

December 16, 2011

Dear Third Grade Parents,

I'd like to begin this week thanking you for your generosity for Sal's Advent Star program. Sal was very appreciative and I was very proud to tell him that it was from our class.

Next, I would like to let you know how fabulous the December Book Reports are. They were original, well constructed, and so Christmasy. Our classroom looks spectacular. When you pick your student up after the Christmas Concert, please come in and see the beautiful book reports. I had my husband come see the projects today and I've never done that before. He too was most impressed.

We continue to discuss Advent and light the Advent wreath this week. It was Gaudete Sunday so we lighted the pink candle. Gaudete means rejoicing; we are rejoicing that Jesus is coming soon. This week is the beginning of Chanukah. We will discuss this Jewish holiday and learn more about the celebration of our Jewish friends.

The students wrote 2 creative writing pieces last week. One you will see later as a card and the other was a descriptive paragraph about their favorite Christmas decoration in their home. Hands down, the Christmas tree is the absolute favorite. Their writing skills continue to improve.

The students began their third Reading Anthology. As always there is a theme to the stories. The theme for this book is getting along with classmates, friends, and family. The boys and girls will hopefully learn that sometimes you need to give more than you take. This week we read Lucas Makes a Bet. We reviewed the oo sound, vowel sounds with r, designed character diagrams, and worked with quotation marks.

We have begun Chapter 4 in Math. I reviewed some of the techniques for subtraction. I ran into quite a bit of confusion from the students who at first were subtracting from the bottom to the top. We did some classroom demonstrations using manipulatives and I think this was helpful. Please let me know if your student is struggling with his homework. We are going “Christmas Shopping” tomorrow with newspaper flyers and \$100.00.

We have completed our Grammar Chapter on Pronouns and the students did very well on their Unit Test. Our next chapter is about verbs. This is our longest until of the year. Please let me know if there is any confusion or difficulty. Just as a preview, we will be learning the Principle Parts of Verbs.

Finally, on Thursday we are planning a Christmas Party. It has been planned and organized by our Room Mother, Maria Batten. I think some of you have been contacted. The class asked if we could have a grab bag. So once again, I am turning to you. Please send in a gift for either a boy or girl. This wrapped gift can cost no more that \$6.00. Please let me know if this is a problem. I’d prefer that markers not be a gift selection. Thank you so much.

I hope you all have a wonderful holiday. It’s such a magical time of year. I consider myself so lucky to see Christmas through the eyes of your children.

Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy New Year,

Mrs. Ellie Brown

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