

# Kindergarten Connection

Spiritual Growth, Academic Excellence, Moral Integrity

## English Language Arts

Our International Holiday Unit began with the study of The Netherlands and Germany this week. The children located both countries on a world map and realized that the Atlantic Ocean separates America from these countries. We discussed the colors found on the flag of the Netherlands. It is red, white and blue like the American flag, but the colors are arranged differently and there are no stars. We learned about St. Nicholas who was a bishop that traveled from



Turkey over 600 years ago giving out candy, presents and money to children and less fortunate people. In The Netherlands St. Nicholas Day is celebrated on December 6th with Dutch children placing wooden shoes filled with grass or hay by their windows and doors in hope that Sinter Claus (as he's now called) will leave candies and presents in their shoes. In honor of this tradition we created our own paper shoes. The shoes are sitting by our windows waiting

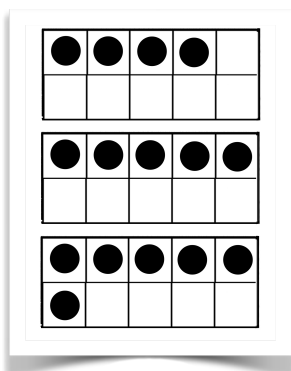


for St. Nicholas. As you can imagine we are hoping our shoes will be filled with treats next Wednesday! We also discussed Germany, which is located next to The Netherlands. The children had the opportunity to make the German flag and fill in a German book page for our International Holiday Journals we are creating. We read a German story about how the first Christmas tree may have come to be. We will shift our focus to Mexico and Sweden next week. If you have any pictures, books, etc. involving foreign countries please feel free to send them to school with your name clearly marked on each item.

## Math

The children have been doing a great job adding and subtracting numbers to 5. We are becoming experts at counting using five strips and ten frames to figure out numbers in the teens.. Everyone is enjoying the new center sheet we started yesterday.

1. Number Pyramid
2. Roll a Christmas Tree game
3. Number Race
4. Santa Dot to Dot
5. St. Lucia Graphing
6. Trim a Tree Graphing



## Bits and Pieces

International Polar Express Day

**Our International Polar Express Day will be on Friday, December 15th. We will be traveling to 8 countries. Each K-3 classroom will host a different country. Look for the sign up genius to get involved. It is going to be so much fun!**

**December 21** is the last day before Christmas break. It is a full day of school. We will be decorating gingerbread houses! I will be sending out a list of supplies needed

Please join me on Tuesday evening, December 5 at 7:00 for a presentation about Theology of the Body given by Father Christie. The meeting will be in the MPR

## Centers From This Week

Below are the centers your child completed this week.

### POETRY NOTEBOOKS

"Happy Holidays"

### UNDERCOVER

Christmas trees.

### SCIENCE LAB

World map for journal.

### MATH LAB

December calendar.

### DISCOVERY

Netherlands book page  
and flag.

### WRITING

German book page and  
flag.

### ABC CENTER

St. Nicholas shoes and  
Christmas lights  
booklet.

### ART FUN

Holly Wreathes.

### EXTRA FUN

Read Around the Room,  
Puzzles, Independent/  
Buddy Reading, Meet  
with Mrs. Ziembra, iPads.

## Religion

In religion this week we discussed the Holy Family. The children enjoyed thinking and talking about things Jesus did with his family. We continue to work on making the Sign of the Cross correctly. We even had time to talk about how important it is to pray to many different saints for guidance. This weekend we begin the season of Advent. Our wreath is set up in our room and each week we will sing a new verse to our Advent song as we prepare our hearts for Christmas. Our nativity is also set up and the children will be working on adding pieces of hay for baby Jesus when they complete a good deed.



## Bits and Pieces

**Friday, December 8th No School**  
because it is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. This is a Holy Day of Obligation. Please try and take your child to church.

### Christmas Concert

The Christmas concert is on Wednesday, December 20th. Your child should come to the classroom at 6:30 where we will wait for the concert to begin. As a reminder your child should wear their Christmas best. No jeans or sneakers.

### Outdoor Play

Please make sure you pack mittens and a hat on cold weather days. We love to get outside unless it is raining and many fingers and heads have been cold.

**The guessing jar**  
had some mini candy bars in it. Ask your child for the total.