

First Grade Happenings

January Fun!



Religion

With the return from a long winter break we discover that Christmas is still in full swing! We learned all about **Epiphany**. With the revelation of Jesus to the three wise men all gentiles were invited into the story of Jesus. Oh Happy Day!

Our weekly gospel readings remind us that Christmas is just the beginning of the story. We learn that Christmas is not a mere day but an entire Season in the Church. We develop our understanding of the liturgical seasons with a look at the liturgical calendar. As we move back into ordinary time we discover that ordinary is anything but "ordinary"! It is a season for gratitude for all of Creation. We are eager to learn more.

Language Arts

Reading is hard work! We continue to work on building our decoding and sight word skills. We are working toward reading with fluency and expression. We find that both help us grasp the true meaning of text and comprehend what we read better.

We are now focusing intently on "citing text" to support our answers to complex questions. We also use this skill in our oral and written retelling of stories and summaries of informational passages.

In spelling we added several more sounds and tricky words to our cache and use them to write and edit text. In writing we continue to explore the function of language. We use naming again words and adjectives to write descriptive stories about ourselves. We are a talented and interesting group of individuals. We loved sharing our stories with editing partners. We also focus on the mechanics of correct capitalization in titles and sentences and correct use of ending marks.

Math

We continue to work on mastering our facts. We practice creating, modeling, and solving fact families which helps us truly grasp the connection between addition and subtraction. We also begin our work with quick recall of math facts 0-10. The focus is on and setting and achieving goals and growth.

We wrap up our study of Geometry. We explore basic fractions and work to identify and write them correctly. We explore both 2D and 3D shapes. We look closely at attributes in order to sort and categorize them. We construct and deconstruct pictures and models using multiple shapes. We use our data collection and recording skills to track our hands-on explorations in our math journals.

We begin our study and application of place value to compare and order numbers. We also use our skills to extend and create number patterns and to problem solve.

Social Studies

In our Storypath neighborhood we encounter problems and work together to find solutions. We held another community meeting and Mr. Stone (aka Mr. Kramer) of the transportation department joined us and took and let us know they would be addressing our issue soon. The city will install new traffic lights and signs. They will also provide our community with crossing flags.

Through our process we learn about laws; we recognize that laws are rules for everyone that help keep people safe and take care of our world. We recognize that people in our neighborhood have both rights and responsibilities. We learn that leaders are guides who help us and that we, as citizens, play an important role in helping leaders guide us in the right direction.

In Social Studies we also learned about a very special leader, Martin Luther King, Jr. and his dream. We took a trip back in time and learned a little about the world he grew up in and how his dream helped bring about change. We discovered and explored some of his "big" words: love, peace, truth, freedom, and equality. We think about what big dream we have for God's world. We seek to identify our own dreams in order to write and illustrate them.

There is nothing like a dream to create the future-Victor Hugo

Science

The salmon have arrived! WhooHoo! 150 vibrant orange salmon eggs were gently placed in our tank. We will work with our 6th grade buddies to track and care for the salmon until we release them into the wild in May.

Our study of Sound and Light continues. We enjoy manipulating light sources to change the appearance of a shadow. It is amazing how the shadow of a pencil changes depending on the angle and distance of the **light source**.

Art

Inspired by the story *Snowmen at Night*. We imagined all the things magical snowmen might do at night! We made wonderful snow scenes filled with snow people of all kinds. Cut paper as our media helped us to create some amazing scenes. How very creative we are! Fun! Fun! Fun!