

December 23, 2011

**“Jesus is the Reason for the Season!”** Our Advent wreath has all four candles lit and we are ready for the greatest gift of the year! We are asked to give to others the gifts of **hope, peace, joy** and **love** during the Advent season that has come to a close. Now the 12 Days of Christmas are a time of celebration, family memories and time together. Enjoy these days with your children as much as we will miss them!

### **Religion**

We have gone from learning more about the sacrament of Baptism to discussing the rules and guidelines God has laid out for us to follow: **The Ten Commandments** and **The Eight Beatitudes**. We are investigating these rules and guidelines and discovering how they apply in our lives today. As we get ready for the second coming of Christ, we are finding the commandments and the beatitudes very helpful in showing us the way to the Father. We are preparing the way of the Lord through our words and actions. We know we have to stay awake and be ready, for we never know the moment when the Lord will come.

We have also been noticing “Be Attitude” behavior. Many of us shared “Good News” stories of people sharing the light of Christ with others. There is a lot of positive behavior going on all around us. We just have to stop and notice the good that is being done for others. Such “Beatitude” behavior as: stocking food pantry supplies, helping out various charities by donating money and materials, reacting with acts of bravery and selflessness, sharing what you have without recognition or expecting to be repaid, and many more random acts of kindness.

In the Readings at Mass on Friday, God asked us two things: “To do what is right! To do what is fair/just.” Don’t forget to find your way to share the light of Christ with others throughout the year, not just during this Advent Season.

### **Our Buddies**

The Fourth Graders worked on an ornament Christmas project with their SMM Second Grade Buddies Monday, 12/19. This was our first meeting and the fun activity was a perfect way to discover more about each other. Each of the Fourth Graders has used the School Post Office to send their Buddy a card of greeting. Checkout who your child’s SMM Buddy is and ask them about the project they worked on. They may be asking you to save empty paper towel,

gift wrap, or toilet paper tube rolls to make more ornaments! I wonder what other creative ideas they could come up with?

### **Christmas Concert**

What a beautiful concert we had on Thursday, 12/15. The Fourth Graders performed beautifully and certainly had a great time. What a talented group of students we have in fourth grade. Hope, you enjoyed their gift to you as much as they enjoyed performing for you. It was a special treat for our Seton Buddies to come to the dress rehearsal in the afternoon where we exchanged greeting cards. Please share any photos on our school Flicker account via the TCCES home page.

### **Social Studies**

Monday 12/19 your child shared their vocabulary knowledge from the Unit on the Northeast Region of the U.S.A. They have been preparing by taking quizzes in Social Studies' Class and reviewing at home. After break you will see the results of how hard they reviewed their vocabulary and prepared for the diagrams they needed to know, draw and explain. Perhaps some of you will be traveling to this region over our winter break!

### **Math**

(King/Kulinski)

Fourth Grade math is becoming more of a challenge as we move on to new (4<sup>th</sup> grade) concepts, such as: Algebraic Reasoning using variables and order of operation (Please, My Dear Aunt Sally), Estimating and Rounding in multiplication and division, Guess and Check strategy using multiple steps, Multiplying and Dividing longer and larger numbers where we have to constantly recall the answers to our basic facts, and many other new and extended mathematical concepts.

**Longer multiplication** is presently the concept we are now working on. Multiplying 2 digit or 3 digit numbers by 1 digit numbers is providing us with moments of growth and wonder.

After Christmas break we will be moving on to multiplying 2 and 3 digit numbers by 2 digits numbers. We will discover the importance of keeping numbers aligned and in the correct place. The zero is going to have an important role as one of our helpful tools, when we use it to hold a place. We don't want to accidentally start our answer in the ten's place, so zero comes to our rescue, and we place him in the one's spot—just to hold the place.

Most fourth graders are finding how very important it is to know our basic multiplication and addition facts. It makes working the longer multiplication problems a lot quicker and easier. Please, keep practicing the basic flashcard facts (0's through 12's) with your child.

(Zeinert) Math as art? You better believe it! Our students created very beautiful and creative graphic designs using triangles of all shapes and sizes that they colored and outlined. Our

design gallery will be displayed soon. Next we will try it with circles, radius, diameter, and chord lines from our lessons this week. We also gave pattern making a try with colored shape blocks.

### **Science**

We wrapped up our Ecosystem unit with the test on Wed. Dec. 21<sup>st</sup>. Results will be returned after break. It was quite interesting to see which extinct animals would be brought back to life if possible but I wonder what impact they would have on today's ecosystems and planetary balance of resources? Our final Life Science Unit will pull together all we have learned in the first semester with a biome study and creating dioramas of our vast planet. In the upcoming unit we will touch on how water and nutrients cycle through the biome. Then the new semester will bring us into Earth Science with a look at our planet Earth's place in space and our solar system.

### **Language Arts**

(Zeinert) We finished A Cricket in Times Square and will be starting a new Literature selection after break.

### **UpComing**

- **Sunday, 12/18-Fourth Sunday of Advent (four candles are lit with Peace, Hope, Joy and Love)**
- **Social Studies-Vocabulary Test on 19 words/definitions from unit 2**
- **Dec. 23<sup>rd</sup> through Jan. 2<sup>nd</sup> is Christmas Vacation for the students.**
- **Jan. 2<sup>nd</sup> is a Teacher In-Service Day.**
- **Tuesday, Jan. 3<sup>rd</sup>. students are welcomed back to school in 2012.**

*We, the fourth grade teachers, would like to thank you, once again, for sharing your children with us. This school year is going by so quickly, it must be because we are having so much fun. We truly are enjoying your children and helping them to learn many new things. We are watching them grow and develop in the areas of responsibility, respect, and reverence. We see this growth happening in their daily lives. What a joy it is to watch them develop.*

*Please have a very Blessed Christmas and don't forget the reason for the season-Jesus!*

*The Fourth Grade News will come out again-next year-in January of 2012!*

*Mrs. Zeinert      Ms. Kulinski      Mrs.*

*King*