

All the News from the Second Grade Explorers
December 2017

Dear Families:

We have begun the season of Advent. Along with our daily religion lessons, we will be doing many activities that focus on our preparation for Jesus coming as a baby. Each of the children has made their own paper chain to count down until the day before we see "The Star."

Please remember that the Reconciliation celebration will be held Sunday, December 10 at 2:00 in the church. This is an opportunity for families to share in the sacrament of healing and forgiveness. The children will receive Reconciliation first, and families are invited to receive following. Please make plans to attend. Thank you.

Our present math unit is called "3-D and 2-D Shapes." This unit contains mathematical terms that may be new to the children. The purpose of this unit is to develop classification skills, not to teach vocabulary. The children will develop the concepts of point and line segment. They will identify, name, and classify polygons. They will observe similarities and differences among 3-dimensional and 2-dimensional shapes. Lastly, the children will explore symmetry. *When there is a night without homework, please review math facts with your child by playing math related games, or practice flash cards.*

In social studies we have begun a unit called "Our Earth." In this unit children will learn how we can keep our Earth beautiful. They will learn about geography and landforms, conservation, natural resources, and how to be a consumer or a producer. We will learn about our great state of Minnesota. The culminating activity will be a report about an animal from Minnesota in its habitat. The research and work will be done in class, and then shared aloud. The lessons correlate with our life science study in which the children have been learning about life cycles of plants and animals during our science time. We have also begun talking about various types of animals and their characteristics.

In reading, language arts and VoWac we have been working on r-controlled words and words that contain double consonants. We have surpassed our new Accelerated Reader goal of 350 points as well. **Mrs. Fischer recommends at least 20 minutes of daily at-home reading in addition to the reading done at school to increase stamina.** Children benefit greatly from being read to.

The annual Christmas Concert from grades K-4 is called "The Mystery of Simon Shepherd." It will be held on Wednesday, December 20, at 6:30 p.m. The program will be at the Central School auditorium. The children have been practicing with Mrs. Baumgarn and Mrs. RL. They are anxious to celebrate the performance.

The winter season is upon us now. Please dress your child appropriately for outdoor recess times. A warm jacket or coat, hat, mittens or gloves, snow pants and boots (when we have snow) are good clothing choices when the weather turns cold. It is also a good idea to send an extra pair of mittens or gloves, and sometimes socks since these items tend to get wet in the snow. Thank you very much.

May the happiness of the season touch your hearts in so many wonderful ways. The children and I wish all of our families a very Merry Christmas and peace in the New Year.

Truly yours,

Mrs. Marijo Fischer

Conversation Starters for December:

- 1) What is the meaning of the word "Advent"? How are you preparing for Jesus' birth at home?
- 2) What is your favorite Christmas story? Read it to someone at home.
- 3) What kinds of stars or constellations can you see in the night sky? Share what you know with your family.
- 4) In which country is Saint Nicholas the patron saint? (Russia) What are some other names he goes by? If you can discover 3 more, besides Santa Claus, write them down on a piece of paper, and bring it to your teacher before December 20 for a surprise.
- 5) Who were the first people that lived in America? Was it really Christopher Columbus? Who was already here? (The Native Americans)
- 6) Which Native American tribes in Minnesota did we learn about? (Dakota Sioux and Anishinaabe)
- 6) Teach your family what the words mercy, compassion, grace, and conscience mean.

