

# HOLIDAY CHEER



**CONTAGIOUS JOY** Squeezed into the Great Hall, the entire student body roars as the seniors parade into the Christmas Party, Lower School buddies on their shoulders.

The school's annual Christmas party, always held the day classes dismiss for a two-week break, brings the whole school together for carols and the presentation of gifts to the Salvation Army. Here are reflections from three Marksmen on this special event:

## How does the Christmas Party feel after the long haul between Thanksgiving and Christmas?

**Freshman Landon Wood:** It was so gratifying. I had four tests in the days before it, so when they dismissed us for the break, I honestly felt lost. I went home and literally couldn't think of anything to do.

**Senior Drew Baxley:** The three weeks between Thanksgiving and Christmas are arguably the most stressful

of the entire year. Walking down that aisle with a first grader on my shoulders and then join in the entire student body, sitting together in the Great Hall, creates a huge sense of community, accomplishment and unity.

## What did the atmosphere of the Christmas party feel like this year?

**Freshman Darius Ganji:** They brought the parents closer into the party, making the students squeeze even closer together. This year even more than usual, I thought the Christmas Party brought the entire school together as a community, marking the end of the year and the beginning of a new one. I look forward to it every single year.

**DB:** As a senior, the Christmas party was an incredible experience that reminded me of what it felt like being that first grader atop the shoulders of a giant. All the Middle School students and underclassmen sit in anticipation for their chance to participate in that great tradition while the seniors and lower schoolers experience what it feels like to be a part of a legacy of giving.

## What did you feel when we were dismissed for break?

**DB:** After a half an hour of squeezing ourselves together into the Great Hall and three weeks of stress, the final dismissal was a huge release of all the pent up pressure as we all go to go out and enjoy the break.



**2048**  
NUMBER  
OF GIFTS RAISED FOR  
THE SALVATION ARMY

## GIFT DRIVE 2015 'CHRISTMAS CATS'

**SEASON OPENER** Smiling despite the cold, junior Eddy Yang (left) sacrifices his time before school to collect gifts for the gift drive. Sophomore Toussaint Pegues and Eddy Yang (far left) wait for the next round of gift-givers.

## let there be light

Seniors brave freeze to bring some Christmas spirit to the campus.

DAY  
IN,  
DAY  
OUT.



After so many years enjoying the lights on campus, it was so fulfilling to be a part of that tradition and see all our hard work pay off with some really beautiful lights.

—senior PHILIP MONTGOMERY



**DECEMBER TO REMEMBER** Braving the freezing rain, seniors Stephen Chen, Akshay Malhotra and Noah Koecher (top) inflate a snowman. Seniors (center) decorate Centennial Hall with their class roman numerals. Plugging in lights, seniors Tim O'Meara and Cameron Clark (above) help the campus brighten up over the holiday season.

## spreading christmas cheer

Juniors find joy in swapping gifts through a secret santa gift exchange program

The goal was to exchange gifts and hear **laughter** during the holiday season

—Junior AIDEN BLINN on the idea behind the junior Secret Santa gift exchange



**DECEMBER TO REMEMBER** Expectantly looking into his bag, junior Nolan Jenevein (top) begins to open his present from junior Andrew Whigham. Playing with his recently received gift, Gopal Raman (above) attempts to attract the beta fish that junior Christian McClain gifted to him.