

# Newsletter

DECEMBER • 2023

A PERSON CENTERED NEWSLETTER PRODUCED BY ST. MADELEINE SOPHIE'S CENTER STUDENTS

Edited in the Theresa & Edward O'Toole Foundation Adaptive Computer Learning Center

Nameplate Art © Tina Hendricks 2017



- 2 ..... 5 & DIME STUDENT COLLECTIVE: HOLIDAY EDITION
- 3 ..... SMSC SELF-ADVOCACY BOARD FOOD DRIVE
- 4 ..... TIPS & INFO: HOLIDAYS AND TRADITIONAL CELEBRATIONS
- 5 ..... CULTURAL CORNER: UNIVERSAL HUMAN RIGHTS MONTH
- 6 ..... IN LOVING MEMORY
- 7 ..... UPCOMING EVENTS: WINGS & SNOW / STUDENT APPRECIATION PARTY / TEA BY THE SEA
- 8 ..... DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS
- 9 ..... DECEMBER LUNCH MENU
- 10 ..... MONTHLY GIVING PROGRAM
- 11 ..... STAFF RECOGNITION / WE'RE HIRING

SNOWY OWL © CONNER HAUER 2022

## Warm Wishes

of Peace, Love, and Joy this Holiday Season!

**SMSC is CLOSED December 25th & 26th**





## The History of Santa Claus Anthony Paul Wardlow

Hello again, I am Anthony Wardlow and I would like to talk to you about Santa Claus and his history. Who is Santa Claus? He is the guy that comes to all the homes in the world to give all the good kids presents. He comes on Christmas Day early in the morning. So how did the history of Santa Claus get started? Well, it goes way-back to a person named Saint Nickolas, who was a Christian bishop in a region of the Roman Empire. He lived in an area that we now call Turkey today. As a bishop, he gave gifts to the poor on December 24 or 25. A legend and folklore of Saint Nikolas spread around Europe where he became known in England as Father Christmas and in Netherland's as Sinterklaas! In Germany, things really took off, and that started the legend of Santa Claus as we know him today! In Germany the Norse god Odin became the basis for Santa Claus. From Europe, Santa Claus spread to the new world, known as New England, and later named the United States. The legend also spread east to Russia where he became known as Ded Moroz. Santa Claus is now an important part of the holiday season. So, on December 25, let's think about how Santa Claus came to be a long-time ago! Till next time, see you all later and let's have a great Christmas and New Year!

Source: Wikipedia [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Santa\\_Claus](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Santa_Claus)  
Adam Spurzem / Lashaun Bynes / Andre Gerard

## 5 & Dime STUDENT COLLECTIVE HOLIDAY EDITION



SPONSORED BY  
ST. MADELEINE'S SELF-ADVOCACY BOARD

# HOLIDAY FOOD DRIVE

December 1st - 15th

## Most Needed Items

Canned goods,  
Pasta/rice, Packaged  
goods such as nuts and  
seeds, Condiments, Oil,  
Peanut butter



## Drop Location

2119 E. Madison Ave. El Cajon, CA 92019  
There will be a donation bin in the SMSC lobby.

**THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR DONATING!**  
**HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM THE SELF-ADVOCACY BOARD!**

# Bodhi Day

December 8, 2023



The Day  
Buddha Siddhartha Gautama  
achieved enlightenment

# Merry Christmas

December 25, 2023



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# Kwanzaa

*Celebrating love, community, and family*



December 26, 2023 - January 1, 2024

# Happy Hanukkah

December 7-15, 2023



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*Malala Yousafzai*

Growing up in Pakistan Malala Yousafzai, was a bright and curious girl, determined to be educated at a time that the Pakistani Taliban had banned girls from attending school. Her advocacy for the rights of Pakistani girls to get an education has grown into a powerful international movement. At age 15 while riding home on a bus after taking an exam, Yousafzai and two other girls were shot by a Taliban gunman in an assassination attempt targeting Malala for her activism. She was struck in the head by a bullet and remained unconscious and in critical condition. After her recovery, she became a prominent activist for education rights and co-founded the Malala Fund, a non-profit organization whose mission is education for all children. Her work was recognized at the age of 17 when she received the 2014 Nobel Peace Prize \*laureate. She is the world's youngest Nobel Prize laureate recipient.

- Laureate is a person who is honored with an award for outstanding creative or intellectual achievement

Phtoo Credit: Malala Yousafzai and Kamila Harris  
Wikimedia Commons



## Cultural Corner

### Celebrating Diversity

### Universal Human Rights Month

*Malala Yousafzai*  
*Advocate for Education*

The United Nations named December as Universal Human Rights Month stating that all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights, and that everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms regardless of race, color, sex, language, religion, political or other opinions, national or social origin, property, birth, or other status.

*In 1975 Congress enacted a law that supported states in protecting the rights of persons with disabilities and their families, which included education for persons with developmental disabilities. Before the law, many children were denied access to education and opportunities to learn. Now called IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.)*



Alison Cummings  
SMSC Board Member  
1940 - 2023



*in  
loving  
memory*

Richard Birdsong  
SMSC Senior Program  
1947 - 2023



Olivia Gross  
SMSC AC Program  
1977 - 2023

Sophie's



Gallery

SOPHIE'S GALLERY PRESENTS  
Wings & Snow / 2023

# Warm Wishes

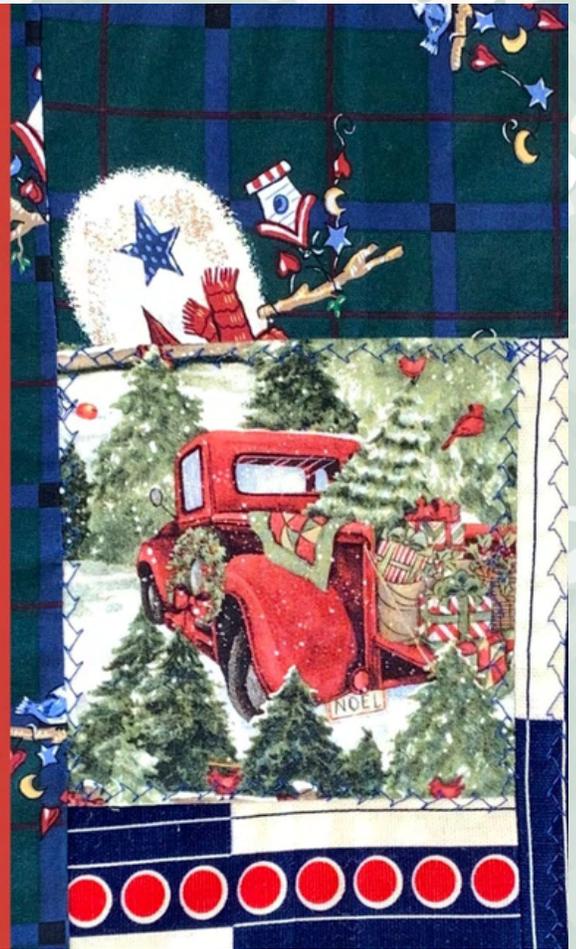
A selection of quilted wall hangings & cozy collaborative quilts, mosaic angels made from re-imaged jewelry & found objects, and handmade prints featuring wintertime homes!

December 8, 2023 - January 8, 2024

**PUBLIC RECEPTION DECEMBER 8, 5-8PM**

Wine • Hors d'oeuvres • Desserts

Winter Wonderland Quilt © Lance Rountree 2023



# Tea by the Sea

ALL ATTENDEES WILL RECEIVE A GOODIE BAG



Live Music • Handcrafted Menu  
Specialty Cocktail • Opportunity Drawing

January 20 |  The Marine Room  
11 AM - 2 PM | 2000 Spindrift Dr, La Jolla, CA 92037

Single Seat – \$150      Table of Ten – \$1,500

PROCEEDS RAISED GO TOWARDS SOPHIE'S GALLERY AND ART PROGRAM



Tea by the Sea Shawl included with \$50 Donation  
[WWW.TEABYTHESEA.ORG](http://WWW.TEABYTHESEA.ORG)



# SMSC Events!

SMSC  
**Student Appreciation Day**  
December 15, 2023

# Happy Birthday!



DECEMBER 2023

Mark Bridgeford

Aaron Butler

Christian Carle

Jascon Carlisle

Candace Cawthon

Joel Clark

Jerry Cotton

Carlo DeLa Torre

Bianca Gomez

Robert Goodman

Mark Graff

Marilyn Guidi

Conner Hauer

Teresa Hawley

Shannon Hoffrath

Jacob Kellogg

Aaron Kevane

Deseray Lee

Ramona Lee

Charlie Lizarraga

Francisco Mendoza

Dulce Moreno

Wajida Petros

Brandon Prozinski

Guadalupe Sandoval

Stevenson Sapper

Stephen Sorenson

Debra Tarr

Angela Thomas

Kristina Van Gelder

Chris Ware



Dec 1st Pizza and side salad

Dec 4th Spaghetti with Italian sausage and side salad

Dec 5th Hawaiian pineapple BBQ chicken over rice

Dec 6th Scrambled eggs with biscuits and gravy

Dec 7th Pozole with tortilla chips

Dec 8th Pizza and side salad

Dec 11th Turkey curry over steamed rice

Dec 12th Eggplant parmesan over pasta with side salad

Dec 13th Kalua pork, macaroni salad, and Hawaiian roll \*

Dec 14th Garlic shrimp over steamed rice

Dec 15th Baked ziti, garlic bread, and side Caesar salad / **FREE LUNCH**

Student Appreciation Day

Dec 18th Grilled chicken taco salad bowl

Dec 19th Beef lasagna, garlic bread, and side salad

Dec 20th Glazed ham over mashed potatoes, green beans, and apple pie

Dec 21st Loco moco over steamed rice

Dec 22nd Pizza and side salad

Dec 25th Holiday Closed

Dec 26th Holiday Closed

Dec 27th Rolled tacos with rice and beans

Dec 28th KFC chicken bowl

Dec 29th Pizza and side salad

\* New Menu Item

December Lunch Menu  
**2023**

**THANK YOU TO OUR MONTHLY GIVING PARTNERS,  
OUR CHAMPIONS OF THE FUTURE!**



**NEW MONTHLY GIVERS VIKI & STEVE DEAL**

*We are reaching out to all our families with personal success stories about our students. We want to encourage everyone to join our Monthly Giving Program as a way to support SMSC's programs and services.*

New member, Viki Deal said she and her husband Steve were motivated to start Monthly Giving when they received, "such a nice letter with encouraging pictures of Chandra." Viki added that Chandra "enjoys all the different creative projects at Sophie's Gallery."

Our Monthly Donation Program Supports SMSC Quality Programs and Services for Persons with Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities.

**CHANDRA DEAL  
"MEMORIES"  
PAINTED TABLE HARP**

The song Memories from the Broadway Musical Cats is relaxing and makes me want to fall asleep. I like to do art when I listen to music. Both help me calm down. Ballet! I took it for several years. I sing along to Broadway plays like Cats. Makes me feel happy and good about myself. Do you remember when you first heard this song?!

2023 Passageways: The Music in Me



Join our exclusive club, become a Monthly Giving Partner. No gift is too small! Your Monthly Donation Supports SMSC Quality Programs and Services for Persons with Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities. Contact: Joe Perucca, [jperucca@stmsc.org](mailto:jperucca@stmsc.org)



## Big Kudos

St. Madeleine's would like to recognize our awesome receptionist, Jose Barraza! Jose was recently recognized by Lisa Carle, mother of Christian Carle, for being a true professional and for all his hard work. Thank you, Jose for your commitment to SMSC and to everyone we serve!



ST. MADELEINE SOPHIE'S CENTER

# WE'RE HIRING

St. Madeleine Sophie's Center is a day program for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities situated in El Cajon, CA on a beautiful campus like environment. We offer excellent working conditions, as well as competitive pay and generous benefits. Come join our team of compassionate, dedicated professionals!

### HOW TO APPLY

Please go to [www.Indeed.com](http://www.Indeed.com) or [www.recruiting.com](http://www.recruiting.com) Applicants may also go to our website at [www.stmsc.org](http://www.stmsc.org), select the contact tab and then employment. These steps will give you access to an application for employment.

### SEND YOUR RESUME TO

[crickey@stmsc.org](mailto:crickey@stmsc.org)

### TELEPHONE

619.442.5129 Ext. 107

### WEBSITE

[stmsc.org](http://stmsc.org)