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December12 - December 16

First Grade Parents,

There won’t be much “normal” about our schedule this week. (If you are a regular volunteer in the classroom, remember that there were no sign-ups this week.)

To begin, we will not have a spelling test or Bible verse this week. It’s too busy here at school, and I’m sure it’s the same at home!

On Tuesday, first grade is taking a special “trip” on the Polar Express. We have some business to attend to at the North Pole. Students may bring in slippers and/or a robe to wear in the classroom. This is NOT Pajama day. (That is next Tuesday.) School uniforms must be worn to school with regular athletic shoes.

Posters for the Knights of Columbus Coloring Contest are due Wednesday. Those posters went home on Friday. If your child is participating and has finished the poster, it can be turned in Tuesday or Wednesday.

We will have a math test this week. The two areas where I have noticed we need some extra practice are “Counting Up and Down” and “How many More/Fewer?” We worked on these skills today in class and your child has that page in his/her folder. In addition to reviewing that page, some great questions you could ask at home are things like: “5 more than 3 is \_\_\_\_\_.”; “6 is \_\_\_\_ less than 9.”; “If Johnny has 4 toy cars and Sally has 8 toy cars, who has more cars? How many more?”. I will let the students use a number line and hundreds chart during the test, so feel free to use those tools at home, too.

Just a reminder that we will have 2 gift exchanges next Tuesday:

* Our first gift exchange will be with our 7th grade buddies. That will take place at about 9:30 AM. An appropriate gift for this exchange would be something in the $5 range. If you have trouble thinking of something for your child’s buddy, gift cards bought from the Scrip program with a nice, homemade card would be perfect! The big kids really wanted to do this exchange because they said they remembered how much fun it was when they were in first grade. Buddy gifts should be brought in on this day.
* Our second gift exchange is a class gift exchange. We will do this gift exchange at about 11:00 AM. These gifts should be valued somewhere in the $5 - $10 range. It works like this:

Boys will bring in gifts for a boy. The tag will read:

To: A Boy

From: (Your son’s name)

Girls will bring in a gift for a girl. The tag will read:

To: A Girl

From: (Your daughter’s name)

These gifts will be chosen at random, so your child should not bring in a gift intended for a specific friend. Part of the fun is NOT knowing who will be receiving whose gift. Our Christmas tree is up, so these gifts can be brought in at any time.

If participating in either of these is a financial hardship, please let me know. I want all children to be able to participate, but I do not want this to be a burden for anyone. We are part of an amazing Catholic community that can help out.

We have outside lunch at the picnic tables this week, so we would love to have you volunteer to come help out!!

Thank you to the Cortes Family for providing snacks this week. The Arce Family will be providing snacks when we return from Christmas Break. Out of the 17 weeks during the second half of the year, only 7 are covered for snacks. If you are looking for a week to sign up, there are some options.

 May God Bless You,

 Mrs. Stevason