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## First Grade News

### Fabulous First Graders

Mrs. Donohue's Class

December 2, 2011

December has once again crept up on us. With that being said, please remember to dress your first graders for the weather. It gets cold out at lunch recess. The first graders are welcome to bring their slippers to change into now that it is boot season. They can even leave a pair here at school. Just make sure they have regular shoes on Fridays for gym and make sure their slippers have a rubber sole so they don't fall down in the hallway!

I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving with their family. We had all our children home with their girlfriends and husband.

December is a very busy month in the classroom for us here at St. Thomas. This year we are getting together everyday, at the end of the day, with the second and third graders and sit around a Jesse Tree. We listen to the scripture for the day, hang up that day's ornament on the tree and sing "Oh Come Emmanuel".

This Advent season I thank the Lord for the St. Thomas family and all the kindness that has been shown to me. I thank all of you!

I truly enjoy coming to work every morning!

God Bless!

Kelly Donohue

### Feast of Immaculate Conception



On Dec. 8 we will be celebrating the Feast of Immaculate Conception. I want to **thank Mrs. Dieleman and Mrs. Wohlgemuth for volunteering to be the parent catechists** in our classroom for the Feast of Immaculate Conception.

### All School Mass

Thurs., Dec. 8th and Fri.  
Dec. 16th

Thursday at 12:30 and Fri. Dec. 16th at 9:55 we will be attending Mass with the rest of the school. **If anyone can sit with us during Mass to help us focus it would be appreciated.** Please be in our classroom by 12:20 on Thurs. and 9:45 on Fri., Dec. 16, so you can walk into church with us. Thank you!!!

### Gifts Coming Home

In the next couple of weeks your first grader will be bringing their special Christmas gifts home that they made during our field trip. Please be advised that they are **fragile!** We'll do our best to make sure they get home in one piece. Enjoy!



## Birthday Party for Jesus



Tuesday, December 20 we will be having our class Birthday party for Jesus. The party will be from 12:30— 1:15, I am looking for someone to make a birthday cake (9x13) for Jesus. If you can do that for me please let me know. It will be greatly appreciated. I also need someone to bring in apple cider or apple juice. This will be a very low-key party because we have done a lot of Christmas partying and activities during our pizza, pottery and pictures field trip.

## Guest Readers

During this Advent season we would enjoy having anyone come to our classroom to read a favorite Christmas book. We are available to listen to stories for the next two weeks on Tues. thru Thurs. from 9:00-10:00. If you would like to read to the class one of your favorite Christmas stories please call, drop me a note, or e-mail [kdonohue@stthomasgr.org](mailto:kdonohue@stthomasgr.org),

## Math

We are beginning to work with subtraction. After we return from Christmas break, we are going to start work on addition facts. First graders need to memorize all their addition facts from  $0+0=0$  to  $9+9=18$ . We will start with adding zero and work our way up. We are also going to start having timed tests to see if they have immediate recall.



## Reading/Writing



Our Word Wall Words this week were: **make, old, this, were, be**. Next week the words will be: **when, they, was, by, his**.

For our Guided Reading we will be reading the story "Catch Me If You Can!" about a scary dinosaur. Ask your first grader about the surprise ending! The last week of school we will be reading **Christmas books** and doing comprehension activities with them. In **phonics** we learned that usually words that use the vowels **e** or **i** after the sound of /k/ begin with the letter **k**. Words that use the vowels **a, o, or u** after the sound of /k/ begin with the letter **c**.

## Religion

We have been talking about the **Jesse Tree, Advent** and **Christmas**. After hearing the Old Testament stories of Adam and Eve, Noah, etc., we began making **ornaments** represent each of these stories to put on the Jesse Tree. We will continue with these next week.

## Science and Social Studies

Our main focus this week and next is different world Christmas traditions. This week we learned about Germany and made paper lanterns. We will celebrate St. Nicholas Day next week.

In science we have been discussing weather. We have been talking about the different seasons and how they differ from one another.

## Important Dates to Remember

- Dec. 6: Book orders due
- Dec. 7 Tie Tags on Candy Canes 3:15-5 Ministry Center
- Dec. 8: Feast of the Immaculate Conception
- Dec. 8: All School Mass 12:30
- Dec. 13 ICCF Christmas Party 4-8
- Dec. 14: Christmas Vespers 7:00pm
- Dec. 16: All School Mass 9:55
- Dec. 21: 11:00 Dismissal

## A Star is Born

One of our classmates, Nora Rumery, is in the play **Wizard of Oz**, playing at the Civic Theater. Nora plays a Munchkin. I went to the play on Wednesday and it was fabulous. I would definitely recommend it! It is something you can enjoy with the entire family! It is playing through December 18th.



## Gingerbread Fred



Next week I will start sending home Gingerbread Fred. Each child will have a chance to bring Gingerbread Fred home for one night. They are to write (they might need some help from mom or dad), on the paper provided in the folder, what they did with Gingerbread Fred. Please send Gingerbread Fred, with the folder, back to school the next day so another student can have the chance to take him home. This is kind of like a Flat Stanley project.

## ICCF Christmas

We are so excited about participating with **Inner City Christian Federation** with their new Christmas party. They are having a **HUGE Christmas party** at their beautiful building at 920 Cherry St. We met with them to figure out how our first graders can serve these families as well. They are going to have a **room for families to have free professional Christmas pictures taken**. There is a room that is going to be set up to have a manger and look like the stable where Jesus was born, and someone will be in there reading to children. And there is a large room for people to have some finger foods and for children to do some crafts. The focus isn't on gifts, the focus is on **JESUS and His birth**. They want each child to leave with a candy cane and a book of the Christmas story. **We are going to provide the candy canes and the first graders are going to make some beautiful tags to attach to the candy canes**. After school on Wednesday, December 7 we can use as much help as possible putting the tags on the candy canes. We will also need some donations of Christmas ribbon to accomplish this task. We invite all the first grade families to attend the ICCF Christmas party on Tuesday, December 13 from 4-8 to have pictures taken, have some snacks, make some crafts and join in the fun. We would like our families to be in the story room reading the Christmas story. For this service learning to have true meaning for the kids, they need to see the children personally that they are helping. What a wonderful way for all to join in praise of God and to welcome Jesus! I've created a **sign-up sheet for families to commit to being there to read and help at the event**. We can have a couple of families in each time slot. I have posted this outside my classroom, but you are more than welcome to email me the time you would like to attend and I will put your family's name there. Mine and Mrs. Lake's families will be there during that time. Our kids can hand out the candy canes that they made and make crafts with the children of the families served by ICCF. Thank you so much for your support. Please put December 7 on your calendar to help attach tags. We will meet in the Ministry center and if anyone wants to bring some holiday treats to share we can have our own little Christmas party! And put December 13 on your calendar to attend the party just a couple miles from school and share the blessings we have and the miracle of Jesus' birth with others.

## WORSHIP IN SPIRIT AND TRUTH

