



# MGC K4 News

## December 2017



December is always a busy month filled with so much excitement - especially for children. Our main focus will be Advent. We will wait and prepare ourselves for the birth of Jesus and the celebration of Christmas. It will be incorporated into all areas of the curriculum - just one of the many reasons for sending your child to a Catholic school. December 14 is the annual MGC Christmas Concert. All students are expected to participate. They have been practicing, and I can guaranty you and your family will not want to miss it! We will celebrate Jesus' birth on our last day of class, December 20, with a special treat. Please read the curriculum highlights below. If you have any questions or concerns I can be contacted by e-mail or phone. [kunstmann@mgcparish.org](mailto:kunstmann@mgcparish.org) or 414-442-7600 ext. 118.

### **Language Development & Communication**

In December we will only have two full weeks of school. We will continue with our weekly letter and sound. It is very important that you continue to work on the letter with your child every week. Many children are having difficulty identifying the letter by sight. We will continue to practice our printing skills while making Christmas cards. The literature focus will be on the Christmas Story. We will read the story in sections from the visitation of the angel Gabriel to the birth of the Christ Child. Other texts will include traditional Christmas stories. We will recall the main events, answer questions about the text, and learn that a story has a beginning, middle, and end. We will also make connections from the text to self and the world around us. The children will have opportunities to read books and write in their journals in the dramatic play center, which is a coffee shop.

#### **Weekly Letter/Sound:**

December 4-8, Hh  
December 11-15, Dd  
December 18-20, Ii

### **Cognitive Development**

#### **Mathematical thinking:**

In math we will continue to use the *How Many Children are here today?* chart. We are counting to 10, identifying numerals 1-10, and comparing more and less in each row. The children will identify the numeral that is next to their name. Many children are able to identify numbers 1-10. We are using the calendar to name the next number 1-31. We will also use a paper chain to subtract how many days of school in December until Christmas break. We will continue to work on shapes and their attributes. The shape focus will be on circle, square, triangle, and rectangle, rhombus (diamond), octagon, and oval. We will notice shapes in our environment; examples include: a wheel is a circle, the slice of pizza is a triangle, and the napkin is a square. The ABC pattern will be introduced this month. Math centers will include sorting, counting, number identification, patterning, and shapes.

### **Scientific thinking**

The children will explore playdough, shaving cream, and a variety of other materials as they investigate how their skin enables them to use their sense of touch. The science center will give the children opportunities to explore and compare textures and read non-fiction books about the sense of touch.

### **Faith Development**

This month our focus will be on the seasons of Advent and Christmas. We will pray around the Advent wreath each day and learn the significance of dark and light and that Jesus is the light of the world. We will also learn about St. Nicholas and make connections while we practice doing kind acts for others as we prepare our hearts for the birth of Jesus. We will prepare our hearts and spread Jesus' love through acts of kindness in our classroom.

### **Social/Emotional Development & Diversity in Learning**

Our social teachings will be incorporated through doing kind acts in our classroom and throughout the school. The children are working hard to dress for outside and pack up their backpacks independently. Each child will hang up a star with their name on it on the bulletin board when they have mastered preparing for recess and home. This month MGC children are asked to bring in adult white athletic socks for St. Ben's guests.

### **Reminders**

We are still going outside everyday. Please send your child with outerwear that is suitable for outside play. Please include a warm pair of mittens or gloves that they can put on independently

### **Important Dates**

- **Dec. 2** Breakfast with Santa
- **Dec. 11** Family Lunch
- **Dec. 14** Christmas Concert
- **Dec. 20** Nativity Play 9 AM
- **Dec. 20 11:30 dismissal**  
Last day of classes before Christmas break

### **December Homework**

- Work on identifying, printing, the action and sound of the weekly letter
- Help your child to name things and recognize words that begin with the weekly letter. To help them make the connection exaggerate the initial sound (ttttt- turtle, tub, tongue, two)
- Practice name printing
- Read books to your child every night to foster the joy of reading and beginner literacy skills.
- Look for and name shapes - everywhere!
- Count rote to at least 20
- Count objects 1-10 and identify numbers 1-10.
- Enjoy the sights and sounds of this wonderful season with your child!

**Happy Advent!**