



News release

Jan. 2, 2018

Free dining and spontaneous music for 230 on Dec. 24

Anonymous donor buys dinner for families; students make merry with music and song



In the days just before winter break, a generous donor learned some district families find it difficult to enjoy a traditional holiday dinner.

Bah Humbug on that! This donor made an offer too yummy to refuse. Free dinner for any district family served up at Evergreen Middle School on Dec. 24.

The idea caught fire in the minds and hearts of Cascade High and Evergreen students who coalesced into a free flowing

and “free” musical band and chorus. They called themselves “Jazzta” and entertained the 230 guests under the flickering warmth of a projected fireplace.

“All I did was mention the dinner during one of our school music classes,” said Evergreen Principal Christine Avery. “Instantly students crowded round to ask, ‘Can we play?’ and they found others to share their talents.”

Families who accepted the dinner invitation dressed in their finest and enjoyed tableside service. The district’s food and nutrition department served up the always favorite turkey gravy and trimmings and topped that off with pumpkin pie.

Twenty or so volunteers greeted guests and seated them as a group of other volunteers trailed in with plates of food. One volunteer noted, “Most of us have no experience as wait staff, and we probably served the meals and cleared plates from the wrong side at times,” but we all had a great time. We were even dancing to the music as we carried the plates and bussed tables.”

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