

Dear Parents and Students,

In tough economic times like this it is nice to know you have friends you can count on. One thing that has been apparent over the last few weeks is that the NCCS family is a true friend of the community.

The high school French club recently concluded their annual food drive to benefit the local community food shelf. Each high school home room was encouraged to bring in as many canned goods as possible. Mr. Roy Howard's homeroom won the friendly competition by bringing in 448 items.

NCCS Senior Connor Herdic organized sixty five high school students to serve as Salvation Army bell ringers over the holiday season. In fact, on December 7 the entire varsity hockey team gave up their time to ring bells and to help raise funds for this worthy cause.

Some of the students in Mrs. Dermody's 6th and 7th period Global 9 classes have volunteered to help out the children at CVPH medical center. As part of the holiday celebration, each student is donating a toy or a book for the Pediatric Ward at the Plattsburgh Hospital. The gifts will be brought to the hospital on the Tuesday before Christmas Eve.

High school teachers Lynn McCarthy and Gretchen Morris worked with the Christmas Bureau to organize a class competition. Students from each class brought in toys for four needy students in the area who would otherwise have had very little under their trees on Christmas day.

Another class competition that served the community well was the "Christmas Angel" program. The local JCEO identified the clothing needs of about 70 individuals in the area. The age and the needs of each individual were written on paper angels and placed on four different trees in the high school lobby. Each tree was color coded to identify the freshman, sophomore, junior, and senior classes. Congratulations go to both the junior and sophomore classes who were able to turn all of their paper angels into gifts for the needy.

A local business owner and parent of one of our students heard about the "Christmas Angels" and wanted to get involved as well. Marilyn Dunbar, mother of sophomore Daniel Nadeau-Gerlach, donated \$500 worth of gift certificates to Scampers, the children's clothing store she owns in Swanton Vermont. Needless to say, the JCEO was thrilled with this gift as well as all of the gifts that appeared under the four class trees.

I am sure I have missed many individuals who went out of their way to help others during the holiday season. On behalf of NCCS High School I would like to say thank you to all of the students, parents, and community members who have so ably demonstrated what it means to be a good neighbor.

Happy Holidays to all. I look forward to working with you again in the new year.

Regards, Stephen Gratto – NCCS High School Principal