

Mrs. Tropf's Newsletter

December 13, 2012

Dear Kindergarten Parents,

Thanks to all of you who have donated gifts, gift cards, and/or grocery items for our Christmas basket project. I'm sure the family we are serving will appreciate your generosity and acts of kindness. I'm glad your kindergartner could have this experience of sharing the love of Jesus in a practical way. Your example of giving is a powerful Christmas lesson for your child. May God return many blessings to each of you! For those who have not yet sent in items, please send your wrapped gift TOMORROW so the baskets can be prepared for delivery. Remember to put a label with the recipient's name on the outside.

This will be my last newsletter for this year--the year 2012, that is. How quickly the past four months have gone by. Your child will soon be halfway through his kindergarten year---hard to believe! I trust you and your child have enjoyed the wonders of this Christmas season with all its special sights, sounds, smells, and tastes. It truly is a great time of year.

This letter will give you a glimpse into our curriculum when we return from Christmas break. Some exciting things are planned for your kindergartner as we move towards second semester. Here are some things we will be covering after vacation:

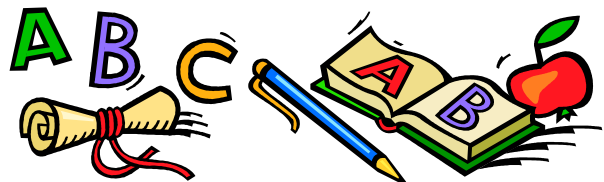
Bible

Before we leave on Christmas break, your child needs to recite **Luke 2:11: "Today a Saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord."** I will listen to the children say their verse next week. I am departing from our regular Bible curriculum next week to share the Christmas story in flannelgraph during our Bible time each day. We will focus on the true meaning of this wonderful season and sing praise songs to our Saviour.

Following Christmas break, we will return to our curriculum and study the importance of obeying our parents---a great way to start the New Year!!! The children will learn that God gave children parents to care for them and to protect them. They will discover that being obedient to their parents is the right choice. **The memory verse due on January 10 is Matthew 15:4: "For God said, 'Honor your father and mother.'"**

Phonics/Language Arts

We are reviewing short vowel sounds in the middle of words, a challenging skill for most of us. Ask your child to spell simple three letter words such as tip, sat, dog, pan, bet, bed, ham, pet, etc. This is an easy game to play while traveling in the car or waiting for an appointment. Quiz your son/daughter on the Letter People we've met so far and see if he/she can tell you the special characteristic and sound that Letter Person has. Linking the spoken word to the written symbol is an important step in reading readiness. See if your child can write the simple three letter words he spells aloud for you. After vacation the children will meet four new Letter People: Miss W (Wonderful Words), Miss Y (Yodeling Yawn), Mr. R (Rainbow Ribbons), and Miss J (Jingle Jacket). SSSHHHHH!!!! Don't tell!!! I love to surprise the children!!! Please keep the word rings home next week and use them over vacation. Your child should bring them back on Monday, January 7, when we return from Christmas vacation. I will be testing the children on the words we have learned so far on the word ring, so be sure your child can say the words quickly and accurately by the end of vacation. I also am sending home a phonics evaluation today so you can help your child improve weak areas in letter recognition or letter sounds. Thanks for your reinforcement at home!



Sight Words

The following words are the words to work on during the month of January:

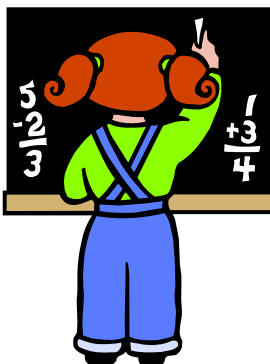
NO OR ALL BY HER GOOD COME
MRS. COMES OUT DOES SAYS MR.

Nightly Reading Logs

At the end of each month, please turn in the nightly reading log sheet (the 15 minutes of reading to your child), even if you were not able to complete each night. I like to see the progress my students are making and this information is helpful to me. You may work on the December log over vacation and turn it in when we return on January 7. Thanks so much for your cooperation with this request.

Math

After Christmas break we will begin a new chapter on subtraction. The children just learned that addition is joining two groups of objects together with a plus sign to get the answer, called the sum. Now we will begin to learn about the opposite operation, subtraction. I'll explain it as separating a group of things into two groups of objects. Another way to think of subtraction is taking away objects from the group and getting a smaller number as the answer. The children will be introduced to the minus sign in this chapter. Be sure to look over the parent letter that comes home at the beginning of the week because it contains the math vocabulary your child will encounter in this new chapter. The letter and daily workbook pages also give great ideas that are easy to implement at home as follow-up to our lessons in the classroom. Take advantage of these easy and practical suggestions to reinforce concepts at home with your child. This will enhance his understanding of the material we cover during our math time at school. Thank you for investing your time to help your child succeed academically. It is well worth it!!



Report Card Evaluations

When we return from Christmas break I will begin evaluations for our grade cards, which will be sent home on January 24. You might want to help your child over the break with information such as birthday, full name, address, phone number, age, days of the week, alphabet letters and sounds, rhyming words, and ending punctuation marks.

Star of the Week

Because of our special Christmas activities next week we will omit Star of the Week. When we return to school on January 7 our new Star of the Week will be Liam Geggus.

Principal Pal Award

The December Principal Pal award goes to three students:

Zakary Zipfel is receiving the award for Loyalty.
Jubilee Hester is receiving the award for Cooperativeness.

Braden Munn is receiving the award for Honesty.
They will enjoy a pizza lunch with Mrs. Gioiella on Wednesday, December 19.

Reading Eagles Program

Congratulations to the following students who have passed Level 1 (Macaw) of the Reading Eagles Program: Sydney Handley, Evan Harvey, Liam Geggus, Zakary Zipfel, and Rachel Donkor.

Next Week:

Our class Christmas party is Friday morning from 9:30-11:15. **FRIDAY IS A HALF DAY OF SCHOOL, WITH DISMISSAL BEGINNING AT 11:45.**

My prayer for each family this Christmas is that the Lord will make Himself very real to you this holiday season as we celebrate the birth of our Redeemer. Enjoy the long break and spend lots of "quality time" with your child. May the vacation be refreshing in every way and may the new year ahead be a healthy, happy one for you and your family.

My love and best wishes to all of you,
Mrs. Tروف

