

December 3, 2012

Dear Parents,

Happy December! The month of November was so busy that it came and went before we knew it. The children enjoyed preparing for the Thanksgiving Prayer Service and the "pumpkin social" that followed. We were so happy that so many of you could join us in prayer. Amidst all the excitement that November brought us, an enormous amount of learning took place in Kindergarten.

Religion We discussed the ever present existence of God and that He is everywhere. We celebrated and thanked God for our many blessing. We had several family members who were sick and we prayed for their healing. We talked about the many ways we can make this world a better place., We try to do many of these in our classroom: say kind words to one another, help to keep our room clean, keep our hands and feet in our own space, share even when we don't want to, pray for one another and wait our turn to talk. We also talked about the Season of Advent and every Sunday we light a candle to prepare for the birth of Jesus on Christmas. We are preparing for Jesus in our hearts, classroom and homes. I have enclosed a family paper on Advent that you may want to do together at home. As a school we gather to begin each week lighting our large Advent candles and pray in the Atrium.

Reading The children continue to be introduced to Star Words, the basic sight words. They love to find these words in the the directions and in the big books we read. We worked with "short a" and "short i" in words (can, hat, pig, sit) and at the beginning (apple, ant, insect). We will practice sounding the words out as we blend the letters together. The children are also identifying the characters in the story and we talk about the setting. One of their favorite activities is to place the words in order to create a sentence. They do this as a team at their tables.

Language Arts We continue to review the consonant sound at the beginning and end of the words. The children enjoy doing rhyming words. They enjoy the "letter game" where they need to tell the name of the letter, we mix the upper and lower case together. We also try spelling 3 letter words on the board. Soon we will be doing this with sounds of the letters. In January the children will begin printing their last names on all of their papers. Some children have very long last names, so you may want to start practicing now!

Math We continue to review printing to 20 and have now begun to print to 30! Of course, many children can and do print beyond 30. The children enjoy graphing and the various ways to graph. They also compared groups of numbers and identify the "larger" group and "smaller" group of objects.

Science and Social Studies The children learned all about the First Thanksgiving and how the Native Americans and Pilgrims shared a special feast. They also planted three seeds that the Native Americans planted. I know that with much love, water and sunshine the seeds will grow. Many of the children brought their charts in for a special sticker.

I am very happy with the community spirit that is present in our classroom. The children are beginning to share more, speak with friendly and kind words, solve some of their on little problems and are forming great friendships with one another. Thank you for your support with our Classroom Behavior Tree. The tree now has snowflakes. We have begun practicing for our play, The First Christmas. I realize that practicing for the Christmas play is not a paper that can be graded and sent home, but the learning is endless. They are gaining confidence as they learn to speak clearly or sing. They are learning self-control as they patiently wait for their turn at the microphone. They are learning recall and memorization skills. You will be SO PROUD of them! I hope that these magical days with your family will be special. Mrs. Clyde and I treasure these Advent days with your child as we prepare for Christmas.

Thank you for your generous and endless support forf our Craft Show, food for the poor and saving BoxTops. Please continue to save BoxTops for our next contest.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Mary Ann Critell

St. Nicholas Custom: On Dec. 5th, the eve of St. Nicholas Day, have your child (or everyone in your family) put their shoe near a door or fire place. You can put a special treat in their shoe, like candy or small toy. On Dec. 6th, the children will place their shoe in the hall and St. Nicholas will come and leave a treat. This a German custom where St. Nicholas would leave fruits and candy for the poor children. I have enclosed the history of St. Nicholas for your knowledge.

A few reminders:

Dec. 10th: Dress Rehearsal (children arrive in costumes)

Dec. 12h: EARLY DISMISSAL 12:00 (After Care available if needed)

Christmas Program at 7:00 p.m. (children arrive in costumes at 6:30)

Dec. 13th: Polar Express (children arrive in Pajamas and bring special stuffed animal)

Dec. 14th. Field Trip, Easy Street

Dec. 20th: Christmas Party (sign up sheet will be posted)

Christmas Vacation begins Dec. 21st