

## **Here's What's Been Going on in 1S!**

### **Week of December 3-7, 2018**

#### **Religion**

What a week it has been! Students have been introduced to the Advent season as a time of waiting and preparing our hearts for Jesus' birth. The Advent wreath and all its symbolism was discussed. Students reflected in writing how they can prepare their heart for Christmas.

John the Baptist was introduced as Jesus' cousin who prepared the people of the time for Jesus.

The Jesse Tree (Jesus' family tree) has been introduced. A different biblical account of Jesus' heritage has been shared every day. Students reflected on the stories of Creation, Adam & Eve, Noah, Babel, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob this past week. Next week we will continue on in our learning about Jesus' family tree.

St. Nicholas's feast day was celebrated on Thursday through a special prayer service with our 3rd grade buddies, a brief cartoon video about his life and, of course, the tradition of leaving our shoes outside of the classroom for a St. Nicholas's Day surprise. Many thanks to all of you for helping to pull that off!

Finally, the Second Step lesson this past week dealt with calming strong feelings. Students have learned strategies for calming themselves down that are being reinforced at different points in the day.

#### **Math**

Subtraction strategies continued to be practiced this past week with more work on fact families and the concept of using related facts to find missing addends. An assessment on various subtraction strategies we have practiced in class (such as using a number line, counting back, fact families, missing addends, and problem solving) will be next week.

## Language Arts

Writing was the topic in our **Reading** series this past week. Students read a biography about Dr. Seuss and learned also about Margaret and Hans Reys (the creators of Curious George) and Jim Henson (the creator of the Muppets). On Friday 1st grade was treated to an author visit by Jenifer Harris, a local author who has written a delightful children's book called "A Spider Goes to Italy." What a perfect connection with our learning!

In **Writing** specifically the students have been working on writing a rough draft of an informative piece about an animal.

The letter c was practiced in **Handwriting**. Speaking of handwriting, several of the students are showing an excitement and fascination with cursive writing. I realize that it is a novelty at this age, but ask that the students wait until learning it in 2nd grade before they produce any work in attempts at cursive. First graders need to focus on printing. Thanks for your help with this!

## Social Studies

Students began learning about different holidays that are celebrated around the world. Hanukkah was introduced and compared to Christmas. It was fun to note how many things the two holidays have in common! This laid the groundwork for students to share about their own cultural holidays beginning next week.

A lockdown drill was practiced as well.

## Science

Students worked on rough drafts of their animal writing and began working on a habitat project, which will be on display in January.

## Art

First grade began working on Christmas gifts for all of you. They are also working to create holiday light bulbs that will be window decorations for the month of December.

## **Aubrey was the Student of the Week!**

### **Thank you!**

I can't thank you enough for all your support of what we do here in 1st grade! From coming in to help in the classroom, to donating shoe boxes, to all your work with the Gala, as well as your help with donating to Family Promise, to everything in between-we are blessed by all your generosity! Thank you for all you do!

### **The Gala & Family Promise**

Donations are still needed for both the Gala class basket and Family Promise, our Advent service partner. Regarding the Gala, games is our theme. Please contact Angie Elkins or Mary Jones if you have any questions about how your family can help with our basket. Regarding Family Promise, gift cards to Fred Meyer, Safeway, Target, Winco and Walmart are especially appreciated by the families who are served.

Many thanks to all of you who have already donated to one or both of the above projects!

### **Behavior**

Every year about this time experience has taught me that behavior issues begin to rise due to the building excitement of Christmas and vacation on the horizon. Recognizing this, I do take some behavior with a grain of salt. However, I do believe the time has come for me to ask you to please remind your child of the importance of trying their best in school. Listening and following directions as a class have become increasingly more difficult as the recent days have passed. The group of kiddos who filled their marble jar twice in two months has been struggling to keep marbles this entire last week. Some of the students are trying their best, but enough of the kiddos are a bit "off" that I thought

I should let you know. I encourage you to check in with your child to see what role he/she has been playing in the recent difficulties. Anything you could do to encourage your child to "hang in there" during these exciting days would be helpful. Thanks so much!

### **Prayer Service**

I just wanted to remind you that 1S's Prayer Service will be on Wednesday, January 16th in the Convent Chapel. All students will have a part of come kind and everyone is invited to join us as we pray for peace. If your child signed up to be a reader I intend on sending the part home before break so he/she will be ready to begin practicing in the large group when we return in January. Stay tuned.

**As always, thank you for all you do! I am blessed to work with your children each day. Have a wonderful weekend. May you find some time to carve out some peace amidst the stress and busyness of life this time of year.**