**First Grade News- December 9-13**

**LANGUAGE ARTS**

* We are sparking creativity through creative writing in special Christmas journals. We wrote about what we would give baby Jesus if we saw him in the manger and what kinds of outdoor winter activities we like. We are really working hard to spell sight words correctly and if we can’t- look them up in our dictionaries. We also practiced spelling in a creative way- using play dough to shape each word. This practices not only spelling but strengths our fine motor skills as well. In small groups we read at our levels and worked on ‘just adding s’ to make plural nouns.

**SOCIAL STUDIES**

        Our travels this week took us to Sweden, the United States, and England. We learn about each country, get a stamp in our passport, and write about their traditions in our ‘scrapbooks’. We keep these things along with a boarding pass and map in our ‘suitcases’. In Sweden we learned St. Lucia is celebrated. People celebrate on the 13th of December with lights, marking the darkest night of the year. In England they sing Christmas carols, have ‘mummering’, the legend of Father Christmas, and a big Christmas dinner. We liked hearing about the queen’s speech and the London fireworks at New Year’s time . We discussed how many people who live in the United States came from another country or have ancestors from another country. This is part of the reason why so many of our Christmas traditions come from other parts of the world. We read *An Early American Christmas* by Tomie de Paola.

**RELIGION**

* We heard about the journey of the wise men and how they knew to follow the star. We acted the story out using a ‘nativity puppet’ and had fun recalling parts of the story on our own. It is fun to practice our program and understand the true meaning of Christmas amongst the business of this time of year.

**MATH**

* Symmetry was a key word this week. We learned what it is and how to look for exactly equal parts on either side of the line. We practiced this my making symmetrical Christmas trees after identifying and drawing a line of symmetry on a rectangle, cutting a tree shape while it was folded, and opening it up We decorated the trees symmetrically. We also learned about fractions, including one whole and 1/2 . We identified what this means and learned how to write the fraction ½. It became more real (and fun) when we practiced with graham crackers!

**ART**

* There were a few Christmas Around the World extension activities such as : decorating paper Christmas cookies and trees and making St Lucia candle headbands. We also started a special Christmas project and made some ornaments.

**IMPORTANT DATES**

* December 15th- 1-2 pm- Advent Program Practice at the Church!!
* December 18- Advent program 6:30pm (at Crossview campus)
* December 21-January 5- NO SCHOOL, Christmas/New Years Break

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

* For our Christmas party (Friday December 20) all students are asked to bring a small gift (think $5) for a classroom gift exchange. Please have it wrapped and marked for a boy or girl with your child’s name on it by Wednesday the 18th. Thanks!
* Our Advent program will be on the 18th at 8:30am (in chapel) and 6:30pm (at church). We will have a mandatory practice on Sunday the 15th from 1-2pm. Please let me know if you have any questions about this. Your child has done a wonderful job learning their speaking part and we can’t wait to tell our story of Christmas in the Kitchen.
* There will be NO Spelling or Memory next week. We will have some review activities and other things going on. Merry Christmas!!

Have a great weekend! Stay warm and safe on the roads! I would like to thank everyone for their support, concern, and prayers regarding the big car accident my family was involved in last week. We are so thankful to be ok physically and thank you for your continued support. As I tell my children, we can always get a new car, but we can’t get a new you- We thank God for protection and pray for the peace of everyone else involved! – Mrs. Schneider