

Peek At The Week

Miss Peartree

Mrs. Zanello

December 9, 2011

We've been having so much fun preparing for Christmas, learning about Advent, and discussing all the special things that we do during this time of the year. On Tuesday, we celebrated the Feast of St. Nicholas. The children made shoes to leave out overnight on Monday, and when they arrived at school the next day they discovered that St. Nicholas had visited during the night and left each of them a candy cane! We also spent some time learning about holiday traditions in other parts of the world, and will continue this next week. On Thursday, we attended Mass for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. In class, we frequently talk about the true reason for Christmas: the birth of Jesus and God's gifts of love. We read several beautiful stories about the first Christmas. Our favorites were Santa's Favorite Story and A Star So Bright. In centers, the children wrote pages for a new class book about presents that they would like to give at Christmas, and we also discussed things we can give that cannot be wrapped and put under the tree like love and kindness. They also worked on squares for our December class quilt. Look for the handprint Santa quilt next time you visit!

In Readers' Workshop, we've continued to read books by Tomie dePaolo. The children are really enjoying his rich stories and detailed illustrations. On Friday, Mrs. Burlingame's mother came in as a guest reader and shared Strega Nona with all of the kindergartners. We were intrigued by Strega Nona's magic pasta pot from the story! While we were together with the other kindergarten classes, we created a huge graph of our favorite shapes of pasta to eat. Later on in class, the children participated in Pasta Centers. They made patterns with pasta shapes, sorted pasta, made necklaces, and guessed how much pasta was in the Estimation Jar. Finally, they made a special pasta art project. It was so much fun! The only thing that was missing was some pasta to eat!

In Writers' Workshop, the children practiced writing complete sentences. After reading Country Angel Christmas by Tomie dePaolo, each child drew a picture of what he/she thinks an angel looks like, and then wrote a sentence describing his/her angel. They are doing a great job trying to write lower case letters and sounding out words themselves! The children also worked in their Christmas Counting Books, where they had to print numbers and the beginning letters of Christmas words. In their Drawing & Writing books, they have been working on writing labels to go with their pictures.

In math, we've continued to practice identifying, ordering, and printing numbers to 20. These numbers have been challenging, but they are doing a great job! We will continue to practice in class. Please practice at home as well. Thank you for all of your support. Have a great weekend!

Miss Peartree



ADVENT

tune: Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star

Advent is a time to wait,
Not yet time to celebrate.
Light the candles one by one,
Till the Advent time is done.
Christmas day will soon be here,
Time for joy and time for cheer.

