

First Grade Weekly Communication Newsletter December 8-12

First Grade is rocking and rolling around the Christmas tree with lots of great learning ADVENTures. Students are identifying Liturgical colors and symbols associated with the Church seasons of Advent and Christmas. They are discussing and discovering why we do what we do during this special time of the year and relating it to their own personal lives, which brings meaning and a Christ-centered focus to this time of year. Each Monday, the school gathers for an Advent Prayer Service, in which we listen to the Gospel message and are challenged to integrate it into our daily lives at home and school. Intentional Acts of Kindness are thoughtfully chosen by the students, completed, and recorded on a giant heart in the hallway. The love and the kindness of Christ are truly what this season brings. Also, putting on kindness will be demonstrated by donating items to Catholic Charities for newborns in need. Service learning evidences our faith in action as we strive to take care of our neighbors and make the world a better place. Please place baby items on your Christmas and consider allowing your child to earn a gift for the giving tree in the hallway.

In Language Arts, students are developing letter writing skills by applying the 6+1 Traits of Writing, which will include conventions, ideas and word choice. They will follow a the friendly letter model and adapt it to their own thoughts and words. In order to complement reading and understanding, First Graders are utilizing note-taking skills to respond to video presentations. They are recognizing facts, opinions, and questions and integrating them into their writing. 'Tis the season to be jolly and make a joyful noise. Students will create a Read To Sing Sing To Read book to enhance their repertoire of Christmas song favorites and build vocabulary and fluency. As a gift to their families they will be dramatizing a play and performing it on the last day of school. This retelling of the Christmas story is in addition to the school-wide Christmas play. These are two awesome opportunities to grow in public speaking, drama, performance and communication.

In Social Studies, students will visit several countries in addition to their homeland, the United States of America. They will travel through books and

Discovery Education video segments to Mexico, Italy and Australia. They will compare and contrast other parts of the world in terms of dress, customs, food, language, music and more. Adios! G'Day Mate! Arrivederci! During this season, "All Paths Lead To Bethlehem." In PE students will be actively engaged in T-ball skill drills and game play. In Spanish, students will continue to learn and practice the Trinity Prayer. Students will recognize the letter "M" in Spanish, review the alphabet in song, and apply their knowledge in writing. In Music, students are diligently memorizing verses in German for "Still, Still, Still" and "The Friendly Beasts" songs. It takes a lot of rehearsal, heart and brainwork to prepare this performance for the school-wide Christmas Show on December 18 at 7:00 p. m.

In Math, we are starting to investigate place value. The students will identify groups of tens and groups of one. They will also begin to describe how groups of tens make numerals with two digits. The students will classify numerals as groups of tens and ones (i.e. 12 is one group of ten and two groups of one). In Science, we will be studying the way that water changes states. We are perform an experiment and demonstrate how water changes states from liquid to solid and from liquid to gas.