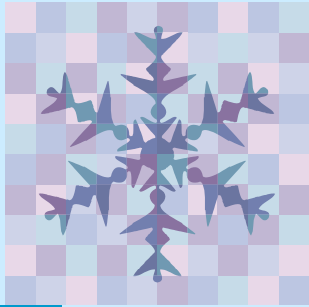


December Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 4

December 2011



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 children's learning!

We have another busy month with a lot of notable dates I wish to share with you...

Important Dates:

Nov. 27 - Advent begins

Dec. 2-Book Orders Due

Dec. 4 - Second week of Advent

Dec. 13- Third Sunday of Advent

Dec. 15- Grade 4 Christmas Concert @ 7:00 pm

Dec. 18- Fourth week of Advent

Dec. 21-Gr. 4 Christmas Around the World Day

Dec. 23-Last day of school. Games/PJ Day/Snacks

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

Jan. 9- See you back at school !



4 Mur Super Stars



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

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

Thank you **Mason** 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 by December 9.

Joy Bags:

Most of you are familiar with the Advent Joy Bags that are circulated in December. We will be starting on Monday, Dec. 5. Each bag will include instructions and a schedule. There will be 2 bags going around- see the schedule on the last page. Enjoy the activities with your family! Please ensure you re-

turn the bag the next day so that the next family 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!!



LANGUAGE 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 sequencing. 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 21!

We will also focus on synonyms and contractions in grammar and spelling units.

SOCIAL STUDIES

We are well into our discovery of the importance of fossils in Alberta and how it makes us unique! Students have learned how fossils are formed, who discovered the first one in Alberta, how fossils are protected, and where they are found. They will take their knowledge and create a timeline of Alberta's Fossil History and give an opinion on who fossils should belong to. We will also become paleontologists and uncover some fossils!



MATH



We will continue with our unit on multiplication and division facts so please continue to practice at home.

Your child will be taught a variety of strategies to learn multiplication facts, which is very important for our division unit! Weekly times table facts will continue to come home.

SCIENCE

Students will be 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. So far they know what friction is and forces that help/hinder friction and how rollers and wheels function and make work easier.

RELIGION

This month we will be continuing to explore the New Testament. Our focus, however, will be on the Advent season, its traditions and meaning of how a light shines in the darkness, and the Christmas Story.



SPECIAL EVENTS

On December 21st, 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 1 volunteer from our class. If you are able to volunteer that day, it would be appreciated! Thank you!

Friday, Dec. 23rd 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:

Braeden, Brooke, Kyle, Tayah, Mathew

Birthdays

We wish the following special people a wonderful birthday!

December 2- TRISTEN

December 7- LIAM

December 23- LILY



Grade 4 Christmas Concert

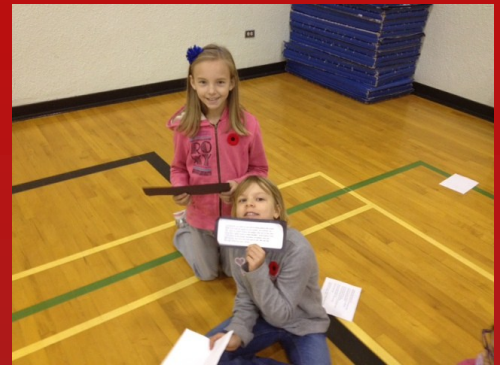
The grade 4 Christmas concert is December 15 at 7:00 p.m. Mrs. Lamothe, our music teacher, has already sent a note home asking students to arrive wearing a white T-shirt, white gloves, and to bring a tea light (plastic ones that light up can be purchased at the dollar store). Also, students need to bring in a Christmas photo of themselves by **December 8**– either an old one or one from last year. The photo will be scanned and returned to you.

Each classroom is in charge of creating an 8-10 minute performance relating to the four Advent themes– Hope, Love, Joy and Peace. Our class in doing Love. I have chosen to have students do the poem the *ABC's of Christmas*. Each student chose a letter of the alphabet and will memorize and recite a 4-line stanza related to their letter. I have asked them to have it memorized by next Monday– Dec. 5. We will practice the lines, expression and presentation in class, but I have also sent home a copy of your child's lines in their agenda. This copy can stay at home for them to practice every night.

We brainstormed some ideas in class and most students have come up with an idea of something they could wear, carry or put on their bodies related to their lines (ie– A– angel– wear a halo, B–bells– ring a bell). Please discuss ideas with your child. They can wear this over their white T-shirts or change after the introduction of the concert as we appear about halfway into the concert. Each student will make and decorate a big letter to represent their letter which they will hold up as they recite their lines. We will finish by learning and singing the song *All You Need is Love* by the Beatles, so if you feel like singing it at home to practice, that would be wonderful! Please contact me if you have any questions.



Peace Celebration Pictures



December 2011 Joy Bags

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5 #1 Adam #2 Robyn	6 #1 Braeden #2 Lily	7 #1 Tayah #2 Sydney	8 #1 Mason #2 Coby	9 #1 Liam #2 Brooke	10
11	12 #1 Bryce #2 Sarah	13 #1 Karter #2 Dawson	14 #1 Ashley #2 Joe	15 CONCERT	16 #1 Emma #2 Kaegan	17
18	19 #1 Danielle #2 Tristen	20 #1 Brooklynn #2 Kyle	21 #1 McKenna #2 Alec	22 #1 Mathew	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31