



# MENTORING THIS MONTH

DECEMBER 2024  
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# December

'Tis the season...for so many things! Of course, it goes without saying that we naturally think of peace, joy, and good tidings this time of year. In the world of education, though, winter break and the beginning of college admissions decisions are but a few of the first things that come to mind.

Our MCOCP senior scholars know this all too well, as they're adding the finishing touches to their college applications and/or awaiting early action news on their college admissions. Additionally, this year, they should be completing the FAFSA by or before 12/31/24, which has been released a little earlier than last year (but still later than its typical October 1 deadline). Indeed, there are so many competing priorities right now -- and so little time to juggle them all!

Given all of this, please encourage your mentees to pace themselves and have patience. And, by all means, don't forget to give yourself some grace too during all of the hustle, bustle and busyness in the coming days.

On page four of this issue, you'll discover articles and podcasts on higher education and Gen Z, college access and success, college and career readiness, smartphone school bans, and more. As always, please read through the Mentor Reminders on page two. If you find a second or two here or there, please take a moment to read or listen to those items you find intriguing.

Finally, if you're interested in a local and historical take on Christmas, view the family-friendly short film, [\*\*A Very Carillon Christmas\*\*](#). Not only does it shine the light on Dayton's storied heritage, it is also entertaining, creative and unique! And, it complements the Carillon Park Christmas activity in the "Outside of School" segment (page three).

The MCOCP staff wishes you and your family a happy and healthy holiday season and end of 2024. We're looking forward to continuing this important good work with you in 2025!

# DECEMBER DISCUSSION TOPICS

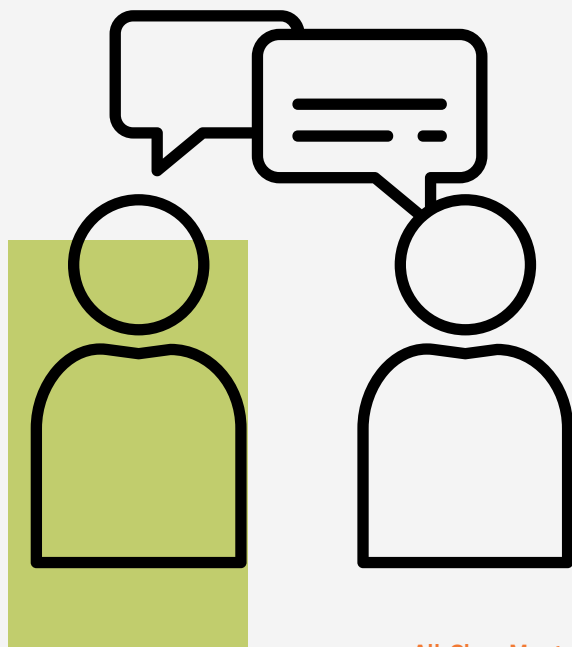
- What scares you the most?
- What is your favorite holiday? Why?
- What makes you feel most welcomed when you get home?
- If you could have chosen your own first name, what would it be?

(Sources for some questions: *Family Talk* game and Dayton Children's On Our Sleeves® conversation starter cards.)

For more information about the On Our Sleeves® initiative, visit:

- [The Kids Mental Health Foundation](#)
- [The Kids Mental Health Foundation Conversation Starter Resources](#)
- [Dayton Children's On Our Sleeves](#)

- **All-Class Mentors:** Several mentors have inquired about where to find the Youth Transportation Release Form. It can be found at either of these links: [Youth Transportation Release](#) (under the Resources heading) or [Youth Transportation Release Form](#) (PDF). Please be sure to download this document for future use. Also, remember that if you transport your mentee, you'll need to return a copy of this form -- prior to each event -- to Jenni and/or Kyra. It will be included in your mentee's files.
- **All-Class Mentors:** During the recent quarterly Mentor Roundtables, mentors were introduced to Level All, "a college and career readiness platform designed to improve postsecondary outcomes for people on all journeys." Level All is partnering with Montgomery County Ohio College Promise to give their platform to members of our community for free. **As a mentor, you should already have your Level All account at this point and have encouraged your mentee to create one as well.** [Emily Cutcliffe, A Level All representative, has provided the following videos to assist you and your mentee in the process: Assigning Your Mentee to You and Mentee/Student Invitations to Parent/Guardian.](#)
- **All-Class Mentors:** For most schools, the end of the semester and second quarter will be before the holiday break or shortly after school resumes. Please remind your mentees to study early for their exams.
- **All-Class Mentors:** During the holiday break and semester exams, you're not expected to meet with your mentees. In addition, remember that per the *MCOCP Volunteer Mentor Handbook* (page 6), small gifts to acknowledge student achievements or for the holiday are permissible, but not expected.
- **All-Class Mentors:** It's mentor recruitment time! We will be selecting our new, 15th Cohort MCOCP Scholars at the end of February 2025. If you know of someone who may be interested in serving as a mentor for this incoming group of mentees, please let Patrick know. We recognize that we can't start too early in the mentor recruitment process.
- **All-Class Mentors:** The MCOCP Annual Campaign: Helping Students Thrive is underway and will end on 12/31/24. If you or someone you know is interested in expanding your or their charitable giving to another worthy cause, please consider contributing by or before the end of this year's campaign. Over the past 15 years, we have raised \$9.8 Million to support these deserving students, and it takes donors like you to fulfill our mission. You can contribute at the following link and click the Donate button in the upper right-hand corner: [MCOCP Donate.](#)
- **Sophomore Mentors:** Recently, sophomores across Montgomery County had the opportunity to visit the Miami Valley Career Technology Center (MVCTC) and explore the school and its programs as an option for them during their junior and senior high school years. **Please note that MCOCP students can apply and attend MVCTC (or their school's equivalent), if admitted. At present, we have several program participants enrolled at MVCTC; matriculation there does not jeopardize their participation in MCOCP. As long as they meet our partner colleges' admission requirements, they remain eligible for the scholarship.** The only change would be how your weekly meetings would be conducted -- whether you'd meet on site or elsewhere.
- **Senior Mentors:** The 2025-2026 FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) is open! Students AND their guardian/parent will need their individual FSA IDs in order to complete the FAFSA. If not already done, they can create the FSA ID at this link: [FSA ID Creation](#). They will visit [FAFSA Application](#) to log in and complete the 2025-2026 FAFSA. All students should have the FAFSA finished and submitted by or before 12/31/24.
- **Senior Mentors:** By now, senior MCOCP participants should have completed and submitted all of their college admissions applications. From this point forward, they should be checking their emails and college portals on a regular basis for updates and provide any requested remaining documentation.



## December Fun Facts and Dates to Remember

While we're all basking in the holiday season and enjoying the beautiful sights, sounds and delectable goodies, there are other unique dates that may go unnoticed. Here are some additional days to celebrate:

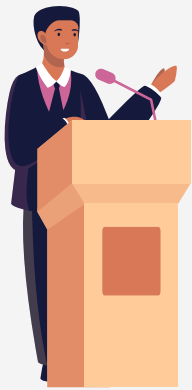
- Wright Brothers Day, 12/17/24
- Bake Cookies Day, 12/18/24
- National Hard Candy Day, 12/19/24
- National Card Playing Day, 12/28/24
- Bacon Day, 12/30/24



## OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL...

Below, please find some suggested ideas for activities to do with your mentee in the coming weeks. The following searchable websites provide a more comprehensive listing:

- [Dayton Local.com](#)
- [Dayton Daily News Dayton.com](#)
- [Downtown Dayton Partnership](#)
- [Destination Dayton](#)
- [Dayton 937](#)
- [Dayton Metro Library](#)
- [Five Rivers MetroParks](#)



- Scene 75 Entertainment Center, Dayton -- Ongoing
- Sky Zone Trampoline Park, Dayton -- Ongoing
- National Museum of the United States Air Force -- Ongoing
- Skateworld of Vandalia or Skateworld of Kettering -- Ongoing
- RiverScape MetroPark Ice Rink -- 11/29/24 through 2/28/25
- Merry Grinchmas: Art of Dr. Seuss' Holiday Classic & (B)ART! America's Funniest Animated Family Special Exhibition at the Dayton Art Institute -- 10/26/24 through 1/19/25
- A Carillon Christmas at Carillon Historical Park -- 5-9 p.m. (Sun-Thurs), 5-10 p.m. (Fri & Sat) through 12/30/24 (Closed Christmas Eve and Christmas)
- Clifton Mill Christmas Lights 2024 -- 6-9 p.m. nightly through 12/30/24
- Rikes Holiday Windows Display in the Schuster Center Wintergarden Wonderland -- 6 a.m.-6:30 p.m. (Mon-Fri) and 8 a.m.-5 p.m. (Sat & Sun) through 12/29/24 (Closed Christmas Eve and Christmas)



## NEWS YOU CAN USE

### General Education

- “Retooling higher education to meet the needs of Gen Z” (Lumina Foundation.org)

### College Access & Success

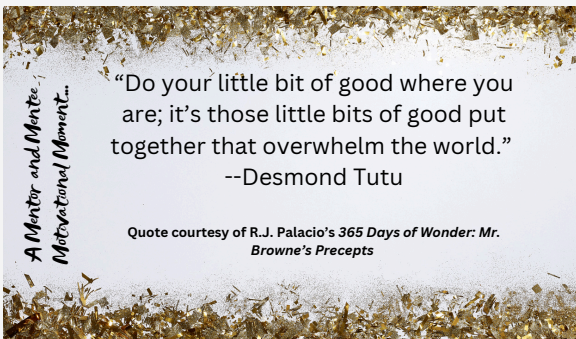
- “Study: 83% of Ohio students who take college classes in high school go on to college” (Cleveland.com)
- “Dual enrollment has exploded. But it's hard to tell if it's helping more kids get a college degree” (*The Hechinger Report*)

### College & Career Readiness

- “This is fun. How Zoo School (in Ohio) helps teens prep for careers – and college” (*The Christian Science Monitor*)

### Podcasts & Interviews

- “Money and College with Best Selling Author Ron Lieber” (*Application to Admission*)
- “How Are School Smartphone Bans Going?” (*EdSurge*)
- “Is Loneliness as Bad for Students as Smoking?” (*College Matters from The Chronicle*)



- Offer Letter Decoder - The Hechinger Report
- A Game of College - The Hechinger Report

