

January 4, 2010

Dear Parents,

I would like to warmly thank all the parents and children for their wonderful Christmas wishes, beautiful presents and cards. I was deeply touched by your kindness and generosity.

Welcome back from holidays, and here's wishing that the New Year will bring continued health and happiness to all our St. Joseph students, families and friends.

I would like to extend a huge welcome to our two new students who came on December 18<sup>th</sup> to join our grade one classroom - Miya and Tomiko. I also welcome their family to our community and to St. Joseph school. I am sure that it will not take long for them to feel comfortable in their new school and community.

I am hoping that our next "big newsletter" will be going out electronically. So, please make sure that you have given me your e-mail address. If you had not done that during parent teacher interviews, please send me a quick note in your child's agenda with your e-mail address. Thanking everyone in advance for their cooperation in this matter.

Show and Tell Schedule for January (theme: favorite gift that was received at Christmas):

January 6<sup>th</sup> - Evan, Ella, and Breanna      January 7<sup>th</sup> - Ryley, Dillon, and Brett

January 8<sup>th</sup> - Zachary, Adrian and Gavin      January 12<sup>th</sup> - Jayden, Holly and Kobe

January 13<sup>th</sup> - Stephan, Graden, and Sarah      January 14<sup>th</sup> - Austyn and Sierra

January 15<sup>th</sup> - Miya and Tomiko

Skating Schedule - will be going home on Friday. If your child does not have skates, please start asking around, as we will be going skating two times in January. A hockey helmet will also be mandatory. More information on dates and

times in Friday's note.

Language Learning – we will continue our spelling program, but you will notice that the format has changed a little. We will concentrate on a variety of sight words as well as words that can be sounded out and then spelled. We will not have spelling words all from the same family (rhyming words). We are going to make it a little more challenging. Please note that there will be at least two challenge words every spelling lesson. These challenge words are to be used in their spelling homework (to make sentences) as well as to spell for the spelling test.

Spelling homework will go home on Monday and must be returned on Friday of the same week. Spelling tests will be on Friday (unless it is a holiday). We are writing our spelling tests in scribblers instead of test sheets, so marked spelling tests will not be going home as before.

It is really important that your child is reading their home reading books and return them on their scheduled day to be exchanged for new ones, and so that I can listen to your child read. Read! Read! Read!

We will continue with our printing and writing program (journals). The students will be introduced shortly to easy dictionaries to help with spelling and writing.

We are learning and reviewing short vowel sounds, As well as learning new sight words.

Mathematics – we will continue learning our numbers to 100. We will practice counting, writing, and identifying how many in a given set. We will also be learning about addition and subtraction.

Science – we will focus on two new units this term. We will explore the season of winter (with all its beauty and wonder) and learn about our “Five Senses”.

Social Studies – we will focus on Spruce Grove, and what makes our community grow and thrive. We will look at many features that make our city unique and ones which are similar to other communities. We will also focus in on our involvement as responsible classroom and community minded citizens.

Religion – We will continue learning and living our school wide theme – I am the way, the truth and the life. We will continue learning about Jesus and “follow in his footsteps”.

We will learn about Epiphany, the importance of the Wise men and their gifts for baby Jesus. We are hoping to have Miguel as a visitor in the New Year to continue

teaching us about Jesus' love.

Supplies – Many children are in need of wax crayons. We do a lot of coloring in grade one, so please send a new box of wax crayons to school with your child, as soon as you can.

We are also running low on boxes of Kleenex. It would be greatly appreciated if you could send a couple of boxes to school. We used a lot of Kleenex in November and December as our class was hit hard with the flu and colds.

Snack Times – just a reminder that we have two snacks everyday (morning – healthy snack and afternoons – fun snack) in addition to our lunch. Please carefully check snacks that they are completing free of nuts.

We are continuing hand washing before every snack and lunch time meal as well as after every recess. We are hoping that are continued efforts will help prevent the spread of flu and sickness. Please do not send your child to school if he or she is sick.

Dressing for the weather – remember to send warm winter clothes to school with your child. If possible, send extra mittens and an extra hat (to be stored in their locker)... just in case their other pair gets lost. Sometimes mittens and hats have a way of “disappearing” when most needed.

It is also a good time to check your child's inside shoes to see if they still fit or need new laces. I have noticed some “growth spurts” just before the holidays... and so shoes that we purchased at the beginning of the year maybe too “tight”.

January 29<sup>th</sup> – Teacher Day, no school for the children. Please mark that day on your calendar.

I am looking forward to a great new year!

Sincerely, Gloria Sereda (1S)