

Yorktown students collecting food, toys, hats, mittens ...

Student Council of Yorktown Elementary School is holding its annual Food, Toys, and Warm Hats and Mittens Drive. Students, families and faculty may donate new or used toys, new warm hats, mittens, gloves and scarves, and especially canned and boxed food items that will be distributed to families in need in our community this holiday season. Peanut butter and jelly, spaghetti and sauce, canned fruits and cereals are especially welcome. The Student Council will provide a prize to the class that donates the most food items. The drive continues through Dec. 19. The Bowie community is also welcome to participate. Donations may be dropped off in your child's classroom or in the main office of the school during school hours, 7:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The school is hosting resident artist John "Kinderman" Taylor. This residency is provided through grants from the PTA and the Maryland State Arts Council, Arts in Education. Kinderman makes learning fun by incorporating movement, dance, rhyme, song, adventure and learning games into his work to inspire the imaginations of children. Primary students will do Kindercize with Kinderman, while the intermediate students will focus on ballroom, jazz and ethnic dance. At the end of Kinderman's residency, students will perform for each another, sharing all they have learned.

Instrumental music students, under the direction of James Kerns, will perform a winter concert Monday, Dec. 15, at 7 p.m. at the school. Everyone is welcome.

The PTA is hosting a dine-out event Tuesday, Dec. 16, at Applebee's at the Village at Waugh

Chapel, 2408 Brandermill Blvd., Gambrells. This is an all-day event where the PTA will receive 10 percent of all food and beverage purchases when you present your server with the dine-out flier that has been sent home with students. "Carside To Go!" orders are also a part of the event, and Tuesday night at Applebee's is Kid's Night with great menu prices for kids meals. Applebee's donated food platters to the school for the Career Day luncheon.

The school has earned \$469.69 in Giant's A-Plus Bonus Bucks Program since the start of the program in October. By registering your Giant Bonus Card at www.giantfood.com/aplus, the school receives a percentage of your total receipts every time you shop at Giant. What an easy way to raise funds for the school. When registering online, the school code is 02845.

The PTA thanks the Bowie Volunteer Fire Department and Rescue Squad for providing a safe and fun ride on a fire truck for Santa on our Cookies and Cocoa event night. Santa arrived with lights flashing and sirens blaring to the delight of children and adults. Thanks to Sgt. Jason Tidwell for his assistance in organizing the special ride for Santa.

HOLY TRINITY SCHOOL Discovery students discussed Christmas traditions and created seasonal crafts. This allowed students to share family



SCHOOL NOTES

By Sandy Stewart

traditions and learn more about their friends.

Second-graders enjoyed a trip to Annapolis to watch "Babes in Toyland" at Maryland Hall of Creative Arts. Parent volunteers are helping students make purchases for their families and friends at the Secret Santa's Workshop at the lower school campus. Students also enjoyed a traditional Santa's breakfast where everyone had fun getting together, meeting Santa and playing games.

Seventh-graders answered to the *Call of the Wild*, one of Jack London's best read books. It is a classic story that appeals to children as the protagonist, Buck, is a sled dog. Dan Giordano, middle school literature teacher, arranged for an on-site visit from members of the Maryland Sled Dog Adventures. The staff brought a dog-sledding team to the school and ran workshops on dog sledding. Students were also able to interact with the dogs.

The middle school Winter Band Concert was a fun-filled evening of music performed by the school musicians. Students from the cadet, concert, symphonic, jazz and wind ensembles amazed everyone with their musical talents. The musical pieces included "Holiday Gift," Bachs "Sleigh Ride," "A Christmas Proclamation," "A Magnificent Christmas" and "Let the Christmas Season Begin." The school thanks band directors Brian Hollar and Sarah DelVillano-Tabin for working with the students.

School representatives should send information for School Notes to Sandy Stewart via e-mail at ssewart@bladenews.com or via fax at 301-464-7027.

GO TO THE SLED OF THE CLASS



Blade-News photos by Barbara Sigler
As part of its study of the book *Call of the Wild* by Jack London, seventh-graders at Holy Trinity Episcopal Day School met snow dog Okemo, 3, and his owners, Eric and Catherine Benson, with Maryland Sled Dog Adventures above. Afterwards, students watched the dogs work using a Dryland sled for nonsnow conditions. The dogs typically train three to five times a week and eat up to 16,000 calories per day to maintain a proper weight. The dogs train at the Torrey C. Brown Trail, also known as the Northern Central Rail Trail which runs north of Baltimore to the Maryland/Pennsylvania line. Last year, the dogs on the Bensons' team ran 700 miles, 100 of which were in the snow.

