



BUSY SANTA



CIRCLES HERE!

MANY THANK YOU'S!

Thank you to all who attended parent-teacher conferences. I hope you enjoyed a wonderful Thanksgiving with your families. I enjoyed cooking, eating, and being with family. We are truly blessed!

I want to extend an ongoing thank you to the gym moms: Mrs. Moore, Mrs. Ryder, Mrs. Ruel, and Mrs. Stibitz for their dedication to fitness and fun. Mrs. Grobel joined the P.M. students yesterday, as well.

Thank you to Mrs. Cavera, Mrs. Ziedins, and Mrs. Hushak for reading to us in the library. New sheets will be ready for sign-up soon.

THANKSGIVING

The highlight of our very short Thanksgiving week was mixing and eating a batch of cornbread. I was amazed at the number of students who were willing to try the cornbread even if they had never eaten it before. And, many went back for seconds. We learned about how flour is made during the previous week when we thanked God for food. It was fun to put our learning into action just like the Little Red Hen.



Let's see: Flour, sugar, eggs, oil ... Can't wait to mix!

CHRISTMAS PARTIES

The four year old A.M. Christmas party will take place on **Wednesday**, December 21 at 10:00 a.m.

The four year old P.M. Christmas party will take place on **Monday**, December 19 at 2:00 p.m.

The children have been working with Mrs. Balke to prepare a short musical performance. Please join us if you can. The performances will be at the beginning of each party.

ADVENT

There is no doubt that the excitement of Christmas is buzzing throughout St. Paul the Apostle School. The children are looking forward to Santa's special delivery, but here we know that Jesus' birthday is the best part of Christmas. So as we prepare our homes and classrooms with decorations and merriment, our hearts are filled with Jesus' love and grace. We talked about what Mary and Joseph might have done to get ready for Jesus' birth. Some thought Joseph made a bed and Mary made a blanket.

The morning preschoolers are able to join their big friends each Monday morning for a short Advent candle lighting service. We light our own classroom Advent wreath, too; and we talk about what each candle means. The students made their own paper Advent wreaths which will go home and become future decorations and memories. The fours also made bead ornaments which hang on our bulletin board tree painted by their three year old friends. I think they are very festive!

GOD MADE LIGHT

This week we have been thanking God for the gift of light. Christmas seems the perfect time to remember the beauty that light provides. We thought of different sources of light and know that the sun is a powerful source of light for all living things. God gave us light at the beginning of creation to behold the beauty of all his gifts. We know that Jesus helped the blind man to see, and that he lights our hearts with goodness. Jesus is truly the light of the world! Tomorrow we will make a paper candle and have a procession.

HANDWRITING

We have completed the introduction of all upper case letters with only vertical and horizontal lines. Now we have made the leap to curved letters beginning with "C" last week and adding "O" this week. Next week we will add "Q" to the list. When your child writes at home, please encourage the tripod grip on the writing instrument. Good habits are easy to perfect, and bad habits are hard to break. Most children have a good start on writing their names. All should be practicing. Not everyone got a fair shake with the ease or number of letters in their names, but four year olds should begin the journey. Always remain positive and celebrate the attempts and improvements.

The preschoolers are using the skills they have learned to write letters to Santa. Some prefer their own "writing" which is fine also. But, many like copying the words which I write for them to make their lists.



Ollie Octopus on an octagon, /o/



Dear Santa, I've been very good ...

BABY, IT'S COLD OUTSIDE

Well, we couldn't escape forever! We have had some pretty cold days now, and the children have had warm coats, hats, and mittens for the most part. Thank you! It's time to start sending snow pants and boots. Even without the snow, they help keep the children warm and cozy outside. It is also great practice in being self-sufficient dressers!

When the snow does arrive, please have your child wear boots to school and then change into dry shoes. The tile floors become quickly very slippery when wet. Dry shoes are as much for safety as comfort.

BOOK ORDERS

The book orders arrived quickly and everything ordered was shipped. Yeah! Most are already delivered. I am treating all as gifts to prevent any mishaps. Happy reading!

"FIVE LITTLE ANGELS"

Five little angels lovely and bright,
The first one said, "It's a special night."
The second one said, "The shepherds
saw a star."
The third one said, "The wise men
came from afar."
The fourth one said, "Praise the
newborn king."
The fifth one said, "Peace and joy he
brings."

