



Kinder News December 18, 2009

Religion

This week we had our final Advent prayer service. We had discussed the ideas of waiting and preparing for Jesus. Many times we compared our preparation to having a guest visit our home. We have to be ready and we do special things to get ready for their visit. It has been so much fun to watch the enthusiasm of kids and share the miracle of Jesus' birth with them. We hope you have a very merry and meaningful Christmas!

Reading/Writing

We have been focusing on stretching words out and phoneme segmentation. Phoneme segmentation is the ability to break apart a word into individual sounds. An example would be play - p/l/a or mud - m/u/d. Through our Writer's Workshop we are reinforcing this concept. We ask the students to first stretch the word out slowly. Then they write down the first sound. We ask them to reread what they have written down

already and say the rest of the word slowly, listening for the next sound. We've seen great progress in the kindergartners! Please continue to work on these concepts over the holiday break to keep these skills fresh!

Math

This week focused on 3D shapes. We learned about rectangular prisms, cubes, spheres, and cylinders. We found objects around our rooms and thought of things around our house that are those shapes. We built them with play dough and the students really enjoyed that. Another concept that we focused on was symmetry. This was tricky for some of the students. Ask them to share this new skill with you!

Social Studies

We are still working on our Winter Holidays unit this week. This week we discussed Kwanzaa traditions. We would like to thank Ms. Billy Stone for coming in to help teach our students about Kwanzaa! She provided the students with some wonderful learning on Tuesday. We have now finished up this unit. We shared our traditions that we practice at home, Christmas traditions around the world, Hanukkah traditions, and Kwanzaa traditions. One of our favorite activities was when Mrs. Joslin brought in Swedish cookies. In Sweden, children make a wish and then use one finger to break the cookie. If it breaks into 3 parts your wish will come true. If it breaks into 4 parts and one of the pieces is a heart, your wish in your heart comes true! We are learning so much about

winter holidays! In January, we will switch gears to Science. We will be doing a unit on motion and force.

Recess Volunteers

Once again, we would like to thank those of you who have volunteered to help at recess. We know the winter weather has been unkind this year, but we appreciate your generosity! As a reminder, the date you sign up for on the draft that is sent home is not definite. The three classrooms compile those and try to be as fair as possible. **Please check the recess schedule on our kindergarten webpage. The January and February schedules are currently up.** If the wind chill is zero or below we stay inside, you are more than welcome to come and enjoy our indoor recess!

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

We wish you and your families a very merry and safe holiday season. We appreciate the partnership you provide. We feel very fortunate to have each and every family here at St. Francis. You make our school a wonderful place to be! We can't wait to see you all in 2010!

MERRY CHRISTMAS,

Mrs. Morris
Mrs. Crandell
Mrs. Howard

