



Have a Very Merry Christmas!

The Most Wonderful Time...

by Matthew Winger

It's a few days after Black Friday, and I'm driving around my very colorful neighborhood. My neighbors have been busy preparing their homes for the holiday season. Thanks has been given, the turkey has been eaten, and lights and decorations are going up in a frenzy of activity!

I enjoy the spectacle of it all, but there's a downside to the holiday rush -- The lights, the songs, the shopping, the parties, and the hours of preparation can create a sense of clutter and urgency that pull us away from what's true and real and meaningful about Christmas. Author Lee Strobel said it best:

"The true meaning of Christmas is **love**. [John 3:16-17](#) says, "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him." The true meaning of Christmas is the celebration of this incredible act of love. The real Christmas story is the story of God's becoming a human being in the Person of Jesus Christ. Why did God do such a thing? Because He loves us! Why was Christmas necessary? Because we needed a Savior! Because He is love itself ([1 John 4:8](#)). Why do we celebrate Christmas each year? Out of gratitude for what God did for us, we remember His birth by giving each other gifts, worshipping Him, and being conscious of the poor and less fortunate.

The true meaning of Christmas is love. God loved His own and provided a way—the only Way—for us to spend eternity with Him."

Keep these things in mind as you celebrate the season, and have a safe and merry Christmas!



"O holy night, the stars are brightly shining
It is the night of our dear Savior's birth,
Long lay the world in sin and error pining,
Till He appeared and the soul felt its worth,
A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices,
For yonder breaks a new glorious morn,
Fall on your knees, O hear the angels' voices
O night divine, O night when Christ was born!
O night divine! O night, O night divine..."

-- Traditional Christmas Hymn



A big, big thank you to our Staff and Volunteers for making Thanksgiving Feast a huge success!

Events

- Dec 8th, 7:00p - STARS Basketball @ Montverde Academy
- Dec 10 & 11, 12:30p Christmas Pageant, Poinciana Campus
- Dec 15, Full Day - Field Trip to Holy Land Experience
- Dec 18 - School Christmas Party!

Students of the Month

Congratulations to the following students for representing OCPS with hard work, focus, and great attitude!

For August/September:

Najah Albright (4th)

Kayla Rogozinski (12th)

Gabriel Rodriguez (9th)

For September/October:

Gabrielle Previlon (1st)

Shaila Paulos (6th)

Harold Torres (11th)

Sports Corner

Basketball --

STARS vs. Montverde
@ Montverde Acad.
Tues, December 8th
Tip at 7:00 PM

Wrestling --

Congrats to Coach Henderson and her team on their participation in OHS matches! Keep a lookout for more information here soon!

Go Eagles!

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