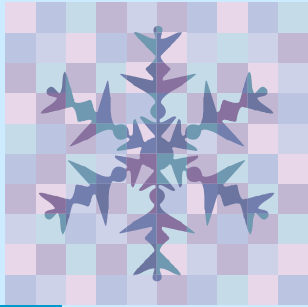


December Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 4

December 2009



ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL

4Mur NEWSLETTER

Can you believe that Christmas is just around the corner? The 4Mur class would like to thank you for your continued support of all our activities within the classroom. It was great to meet with so many of you at Parent-Teacher interviews to share your wonderful children's learning!

We have another busy month with a lot of no-table dates I wish to share with you...

Important Dates:

Nov. 29 - Advent begins

Dec. 4-Book Orders Due

Dec. 8 - Advent celebration @ 10:00

Dec. 13 - Third Sunday of Advent

Dec. 16 - St. Joseph School

Christmas Mass 7:00 p.m. @
Holy Trinity Church

Dec. 17- Gr. 4 Christmas Around the World

Dec. 18 Last day of school. Crafts/PJ party/Snacks

Dec. 20 - Fourth Sunday of Advent

Dec. 25 - Birth of Jesus. MERRY CHRISTMAS!!

Dec. 19 - Jan. 3 - Christmas Break

Jan. 4 - See you back at school !

4 Mur Super Stars



Thank you to **Brianna** for all of your hard work this month! I am so proud of all of your accomplishments!

Mitchell has also proven himself to be a very hard worker in our classroom. Your hard work is very much appreciated!

Thank you **Maddie** for all of your participation and great ideas this month. Keep it up!



Christmas Events

All classes at school are collecting Christmas Hampers for those in need this holiday season. If you have non-perishable food items you would like to give to a less fortunate family, please send them to school with your child. Please do not wrap them. Thank you!

Joy Bags

Most of you are familiar with the Advent Joy Bags that are circulated in December. We will be starting on Tuesday, Dec. 1. Each bag will include a note and a schedule beginning tomorrow. Enjoy the activities with your family! Please ensure you return the bag the next day so that everyone has an opportunity to share in this wonderful activity.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!!

God bless you all during this special time!



LANGAGE ARTS

I encourage you to continue to read with your child and track their reading minutes on the Home Reading Apples.

We have finished our novel study "Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing." December will focus on the writing trait of Organization and paragraph writing. We will also do some Christmas writing activities and the grade 4's will be participating in a Christmas Around the World day on December 17!

We will also focus on suffixes and prefixes in grammar and spelling units.

SCIENCE

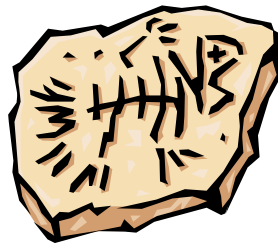
I would like to commend students for their hard work and achievement on our Waste and Our World unit. Students will are now beginning a study of simple machines as we have moved onto our next unit, "Wheels and Levers." Students will discover how common things work.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Our other theme this month will be on Christmas Around the World. On December 17th, we are planning an afternoon of centers for all grade 4 classes. Students will rotate classrooms to discover how people in 5 countries around the world celebrate Christmas. We are looking for 2 volunteers from our class. If you are able volunteer that day, it would be very appreciated! Thank you!

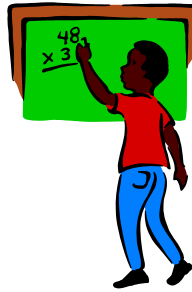
SOCIAL STUDIES

The students have discovered the geography and regions of Alberta. They will be presenting their Regions projects soon! We will also be focusing on a fun topic- the importance of fossils in Alberta and how it makes us unique! Students will learn about Joseph Tyrell and take on the role of a paleontologist!



RELIGION

The students are appreciating our exploration of the New testament and the opportunity to explore bible passages on a daily basis. This month we will be continuing to explore the New Testament. Our focus, however, will be on the Advent season, the Christmas Story and the true meaning of Christmas.



We are finishing our unit on about Patterns and Equations. The unit test will be on Wednesday, Dec. 2. Our next unit is Multiplication facts so please

continue to practice at home. Your child will be learning a variety of strategies to learn the times tables, which is very important for our division unit! Weekly times table facts will be coming home beginning Dec. 14. Each week will focus on one fact family to practice during the week and a Mad Minute quiz will be given every Friday for that fact.



Friday, Dec. 18th will be a PJ day in our class! Students are asked to bring in board games to play. We will do some Christmas activities and watch a Christmas movie that afternoon.

Students on snack duty for our classroom Christmas party are:

Leon Dylan B. Brenden Jaylyn Donna

Birthdays

We have no December babies in our class!

Please contact me by phone or e-mail if you have any concerns.

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Mrs. S. Murdoch