

Peek At The Week

Miss Peartree

Mrs. Zanello

December 22, 2011

K-1 was very busy preparing for Christmas during the third and fourth weeks of Advent. We read many books about the birth of Jesus and what we are celebrating this time of year. Some of our favorites were Santa's Favorite Story, No Room At The Inn, and the story of *The Nativity* from our Children's Bibles. They really enjoyed hearing all of these stories. This week, they made their own books about the first Christmas to take home and share with you. They have also been participating in Christmas Centers! We played Christmas games, made Christmas crafts, wrote about things we see at Christmas, and made jingle bell necklaces, just to name a few!

In Readers' Workshop, we practiced sequencing and retelling stories by describing what happened in the beginning, middle, and end. We read Merry Christmas Strega Nona and Strega Nona: Her Story by Tomie dePaolo, Apple Tree Christmas by Katrina Hakes Noble, and The Little Christmas Tree by Karl Rhumann. We've also practiced reading sight words and looking for vowels in the poems *Eight Little Reindeer*, *Our Christmas Five Senses*, and *Five Little Candles*. Last week, we read and compared several versions of The Gingerbread Man. In centers, the children wrote their own version of this familiar story, which we will add to our class library. They also played the "Roll A Gingerbread Man" game and made cookies with gingerbread scented playdough during center time.

In Writers' Workshop, we've been focusing on sound spelling. The children are doing a great job listening to the sounds in words and writing what they hear. They've also continued to practice writing labels to go with their drawings. Now they are always noticing how authors write labels and captions in many of the books we read. They had the most fun writing Christmas cards for their families, friends, and teachers. They've been working so hard to improve their printing and I am very proud of the progress they've made!

We ended our Christmas and Advent celebrations with School Mass, then our Christmas party! Thank you for all that you did to plan a great party for our class. We are so grateful for all that you do! Have a wonderful holiday!

Miss Peartree

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

"GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST, AND ON EARTH PEACE, GOOD WILL TOWARD MEN."

LUKE 2:14

Eight Little Reindeer

Eight little reindeer beside Santa's sleigh,
Getting hitched up to be on their way.

The first one said, "We can't be late."

The second one said, "Christmas won't wait."

The third one said, "The sleigh's full of toys..."

The fourth one said, "For all the girls and boys."

The fifth one said, "I'm ready to fly..."

The sixth one said, "Across the evening sky."

The seventh one said, "Look, it's starting to snow."

The eighth one said, "I think it's time to go."

"Ready?" asked Santa. "It's almost Christmas Day."

And off they all flew -- up, up, and away!

