

Dear Parents,

We hope that you enjoyed a relaxing and memorable Thanksgiving break. The first trimester of school is now behind us, and the first graders are eager for new changes and challenges!

## ADVENT

December is a busy month in first grade. The children are enjoying our Advent activities as we wait and prepare ourselves for the birth of Jesus. The entire school gathers the beginning of each week in Advent to light candles, pray, and sing. Advent is the main focus of our Religion and Art activities this month.

## WINTER WEATHER

As the weather changes, first graders are encouraged to keep an extra change of socks, mittens, and pants in their lockers. Boots and snow pants are required for playing on the snow hills.

## LITERACY

We are steadily building new reading skills as we learn to decode and spell words. Thank you for your help with reading practice at home, as well as with the Fry word list. By the end of first grade, the students should be able to know the first 100 words by sight. Keep in mind that phonics and math flash cards are great Christmas gifts or stocking stuffers!

## CONCERT

In preparation for the all-school Christmas Program, the first graders have all been enjoying practicing in music class and in our classroom as well. It will be great to see you at the concert!

A Blessed Christmas to your families!

Mrs. Staloch & Mrs. Steffel