



# KNIGHT TIME

## **Second Semester Begins**

**January 12.**

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**Spring Break:**

**March 15-19**

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LMU spring classes are underway. We have 16 JFWA juniors and seniors taking college classes this semester. They are taking a total of 22 classes. This is large group and we are pleased so many of them are taking advantage of this benefit of being a JFWA student. It's a wonderful jumpstart to their college career and will certainly help ease the transition to college in the fall for our seniors. Mrs. Nadvi has spent a great deal of time advising them and they have made good choices. Most of them are taking courses that will count in their college core requirements wherever they decide to go to school.

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DAILY ANNOUNCEMENTS ARE NOW LINKED ON THE JFWA WEBSITE. DON'T FORGET TO CHECK THE INFORMATION LINE FOR LAST-MINUTE CHANGES AND UPDATES.

## **One School, One Book: *Eli the Good***

LMU writer in residence Silas House's fourth novel is receiving critical acclaim and is a departure from the characters of his first three books. *Eli the Good* is being marketed as a young adult novel suitable for students in grades 5-8, but is being read by all age groups. The book is set in 1976 and is told from the point of view of a ten-year-old boy. Even though it is set in the 70's, it deals with themes that are certainly relevant in today's world, including family, friendships, the results of war, and a young person's striving to be a good person.

*Eli*, released late in the fall, is already in its third printing and is a contender for the prestigious Newbery Medal for children's literature. It has also been given a starred review in the *School Library Journal* and it is being added to school reading lists all over the country.

We are fortunate to have Mr. House on staff here at LMU and he has been active with our creative writing class. We certainly want to join the schools across the country who are studying *Eli* and we have been given a great opportunity to do so. We are planning to teach the book in all our English classes here as one of their required readings. After the study of the book, Mr. House will be coming to our school for a school-wide discussion of the book and its themes. Students will have the opportunity to interact with him about their reactions and questions from their reading of the novel. We would also like to extend an invitation to our parents to read the book with us and to attend the discussion event with the author. I am working with Mr. House now to determine a good time to have him here. He is still on book tour with *Eli* and his schedule is pretty hectic, but we should have a definite date very soon.

In the very near future, we will be sending a flyer home with some information about the book and an offer for students to buy a personalized autographed copy. Several of our students already have the book. Also on the flyer will be the date of the discussion event.

We have planned to have a One School, One Book event in conjunction with the revision of our required reading lists and having the chance to have the author come and be a part of it is a wonderful opportunity.

We are excited about this event, and we hope to make it an annual one. *Eli the Good* is a perfect choice since it is appropriate for all our age levels here at the school, it is being well-received by adult readers, and we have the added benefit of having the author come and talk with the students after the reading.

Following is a quote from the book:

"That was the summer of the bicentennial, when all these things happened: my sister, Josie, began to hate our country and slapped my mother's face; my wild aunt, Nell, moved in with us, bringing along all five thousand or so of her records and a green record player that ran on batteries; my father started going back to Vietnam in his dreams, and I saw him cry; my mother did the Twist in front of the whole town and nearly lost us all. I was ten years old, and I did something unforgiveable."