Our Lady Queen of Peace School

418 Holly Ave

Madison WI 53711

Love in Every Word. Respect in Every Action. Confidence in Every Heart.

December 1, 2017

Dear Parents,

Last week at this time we were all enjoying our Thanksgiving holidays, and now, a few days later, we are thinking of Advent and Christmas. Our main focus in Kindergarten this month will be preparing our hearts for the coming of Jesus. We have been talking about doing kind acts and when we do, we put a piece of “hay” in a manger for Jesus. We also made a special bell where we will remove a link each day as we get closer to the birth of baby Jesus.

We began our trip around the world on our magic carpet to see how other countries celebrate Christmas. Our first stop was Sweden ~ please ask your child about their customs. We will emphasize that children all over the world prepare for and celebrate the birth of Jesus in many different ways and with many different customs. If any of you have any Christmas customs or traditions from other countries that you could share with the children, please contact one of us. Any books or artifacts about Christmas in other countries would also be most welcome.

To keep up with the excitement of the holidays, our classroom Elf on The Shelf arrived today. His name is Fiddlesticks. We love our new friend! We also have two Kindness Elves. They help us remember our Kindness Calendar Deed of the Day.

This week we also had so much fun learning about the Gingerbread Man and all of his adventures! We read many different versions of the Gingerbread Man and talked about how the endings were similar or different. Our Gingerbread Adventures included…

Centers:

At the ABC Center, we made a book about “How to Keep the Gingerbread Man From Escaping.” Our secret at the end was eating him! Yum Yum!

At the 123 Center, we made a “Gingerbread Land” game similar to the game of “Candy Land.” We hope you had fun playing this interactive game as a family.

At the Art Center, we made another game where we have to sort the gingerbread kids into different categories. For example, we could sort by hats/no hats or by types of eyes.

Other Activities:

We also decorated Gingerbread Kids that are hanging in the hallway with our KB and KC friends.

We wrote adventure stories about where we would run away to if we were a Gingerbread Cookie. Look for our Gingerbread classroom to come home.

**We will be having low-key Christmas parties in our classrooms on Thursday, Dec. 21st. We will have a treat and, of course, ...... open presents! The children really seem to enjoy sharing a gift with a classmate at this party. Would you please send a wrapped, $3-$5 gift to school during the week of Dec. 4-11th ? This little gift should be suitable for a boy or girl. Please sign the card: To a Friend, from (your child's name). We will put all gifts in a grab bag and enjoy the surprise of a gift from a class friend. Ideas include a beanie boo type stuffed animal, coloring book/crayons, playdough, holiday game, book, etc.**

Many, many thanks for all of your help at such a hectic time of the year. A special thanks for all the extra supplies for “Christmas Around the World”. We wish time was not so short as there are so many wonderful activities to choose from. Please contact us if you have any questions or concerns about our busy December days.

With Winter coming – please make sure your child comes to school prepared to go outside every day. Coats that they can zip, boots, hats, mittens that they can put on themselves (ALL LABELED) and a LARGE REUSEABLE BAG ( LIKE A REUSEABLE GROCERY SHOPPING BAG) THAT ALL ITEMS CAN FIT INTO FOR STORAGE. Managing all of these items is a challenge for the children. The extra storage bag helps to avoid frustration and tears throughout the day.

Upcoming Themes:

All of December: Advent, Christmas, & Christmas Around the World

Important Dates:

Dec. 1 – Parents Night Out!

Dec. 2 – Report Cards available on Teacherease.

Dec.6-8- Scholastic Book Fair

Dec. 8 – All School Mass 8:30

Dec. 11 – Gift for classmate due

Dec. 15 – K4 and K5 Advent Program will be held in the church 12:00 noon

Dec. 21 – Advent Prayer Service 10:45

Dec. 21 – Half Day – Early Dismissal at 11:30

Dec. 22-29 – No School – Christmas Break

January 3rd- School Resumes

January 5th- All School Mass/Church Attire

January 12th- Snowmen at Night Party- Wear your PJ’s to school

January 15th- No School

January 28th- All School Mass/Church Attire

Center Helpers for December:

Grandma Moody – December 4th & 11th

Mrs. Raymond – December 6th

Mrs. Morey – December 6th

Looking For a Helper on Friday, December 15th

January Center Times:

Reminders:

**Please send in a family photo for our family bulletin board – Thanks!**

**\*\*\*Lastly, Please log in to view your child’s report card. Paper copies are no longer being sent home. Also, please let me know if you have any questions or concerns. I am so proud of how well ALL the children are doing this year. What a wonderful class!\*\*\***

Thank You for reading this lengthy update. As you can see we are busy having fun preparing for the joy of the holiday season.

Amanda Kiddoo