

MENTORING THIS MONTH

December

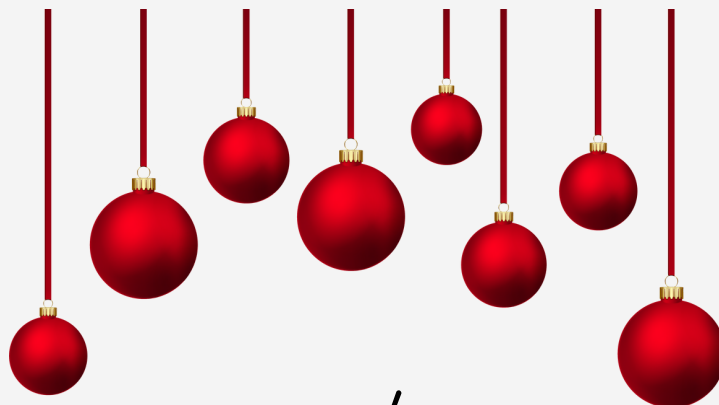
DECEMBER 2023
VOLUME 1, ISSUE 8

Happy Holidays Mentors,

Welcome to the final *Mentoring This Month* newsletter of 2023! It's hard to believe that another year is ending and new beginnings are on the horizon with 2024 a couple of weeks away! In this issue, you'll find the typical items, as well as some helpful information about the FAFSA. Additionally, there is a new segment, "News You Can Use." Feel free to share the links with your mentees. Trusting you will enjoy this edition!

The new Student Support Specialist, Kyra Robinson, is excited to work with and assist you in the new year ahead. Remember, you can reach her via email at krobinson@daytonfoundation.org or phone at 937-225-9935. She's in the office Mondays-Fridays from 8:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m.

Have a wonderful, restful and peaceful holiday with your family, friends and loved ones!



'tis the season
TO BE JOLLY

DECEMBER

DISCUSSION TOPICS

- What are your academic and personal hopes and goals for 2024?
- Do you make New Year's resolutions? Why or why not?
- What gift would you really like to get?
- Would you rather receive handmade gifts or store-bought gifts? Why or Why not?

(*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:

- <https://www.onoursleeves.org/>
- <https://www.onoursleeves.org/mental-wellness-tools-guides/conversation-starters>
- <https://www.childrensdayton.org/onoursleeves>

MENTOR REMINDERS

- **All Mentors:** For most students, the end of the semester and second quarter will be before the holiday break or shortly after they return to school. Please remind your mentees to prepare for their exams by studying early.
- **All 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 a student's achievements or for the holiday are permissible, ***BUT ARE NOT EXPECTED.***
- **10th Cohort Mentors:** We're still awaiting the release of the 2024-2025 FAFSA. **The U.S. Department of Education estimates that it should be available by 12/31/23.** That said, please encourage your mentees and at least one of their parents to sign up for their FSA ID **now** on the Federal Student Aid website: <https://studentaid.gov/fsa-id/create-account/launch>. See the "News You Can Use" section for more information.



REMINDER





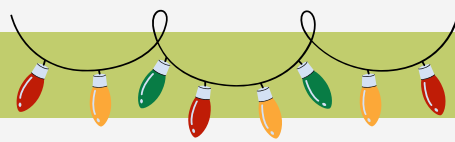
OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL...

Below, please find some suggested ideas for activities to do with your mentees in the coming weeks. These links provide a more comprehensive listing:

<https://www.daytonlocal.com/christmas.asp>

OR <https://www.daytoncvb.com/holiday-happenings/>

- Shadrack's Christmas Wonderland at the Montgomery County Fairgrounds -- Now through 1/7/24, 6 p.m.-10 p.m. nightly
- A Carillon Christmas -- Now through 12/30/23, 5 p.m. - 9 p.m. (Sun-Th) and 5 p.m. -10 p.m. (Fri & Sat)
- MetroParks Ice Rink -- Now through 3/1/24
- Virginia Kettering's Holiday Train Display in the Stratcache Tower Lobby -- Now through 1/1/24
- Wintergarden Wonderland - Rikes Holiday Windows at the Schuster Center -- Now through 1/3/24 (Mon-Sat until 5 p.m.) and (Sun until 3 p.m.)
- Woodland Lights, Washington Township -- Now through 12/30/23



NEWS YOU CAN USE

FAFSA Updates

- <https://fsapartners.ed.gov/knowledge-center/library/electronic-announcements/2023-11-15/update-simplified-streamlined-redesigned-2024-25-fafsa-updated-nov-27-2023>
- <https://www.npr.org/2023/12/01/1216340219/the-updated-federal-student-aid-form-has-been-simplified>
- <https://www.wbur.org/hereandnow/2023/12/04/fafsa-delays-college-aid>
- <https://sites.google.com/mcesc.org/college-access/resources>
(See the FAFSA link. Other related information can be found on this site as well.)

Mentoring

- <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/education/2023/01/26/mentoring-has-become-more-popular-so-why-gen-z-getting-less-it/11120823002/>



Podcasts

If you enjoy podcasts, here are two you may consider adding to your library on your favorite podcast app: *College Uncovered* and *Application to Admission*.

- A recent *Application to Admission* episode, “Essays Over Everything,” is a great listen and full of tidbits and tips. You can watch it at the first link or listen to it at the second link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2_9H3RnTDXM **OR** <https://castbox.fm/vb/650232875>

