIDAYS

With the Holidays coming up, what can we expect with HMS activities and ideas? Page 2

Read it Forward

The HMS library and SLAC Club is hosting it's annual Read it Forward book reading and finding compition. Here's what it's all about! Page 2

Writing Competition

Calling all writers! The Newsletter Group is hosting a Short Story Competition with an incredible prize!

The Holidays!

With COVID, there aren't many winter activities happening in the school, but there are still things going on! Here are some of the things happening this winter: First off, due to the Corona Virus the Band, Orchestra, and Choir can't perform their usual big Christmas concerts, but they are doing an amazing job of having their classes learn Christmas Songs for the Holiday Season. Some classes are recording videos of them playing Christmas songs to send to people in retirement or assisted living, others are trying to set up virtual concerts. We are so grateful for the music teachers helping us get into the holiday spirit despite all of the crazy things that are going on this year. Next up, Cozy Book Kits. Cozy Book Kits are little kits that come with treats like candy-canes and hot chocolate that are perfect for going along with your favorite holiday activities. They are going to be on sale starting in the 2nd week of December and will cost about \$2 each. The library will be doing a pre-pay system with cash and they will deliver! They are a perfect gift for a friend, or you can just buy one for yourself! If you choose to buy one for a friend, you can choose to put a customized bookmark or note in for whomever you are buying it! -Written by Ellie Clancy

Cozy-Book Kit Example



Short Story Competition

This month the Newsletter Group will be hosting a short story competition! There are two different prompts, and the winner/s (Depending on the amount of submissions) will be posted in the January Newsletter as well as receive a \$50 gift card to MT Book and Toy Co. and a Cozy Book Kit! A huge thank you to Mrs. Johnson and the whole SLAC Crew for donating funds to this incredible prize! The winner will also have the opportunity to record their Short Story on the library's antique phone. There is a word limit of 800-1000 words. When you have completed your story send it to afriez@helenaschools.org where it will be judged by a group of HMS teachers. Your stories can be relatively freeform and creative as long as you follow one of the prompts! The two prompts are as follows:

Prompt 1: Write about a character who is so afraid of making the wrong choice, that their indecision ruins the very thing that they were trying to keep safe.

Prompt 2: Write a story where one character needs to betray the other, but isn't sure if they can.

Remember that these are Short Stories and that you can have fun with this! Have an awesome day Bobcats! - Written by Eva Skibicki

Read it Forward!

During the first two weeks of December masked SLAC (Student Library Advisory Council) Members will hide books around the school. If you are an in-person student and you find a book hidden while you are at school, you may take it home and read it. You will have until the New Year to finish it. Once you have finished the book, you can tell a librarian, and they will ask you a few questions about the book/talk with you about the book. By doing this, they are making sure that you have indeed read it. Once they are convinced that you have read the book, your name will be entered into a drawing for a Kindle, and you will also get a candy cane, so you might want to find a book! Don't worry DLI students; every day three DLI students will be drawn for Read it Forward, and the library will contact those students to pick up their wrapped book from the library. Once a DLI student has finished their book, they can email or chat a librarian, and they will "quiz" you online. After you have finished the book and answered the questions about it, you can either keep the book, or you can return it to library and they will "quarantine" (aka sanitize) and then pass it on. If you are desperate for a Kindle (or a candy cane) OR you love to read, you can find more than one book. Have fun finding and reading books, (or picking them up) and Happy Holidays! -Written by Lucille (Lucy) Uhl

What kind of music do elves listen to?

Wrap Music

How to make a Christmas song

1. Add Sleigh Bells
2. That's it, you're done



STUDENT COUNCIL EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Candy Cane Lanes and Christmas Sweater Days

The week before Christmas Break Student Council will be hiding candy canes around the school for all of the student body to treat themselves to, that is, if you can find them.... Don't fret DLI kids, you will be able to pick up a Candy Cane from the front office if you would like to participate!

Another activity STUCO is hosting this month are Christmas Sweater days. On the 15th and 18th of December you will be welcome to wear your wildest Christmas Sweater to show off! STUCO is planning to take pictures of the craziest Christmas sweaters they can find to put it in the yearbook, so don't be afraid to show off your holiday spirit! -Written by Eva Skibicki

Festival of Trees

Student Coucil also is participating in the annual festival of trees! With the theme of "Do you hear what I hear." We know times are crazy, but if you need a bit of holiday spirit and end up being able to make it to the festival this year, we would love it if you would go check out and support the STUCO tree. Written by Eva Skibicki

