



Kinder News

December 11, 2009

Religion

What a wonderful Advent season! It is so special to be able to celebrate and share Advent services, preparations, and discussions with the students. Please ask your child to explain the Advent wreath to you. Why is it shaped as a circle; what do the colors of the candles mean; why is the wreath evergreen etc. We've also discussed the fact that Christmas is Jesus' birthday and that Mary is the mother of Jesus.

Reading

We continue to plunge forward on our road to reading. Beginning letter sounds have been our focus. Please work with your child over break with this concept. Often times, the students can recite the letter sounds, but applying them tends to be a more challenging concept. Encourage your child to help you write a thank-you for all of his/her Christmas presents by writing the first, middle and last letter of each word in the thank you. At this point, we are not looking for correct spelling of words, rather we're looking for letter/sound matching. It's okay if the words are not all spelled correctly. Letter/sound matching is what we have been doing in our shared writing.

In January, we will be working on ending letter sounds as well. Over break, continue to work on reading and writing the Word Wall Words. A current list of these is located on the St. Francis web site. Our goal is

that all students will be able to read and write 25 words by the end of the year.

Math

In Math we have been reviewing some basic concepts as well as working on 3D shapes. We have introduced these shapes and noticed how we often see them as everyday objects. Due to our snow days we haven't used the materials in shapes of a cylinder, sphere, cube or rectangular prism- if you have more things to send for next week that would be great!

Social Studies

This Friday the, the students continued to look at winter holidays. The kids will learn about Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, and of course different Christmas traditions. Our focus is on various traditions and recognizing that people are alike and different. Although these are not holidays we participate in, it is important for the students to have an awareness of cultures around them.

Winter Weather

As the cold winter temperatures continue, please send your child to school with the appropriate clothing. Many of our students wait outside in the car line before and after school. It is important that they have hats, gloves, and zipped up coats to stay warm while they wait for school to start or to be picked up. Please encourage your child to be independent when getting ready do go outside.

80% to Full Day

The **last deadline** to switch to full day is Friday Dec. 18th. Please let the office know if you are switching your child to full day. This will come in to effect for the week of Jan. 4th.

Enjoy the holiday season!

Mrs. Morris
Mrs. Crandell
Mrs. Howard