

December 2009

# merry christmas

from Grade 1C!

Dear Parents,

December is now upon us and we have a couple of very busy weeks ahead of us! Please peruse through this month's newsletter to explore some of the interesting happenings in our classroom.

## ADVENT

We are busy exploring the season of Advent in grade one. Advent is a waiting time. We're waiting to celebrate Jesus' birthday. An Advent wreath helps us wait for Jesus' birthday. The green branches of the wreath make a circle. The circle reminds us that God's love never ends. There are 3 purple candles and 1 pink candle on the Advent wreath. There's one candle for each Sunday in Advent. When all 4 candles are lit, Christmas is very close. It's hard to wait for Christmas but that's what Advent is all about. Advent is a waiting time. We're waiting to celebrate Jesus' birthday. In conjunction with Advent, as a school wide initiative, we are focusing on Random Acts of Kindness. Please discuss and encourage your child to perform random acts of kindness even when they are outside of school.

## JOY BOX

Beginning next week (Monday, December 7<sup>th</sup>) our students will be sharing in the "Joy Box" experience. Your child will be assigned a day to bring home the classroom Joy Box. On the evening that your family has the Joy Box, you will be able to share in a fun, family focused evening of Advent reflection. The activities to participate in will be outlined in detail inside the Joy Box. Please enjoy this time with your children and help all of the families in our classroom have a successful experience with the Joy Box, by ensuring that you return it back to school the next day.



## Classroom Christmas Party

We will be celebrating the Christmas season in our classroom on Thursday, December 17<sup>th</sup>. Students are invited to wear their pajamas to school this day as well as we will be jumping aboard the Polar Express. Students will be participating in a variety of Polar Express activities throughout the day and we will share in snacks and watch the movie in the afternoon. Please check below if you and your child have been assigned "snack duty" for our classroom Christmas party.

**Isaac** – plates and napkins

**Nathan** – fruit tray

**Jennie** – veggies & dip

**Ben** – sausage, crackers and cheese

**Kate** – sweet treat

## The Twelve Days of Christmas

We are currently exploring the song, "The Twelve Days of Christmas" and its Catholic symbolism. Each day the students will review a new symbol in the song and complete an activity around its relation to our Catholic faith.

According to popular tradition, Roman Catholics in England were not permitted to practice their faith openly from 1558 until 1829. During that era this carol was written as a catechism song for young Catholics. It has two levels of meaning: the surface meaning plus a hidden meaning known only to members of their church. Each element in the carol has a code word for a religious reality, which the children could remember!

## Christmas Potluck Luncheon

On Friday, December 18 at 11:00am the grade ones will be hosting their second annual potluck luncheon. Parents will be invited to join their child, their child's classmates and their child's teacher for lunch and share in some Christmas cheer. Please look for more details to follow in a separate letter.



## Important Dates...

**December 16<sup>th</sup>** – Family Advent Mass, 7pm @ Holy Trinity Catholic Church

**December 17<sup>th</sup>** – Classroom Christmas Party & Pajama Day/Polar Express Day

**December 18<sup>th</sup>** – Christmas Potluck Luncheon 11:00am in St. Joe's Gymnasium

**December 21<sup>st</sup> – January 1<sup>st</sup>** – Christmas Break (Students will return to classes on January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2010).

## *Where Are We In Grade One?*

### **LANGUAGE ARTS...**

We have continued to work hard on our reading and writing. With our Christmas break just ahead, it is very important to continue to read with your child each and every night. I will be sending home leveled books for your child to continue to read over the break to keep their reading skills sharp as we head into 2010!

### **MATH...**

We are currently just finishing up our unit on representing numbers to 20. Our next unit will explore addition and subtraction. The students will be involved in many activities requiring the use of concrete materials to model and to solve problems.

### **SCIENCE...**

We have concluded our unit called "Creating Colour". Students explored coloured materials, learning about different forms of colours, how they are created, what happens when they are mixed, and how they can be transferred to other materials. Concurrently, we are working through the Seasonal Changes and Senses unit.

### **SOCIAL...**

We are continuing to work through our unit, "Belonging in My World". Students are working on demonstrating an understanding of how identity and self-esteem are enhanced by their sense of belonging in their world and how active members in a community contribute to the well-being, growth, and vitality of their groups and communities.

**Have a safe and joyous holiday season!**

**Wishing you and your families all a very Merry Christmas!**

**Mr. Chorney ☺**