



# Grade Four News



December 9, 2011

**Our Advent Wreath is beginning to burn brighter as we complete the second week of Advent. The themes we have covered for the first two weeks are “Peace” and “Hope”.**

**We are praying for peace: in our world, on our playground, in our school, in our classroom, and in our family.**

**Our hope is for a better life for those in need. We are trying to count our blessings and notice the people around us who have basic needs that aren’t being met. This is why we are having collections for items such as: shoes, diapers, tooth paste and brushes, soap, washcloths, clothes, etc.**

**Please remember those in need and say a prayer for them, if you can’t contribute to the collections. We all know God hears and answers prayers, especially from children.**

**Monday brings us to a special celebration day for the Mexican people and the Americas. It is the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Juan Diego saw Mary, the Mother of Jesus, and she left her imprint on his *tilma* or cloak. Mary explained that she came to imprint herself on the hearts of all *Guadalupanas*, and to give a new image of God—the image of flowers and song—the image called *fiesta*.**

## Religion

This week we enjoyed the Feast of St. Nicholas, the holy day-Immaculate Conception and the continuing Advent Season. We are preparing our hearts and our lives for the second coming of the Lord. John the Baptist preached that we should “Prepare the Way of the Lord.” We have been told to “Stay Awake” and “Be Ready”, for we never know the hour when the Lord may come.” Ask your child to share some ways they are preparing their hearts and their lives for the second coming of Christ.

Ten Commandments, Seven Sacraments, and Eight Beatitudes are included in our fourth grade Religion studies. Counting our blessings and noticing the good works being done around us is our focus. We are studying the Eight Beatitudes and how Jesus told us we could achieve true happiness, by taking care of the needs of others.

We are looking for positive/good news happenings in our world today. Please help your child find a good news story to share with fellow classmates. We are looking for true stories of people reaching out and helping others in our neighborhood, city, county, state, country, nation or world today.

## Math

**Longer multiplication**-using our multiplication and addition facts, as well as **longer division**-using our division and subtraction facts, are just around the corner. These will be easy and fun learning experiences if the basic facts have been mastered. Keep practicing and reviewing the basic facts whenever and where ever possible—a car ride, a baking or candy making session, wrapping presents, shopping for gifts, etc. Knowing these basic facts can only make mathematics easier to work and more understandable for your child.

Don't forget to initial your child's December fact calendar as they study/practice their facts this month.

**Mrs. Zeinert's Math**- will come back to multiplication and division but have skipped ahead to Ch. 16 to work on geometry skills through the New Year. We are learning about endpoints, line segments, lines that may run parallel or intersect to form perpendicular lines. We finally used our protractors to make nice straight lines and sharp angles. Get ready to name and draw polygons, make patterns, and measure area and perimeter.

## Our Buddies

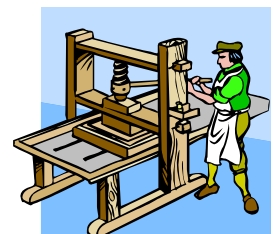
Did you know your child has a "Seton Buddy" and a "SMM Second Grade Buddy?" They do! Ask your child who these Buddies are.

Our Seton Buddies will be coming on Thursday, December 15<sup>th</sup> to watch us perform in our 1:00 rehearsal for the concert that evening.

The fourth graders will be joining with their SMM Second Grade Buddies, for a time of sharing and holiday fun, before Christmas break. Keep your ears open for what takes place.

## Social Studies

What a wonderful experience back in time. The Wisconsin of long ago was quite different from the Wisconsin of present day. The fieldtrip to Heritage Hill Museum, Friday, provided your child with a step back in history. The students experienced the unique qualities that could be found in a one-room schoolhouse. They also discovered a lot about life at Fort Howard—army quarters, rules, duties, responsibilities, and the perils of becoming ill or needing medical attention. The students saw and heard about Christmas traditions of the German and the Belgium people who immigrated to Wisconsin, and many more sights and tales of Wisconsin long ago.



## Current Events

We will participate in one more round of the News Bowl before Christmas break. Keep sharing those current events with your child. It helps them feel confident and knowledgeable when doing the national online quiz of 50 questions. These questions are in the areas of world, national, sports, entertainment, geography, science, calendar, and special event/celebration news.

You can see the state and national results on the News Bowl site [www.newsowl.com](http://www.newsowl.com). Ask your child their team name and you can check out how they did on their November News Bowl, if you haven't view those results, yet.

### **Science**

This week we worked in groups to learn about how energy transfers through a food chain from the producers who capture the sun's energy all the way down through the decomposers who return the nutrients back into the earth. Each group focused on one of the following ecosystems: rainforest, savanna, wetland, desert, arctic, or ocean. Then they had to record facts for each level of a food chain to be shared with the class. They presented their linked chains on Thur. and are displayed along with our basic needs posters in the upstairs hallway. Our quiz last week was quite successful and there were many A's and B's. We will be testing before Christmas break!

### **Language Arts (LA)**

(Mrs. King's Class)

We are enjoying our literature book, The Sign of the Beaver, by Elizabeth George Speare. She is a very descriptive writer and helps us to make pictures or videos in our mind as we read.

This book is also teaching us many new and interesting words that were used by the people of the Maine Territory in 1768. We are also learning a little of the Native American language, of the Penobscot Tribe, as we venture through the chapters.

Ms. Speare has provided the fourth graders with a rare opportunity-to give titles to each of the chapters in this piece of literature. She wrote this book without chapter titles. Therefore, Mrs. King's students are creating titles, they feel are appropriate and intriguing, for each of her twenty-five chapters. Maybe we will have to share them with her or the publishing company and see what they think of our ideas.

Ask your child to share some of Matt's adventures as he struggles to survive in the wilderness until his family arrives.

(Mrs. Zeinert's Class)

We finished summarizing and locating supporting details for chapters 1-6 of The Cricket in Times Square. Next we created scene sketches that included the setting, characters, and detailed event for each chapter. In grammar we reviewed subjects and predicates by combining together more than one subject or predicate to make a compound subject or predicate by adding the helping words (and, but, or). Then we moved on to nouns and differentiated between common and proper nouns.

After the upcoming spelling test on Mon., Dec. 12 we will review for a December "Jingle Bee" on Dec. 19<sup>th</sup>. New lists will start after break.

### **Reminders:**

- **Sunday, 12/11-Third Sunday of Advent (pink or white candle—that makes three lit)**
- **Monday, 12/12 "Crittter Slip" Sale for 4<sup>th</sup> graders. (Make sure your reward slips are at school.)**
- **Wednesday, 12/14-out of dress code day (jeans and navy blue school shirt)**

- Thursday, 12/15 Seton Buddy visit for our 1:00 concert rehearsal
- The Christmas concert is Thursday, 12/15 The doors open at 6:00 and students report to their homeroom. All students need to be in homeroom by 6:15.
- 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
- Science Test on Ecosystems
- 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.



*Mrs. Zeinert*

*Ms. Kulinski*

*Mrs. King*

