



## **December 21, 2019: Winter Break**

Dear CDS Community,

This week we celebrated our community and learning in many ways, culminating in our Lower School Winter Performance. For those who were not able to attend, I've included in this message a transcript of the remarks I made at the opening of the performance. We look forward to welcoming you all back to CDS in 2020 to kick off a new decade of community learning. Enjoy a safe, restful, and reflective break filled with reading, writing, and playing!

### **Winter Concert Opening 2019**

Welcome, everyone, and thank you for joining us for this wonderful celebration of musical learning. One of our new values is to Share Kindness and Joy, and I can think of nothing more joyful than seeing young people share their excitement about learning through performance. For some of you, this is your last winter concert, but never fear: the opportunities to see magnificent displays of kindness and joy will continue, as was evidenced by this week's 5th and 6th-grade drama showcase.

I also wanted to highlight two of our newly adopted learning beliefs:

*We believe in the wisdom of slowing down and celebrating childhood, adolescence, and lifelong learning.*

As adults, this is an invitation to just be at this performance. We are recording it for you, so take a moment to slow down and step back from the intention of capturing the moment and just be in the moment.

*We believe in having the courage to take risks, make mistakes, and learn from the process in a safe and supportive environment.*

One of our recent performances offered such a powerful example of this. When an instrument fell over, the students worked together to right it and then the

musicians jumped right back into the beat without even a pause. Standing up on a stage is a big risk, and I so appreciate our students for stepping up to this challenge and our community for making it safe.

Thank you all for being such important members of our community. It is a privilege to work with, interact, and learn with you. Now on with the show!

Warmly,  
Shelly