

# The Liberty Bells Make Special Appearances Around Town

December 14  
by Paige Lane

The Liberty Bells – the junior high hand bell choir - have had a few special performances lately! The transition from November to December has been busy for the group! First, on November 23<sup>rd</sup>, Liberty demonstrated a couple of songs for some music teachers at the annual ACSI Teachers' Convention in Anaheim. Mr. Whitmire taught a seminar for other music directors on handbell festival planning. All of the talented students, volunteer-parent drivers, and, of course, Mr. Whitmire - Liberty's awesome music department director - all met at Liberty very early in the morning to load up and head to the convention center. "It was a great opportunity to show off how well we play and how well Mr. Whitmire conducts!" said eighth grader Allie Lapporte. That is exactly what the Liberty Bells and Mr. Whitmire did. Afterwards, they headed to In-n-Out for lunch- "It's, like... tradition!" eighth grader Janae Crombie commented. Mr. Whitmire always takes the group to In-n-Out after this performance.

The next week, the group was in high demand yet again. On December 2<sup>nd</sup>, the Liberty Bells played for the Orange County Philharmonic Society at Claim Jumper. The group realized how important it was when they learned they were performing in a separate room. It was a super formal event; the women in the audience were dressed in elegant gowns with gloves! The most memorable part of it was when an older woman stood up and chanted, "ENCORE! ENCORE!" Everyone agreed and laughed. "It sounded really awesome!" said two-year handbell player, Crystal Eckman (7<sup>th</sup> grade). "Yeah, we did so good that [they] decided to donate \$150 [to Liberty Christian]!" 8<sup>th</sup> grader Caylee Craycroft mentioned. It was an amazing night and they hope that the Orange County Philharmonic Society invites them to play again at their events.