

# GIVING ALL YEAR

A Message from CLC by Bree Mitchell



Many people have guide posts that point out when the holidays are approaching. For me, I know the holidays are close when I can order my pumpkin spice latte. Another marker is when the automatic sliding doors of the grocery store open and I am hit with a strong whiff of festive aromas which range from cinnamon and caramelized apples to spicy nutmeg. The strong aromas send a signal to my brain and for a brief moment the domestic side of me (which rarely shows up) thinks, "Maybe I should bake some banana nut bread." Then, as soon as the idea of baking enters my mind, the rational part of my brain takes over and ponders through the never ending task list of karate, driving, homework, laundry, dinner; I come to the realization that baking is a "process" and the banana nut loaf just loafed right off of my list of things to do, to make room for more important items.

For some CLC parents, the holiday marker might happen to be when CLC has its annual chili cook-off. The crisp fall evenings are a perfect time to heat things

up with a chili contest. Parents from CLC cook up their own chili from mild and Texas Hot to vegetarian and tofu. All different and original chili recipes will be prepared on the evening of November 17<sup>th</sup>; this is a fun festive event that will be hosted by the Dunne-Dombrinks and Wolters.

There is a certain kind of magic that takes place during the holiday season that opens up hearts a bit more, and something inside of us wants to reach out and help others. A very special



element of CLC is to take this compassion and utilize it all year long. CLC does a great job of teaching our students the wonderful gift of giving. The holidays are a great time to give, and CLC students go above and beyond. The children work on service projects throughout the year and have opportunities to be involved in many projects that aid in teaching our children that giving is one of the greatest gifts.

CLC students had a pot luck lunch on October 31<sup>st</sup>, in the CLC courtyard. This occasion

allowed the children to show off their wonderful costumes and spend lunchtime with their families before the TOW parade. There were cookies and munchies prepared by the parents of CLC for all to enjoy. Many thanks to Diana Cimino and Shawn Graf for organizing this event. That evening the CLC children collected change during their trick or treating adventures to help UNICEF.

Our CLC Freedom Seekers created beautiful and imaginative holiday cards for the PTA Fall Fundraiser "Artwork for Education". These cards can be used for more than the holidays, due to the theme of "World Peace Makers" as the creative focus. These brilliant images can be sent as 'thank you' cards or a nice note card to send a friend or family member. Online orders can be placed after November 12: [www.ArtworkForEducation.com](http://www.ArtworkForEducation.com).

On December 14<sup>th</sup> Shawn Graf will guide us through the CLC "giving party". This is a wonderful event that CLC hosts every year for the Friendship Shelter. Parents donate items needed for the Friendship Shelter and the students work on creative and artistic ways of packaging all



the items into gift bags for this wonderful organization. The classrooms turn into assembly stations, and it's a great way for the students, parents, and teachers to work as team for a good cause. This event really builds a sense of community among our CLC families.

The CLC group will be heading to the Bower's Museum on November 16<sup>th</sup> for a field trip. The Bowers Museum will provide a Docent led presentation focusing on different cultures, tribes, ancestors, masks, and music. Later in the month, Jacque Nunez will come by to do a workshop on Native Americans using games, stories and songs. In December, CLC students will go to Pio Pico State Historic Park located in Whittier. There we will visit 'El Ranchito', the final home of the last Governor of Mexico. This home features one of southern California's

few remaining 19th century structures made out of the massive sun-dried mud blocks called adobe. We are excited for the scheduled field trips throughout the year that Winter Bonnin has diligently planned for Cheryl and Laia's classrooms. Winter has coordinated the field trips to keep with the 'World Peace Maker' theme.

CLC students were honored to celebrate two very important birthdays. It was a Happy Birthday for Laia Hansen and Gwen Myers. On Laia's birthday the students dressed up in their fanciest clothes just for her, and on Gwen's birthday the class created a book that talks about how special Gwen is to them. Again, CLC shows you can give not by giving money but by giving effort and time. These values demonstrate to the CLC students that they can make a difference by putting a smile on someone's face.

Whether it is the Holidays, birthdays, or UNICEF, it's amazing to witness the CLC community giving all year round!

I leave you with the quote for the quarter.....



*"Kindness in words creates confidence. Kindness in thinking creates profoundness. Kindness in giving creates love."*