

STUDENTS COUNCILS COMMIT TO HOLIDAY COMMUNITY SERVICE

By Mary Loehr

The Christmas season is a busy time for everyone, including students at Lighthouse Preparatory Academy. Both the junior and senior high student councils have been busy with holiday activities, fundraisers and service projects. Senior High Student Council President Amanda Hart commented, "The purpose of student council, in my opinion, is to strengthen the school and glorify God through fun events and community service."

As president of the Junior High Student Council, I have been especially involved in our holiday projects. Our members decided to raise money to buy toys for the Samaritan Center's Adopt-a-Family program, and we ended up donating a total of \$100. Then junior high vice-president Carlie Land and I went shopping for gifts and delivered them to the Samaritan Center. "I really liked the idea of Adopt-A-Family," Land said. "It was fun to go shopping, and I liked (seeing) the happy people loading gifts at the Samaritan Center."

The senior high council members have had their own projects. As a fund-raiser, they recently did gift wrapping at the Barnes & Noble store and accepted donations. "It was a unique experience," commented tenth-grader Kalee Hall. "It was interesting to see how many people actually donated quite a bit of money." They raised nearly \$70, which will go towards the high school spring trip to St. Louis.

Also, both student councils have been working to create a sort of "Buddy Program" whereby high school and junior high students would pair up to work on homework and studying or to just "hang out" together. Last weekend the two groups enjoyed a "white elephant" party organized by the senior high council. This jolly Christmas event was a hit with all the students, who had fun exchanging wacky gifts -- including a pair of deer legs, Elvis CDs, and a giant plastic rat! Eighth-grader Charlie Herrick called the event "a once in a lifetime experience!"

For our last day of school before Christmas break, junior and senior council members planned to act out the Christmas Story at the faculty and family Christmas party.

Early this coming week, the Lighthouse choir will be performing at a nearby nursing home, and LPA council members - in the spirit of community service - will be at one of the local groceries and discount stores to help customers carry bags out to their cars.

Katelyn Rapp, senior high council vice president, summed up the students' activities and the councils' efforts this way: "The main goal we have is to plan events that can be fun and God honoring at the same time, and that can bring our school closer together."

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