

Peek At The Week

Miss Peartree

Mrs. Zanello

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What a great week it's been in K-1! The children did a wonderful job at the Christmas Concert last night. All of their hard work and practice paid off. They should be very proud of themselves. Thank you for coming, and I hope you enjoyed the show!

In Readers' Workshop, we concluded our author study of Kevin Henkes, and we began learning about author/illustrator Tomie dePaolo. To kick off our new author study, we learned a bit about his life and career, and then read *The Art Lesson*. We've continued to work on independent reading and writing during Daily 5. This week, we opened Listening Center, so the children now have 3 choices of activities to participate in. First, we listened to *The Night I Followed The Dog* together, and then practiced completing a listening response sheet. After that, we were ready to open the Listening Center as a new center choice. Each week there will be a new story to listen to on the computer, and the children may visit this center once a week. Our story for this week was *Harry The Dirty Dog*. The children all love this new activity and are eager for their chance to participate in the Listening Center!

In Writers' Workshop, the children continued to work in their Drawing & Writing Books. In these special books, the children draw and write personal narratives of things that have happened to them. They also get to use colored pencils to add detail to their illustrations. Their first stories are looking great! They are learning to spend more than one day on a piece, to edit and revise their work, and they are conferring with their peers to share their stories. To help them with their drawings, we also practiced drawing faces with different expressions.

The children worked on another round of Math Tubs for their Morning Work. This week, they practiced sorting and making patterns with beads and counting bears. They also strengthened their counting skills as they worked in their Counting Books, and they played a memory game in which they had to match numbers and number words.

In the science, we investigated two very interesting topics: magnets and weight. The children tested many objects to determine materials that are and are not attracted to magnets, and they compared the weight of various classroom objects using a balance scale.

In religion, we read our Promise magazine and began learning about Advent. In centers, the children each traced and cut out handprints on green paper, which were used to make a large Advent wreath that is displayed on our classroom door. They also began working in their Gospel Reading Journals. In these journals, they illustrate various Gospel stories that we read in class. This week's story was about John the Baptist preparing the way for the coming of Jesus. Friday was St. Pius X's Christian Service Day, where all children in the school worked on a service project with their class. All of the kindergartners wrote letters to Santa, which will be brought to Macy's and \$1 will be donated to the Make-A-Wish Foundation for each letter we wrote. It was a lot of fun and we felt good about helping others. What a great way to end our week! Have a great weekend!

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