

Dear Montezuma Families,

We have received a tremendous amount of feedback regarding our upcoming Christmas program. Through these conversations, we have a better understanding of our school community's values and, in an attempt to be inclusive of all of our families, have, without intending to, offended the core values and beliefs of many of our families. As a result of our conversations, your feedback, and our analysis of the decision made regarding the visual component of the upcoming Christmas Program, we have clearly heard the preference for a more traditional program, which aligns closely with the community values of Montezuma. As such, we will move forward with the program "Characters of Christmas." Below is a preview of what you may expect to see and hear.

Attached you will find the program for the day. Students will sing songs related to a variety of characters, both secular and religious, associated with the holiday season. Additionally, students will create artwork associated with these characters. This artwork, which will juxtapose a traditional Nativity scene with traditional secular figures - will be displayed in a large-format manner near the entrance of the gymnasium. Students will also have the opportunity to create artwork that depicts their family traditions and celebrations related to the holiday. I believe the songs and artwork will reflect the very best of our students and their respective experiences.

Throughout the past few days, social media has spread information that is inaccurate regarding students wearing crosses or other religious jewelry. Students at Montezuma have never been discouraged, disparaged, or disciplined for wearing such jewelry. They are free to display their faith in such a manner.

Thank you again for your patience and understanding as we have worked through the matters related to our upcoming Christmas program. I look forward to seeing you there on December 20th at 1:00 p.m.