
Wardog Thespians host Cookies with Santa at MJHS

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Looking for some fun “reindeer games” for your kids this holiday season? Join the Wardog Thespians at their first-ever “Cookies with Santa” fundraiser Saturday, Dec. 11, from 9 a.m. to noon in the Miami Junior High Commons Area.

The festive bash is the brainchild of Kaylea Hutson-Miller, the Wardog Thespians’ adviser/coach and the speech, drama, debate and journalism teacher at Miami High School.

“Years of covering Christmas events for the Grove Sun let me see how parents are always looking for a safe, fun place for their kids to see and get to meet Santa,” explained Hutson-Miller. “We checked with local officials and realized this was a void we could fill in the



community.”

The Wardog Thespians include the Miami Junior High and High School speech, drama

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and debate teams. The competitive drama team is sponsoring the event as a combination fundraiser and community outreach program.

“My students are doing all the work,” Hutson-Miller said. “They’re excited. We’re teaming up with the National Junior Honor Society, Art Club, National Honor Society, Key Club — basically any organization that students need community service opportunities. So, it’s more than just drama kids.”

The event is aimed at infants to third graders and will feature lots of activities, including face painting, a craft, pictures with Santa and other characters, milk and cookies and more. Besides being a fun, holiday activity, it also helps raise money for the Wardog Thespians as they compete during the spring semester.

“We have 11 tournaments at the local, regional, state and national levels between Dec. 1 and July 1,” said Hutson-Miller. “Some tournaments are virtual — everything done via the computer/Zoom — and others are in person.”

The group wanted to do something different. They see Cookies with Santa as a gift they can give to the community while also helping them raise money as students working to find their voices through the performing arts.

“We really didn’t want to do ‘just any’ fundraiser,” Hutson-Miller said. “Others sell products and it works for them. We wanted to combine community outreach and service with our fundraiser.

“A key component of the performing arts is being in the public area. The Miami region supports the school in so many ways, it was only natural to find a way to get the word out about our amazing students and the Wardog Thespian program, while giving back to the community.”

This is Hutson-Miller’s second year at MHS and this is just the first of many unique programs the community can expect from her and her amazing Thespians.

The cost to attend Cookies with Santa is just \$5 per child for the first two children in your immediate family. For families with more than two children, the total cost is \$10. Donations will also be accepted.

Enter the Miami Junior High Commons Area using the MJHS door.