

December 8, 2008

Dear 4th grade parents,



Second Week of Advent – We're busy in the classroom, working on projects and "wrapping" things up before the break.

Thank you to all who brought in stocking stuffer gifts for homeless children last week. You can still turn in items this week. On Friday they will be dropped off at the Coast Guard on the downtown waterfront. I am in need of a volunteer who can drive the stocking stuffers to the pier and drop them off before 5 pm on Friday.

Tomorrow is the last day to send in small, empty jars. Please take any labels off. If you don't have an empty jar, we will have extras your child can use.

In math this week (see below) we will be using mail order catalogs. Just one per child is fine, but if you have extras that you'd like to get rid of, send them in with your child. We'll need them for tomorrow, so please send them in with your child. Thank you!

In religion we're continuing our study of the Liturgical Calendar and learning more about the Second Week of Advent in religion this week. The test on the Liturgical Calendar and the Liturgical Year will be next Tuesday, the Friday, the 16th. Students have a color-coded calendar and study sheet in their folder. Please keep this in the Religion section as we may need to refer to it over the next week.

The graded math test will be sent home later this week. This week we will be: adding whole number and money amounts, filling out a catalog form, estimating and measuring distance on a map, finding elapsed time, and identifying and writing number sentences.

Social Studies - Check your child's folders for corrected map tests. Students also have a new study sheet for the West and SW states. This test will take place next Thursday, December 18th. This week we will be "traveling" through these states and learning about the geography, people and economy of these regions.

The spelling packet is due this Friday. Last Friday's spelling test will be sent home later this week.

The Christmas Show is this Wednesday at 7:00 pm. Students should dress nicely and be in the classroom with their recorders between 6:30 and 6:45. Please see last week's FCC for details on appropriate attire.

Students are reading and working on a Chris Van Allsburg book project this week.

We will be writing "Christmas Couplets". A couplet is a poem form where two consecutive lines rhyme.

Please complete the bowling field trip form and return it by this Friday. Thank you.

Beau is Student of the Week! There are no birthdays this week, but happy birthday to Beau who turned ten on Friday.

Report cards will be sent out this Friday. These are confidential and should not be shared among classmates and other students. Mrs. Robel is proud at how hard the 4th graders have worked these first three months.

I am not sure that I have everyone's updated email addresses, so I will be sending a hard copy of the Monday letter home with your child this week and next. After Christmas break I will only send it through email.

The Faith Family Prayer Partner cards are due on December 17th. Students were sent home with white construction paper today. Students will be creating a thoughtful and creative Christmas card for their prayer partners. The card should be decorated carefully, neatly and include a prayer that students have written for their prayer partners. It can be a prayer that students might be saying every day for their partners or another one students have written. It's important that students make their own cards; please do not buy one or make one on the computer. Also, we will not be exchanging candy, gifts, etc. this year, so do not buy or bring any. Second through eighth graders will be doing this as homework. The card should reflect time well spent. Include on your card:

- TO: *(Your prayer partner's name)*
- FROM: *(Your name)*
- *A prayer that you have written*
- *Artwork that you have drawn*
- *Anything else you'd like to include.*

Some ideas to make your card: Use construction, tissue or other nice paper, glitter, scrapbooking things, etc. Have fun!

Have a great week!

Mr. Barker