

# Ms. Toukatly's Newsletter

January 2019

## Dates to Remember:

- Jan. 11: ASB Spirit Day Pajama Day
- Jan. 21: **No School** Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- Jan. 27: Open House 11:00-12:30
- Jan. 27-Feb. 2: Catholic Schools Week
- Jan. 30: State of the School Address 9:00 and 6:30

This month we'll learn about **Letters J, K, L, and M**. Our word of the month is **Appreciation** which we will use discuss how we appreciate each student's gifts and talents from God as well as appreciating acts of service.

## Highlights from December

This month we continued learning about our letters and numbers. Our class dutifully counted down to Christmas on our calendar and learned about letters H and I and reviewed letters A-I, but it was also a special time in our Catholic faith and we made time to develop a better understanding about what it all meant.

We explored our theme of Advent making Advent wreaths and added a candle flame as each week began. We discussed the true meaning of Christmas with the help of a play nativity set donated by a parishioner. We had our first classroom visit from Father Mark discussing Jesus' birth and who was there and what it may have been like. Surprising for our normally inquisitive group, we had only one question during the Q & A portion of Father's time with us, "Is God real?".

It warmed Ms. DeLuna and my heart to see our students' hard work come to fruition at our Christmas Concert. It was a *lot* to ask of such young students to get up in front of so many people outside of the safe space of our classroom and share their song. We are incredibly proud of each and every student for standing up on that sanctuary and trying their best. The growth in maturity, courage, and trust we've seen in our classroom over the past few months was really well displayed.

A huge thank you to the support of our families during what can be an already hectic time of the holidays to join us at the last minute and under inclement weather to close out the end of the year together.

In my reflection on our class as we ended the year together, the small moments such as the following story touch my heart the most.

During afternoon Choice Time, two students asked to paint. Ms. DeLuna and I set them up at the easel with some water colors, brushes, and water. They wanted to sit in chairs instead of stand at the easel and asked we tape up the papers for them to paint on the same side so they could sit together.

After a few minutes another student asked to paint as well and while we were getting their materials the pair already painting stopped what they were doing.

"Maybe they want to paint with a friend," one said going to grab a spare chair.

"Maybe they want a red chair so we can all have matching," the other added.

They scooted their materials over and lined up the third red chair right in the middle so their friend could feel welcomed and included. The three of them sat down in a row and happily painted.

The acts of kindness witnessed in my classroom, the friendships in full bloom, the words of encouragement and positivity, our class really illustrates the way God would want us to treat one another. This is the energy I trust we'll carry with us in 2019.