

A Fly on the Wall...

Chapel with Mother O.

We are singing lots of songs in chapel right now! We've been learning "This Little Light of Mine" for Epiphany, the season when we remember the light that Christ brought to the whole world, and just started "Go Down Moses" to prepare for a story about the Exodus next week. Then we'll journey to the desert for a story about the 10 Best Ways, visit with Ruth and Naomi for a story about love and loyalty, and meet Jonah and the Whale before exploring some of Jesus's parables as we continue through Lent. Our students continue to ask wonderful questions ("Is Jesus a superhero?" was today's), which is one of the best ways to learn about God! If you're ever doing any wondering together at home, I'd love to hear about it.



The 3s with Mrs. Blair, Miss Ball, Mrs. Hobson & Mrs. Schroeder

The 3s classes are getting back in the school groove after holidays and snow days! We have been experiencing the cold winter weather and working on snow and polar animals in the 3 day 3s. We have made snow inspired art, talked about why it snows, and read many snowy day books. We have been enjoying exploring in the winter sensory bin. In addition to talking about winter weather, the 5 day 3s have been reading Eric Carle books and talking about his illustrations. We have made art inspired by many of his books. We also tried to build a ladder to the moon, discussed the food choices of the hungry caterpillar, and many other fun story inspired activities. The 3 day 3s will be learning about hibernation in the coming weeks, while the 5 day 3s are learning about the ocean and it's creatures. Ask your kids for some interesting sea life facts! Please continue to send your kids with layers and cold weather accessories.



First Grade with Mrs. Hoover

First grade has spent this cold, snowy January in warm, sunny Australia! We have really enjoyed learning about all of the unique and interesting animals that live there. We will end our study with an Australia Day celebration and wish we could borrow a little bit of their weather for it!

In reading, we have switched gears to nonfiction. We have been talking about the ways informational texts are different from fictional texts. We will examine the text features (diagrams, table of contents, index, etc.) in nonfiction books that help us find information quickly and easily. When we leave Australia, we will be moving to Antarctica and will research the animals there.

The kids have loved writing "how to" pieces using transition words. They invented their own ice cream sundaes and wrote directions for how to make them.

In Math, we have been busy studying place value. We have been making and comparing numbers and have even been balancing equations. Now, we are using what we know about place value to



Lunch Bunch with Miss Ball, Miss Ellen, Mrs. Pyzik, Mrs. Schroeder & Mrs. Wyatt

Lunch Bunch has been busy on these cold winter days. We have been making winter themed projects such as winter hats, icicle inspired painting and painting with actual ice. We have been playing games with pretend snowballs and snowmen and have been lucky to get to enjoy a little bit of real snow on the playground. Thank you to all of the parents for supplying your children with layers and many options for cold weather. We are looking forward to February, doing Valentines crafts and focusing on friendship. Hopefully we will have some more snow to enjoy in the coming month. Thank you all and please let us know if you have any questions!



Geography & World Cultures with Mrs. Cummings

Hello from "Down Under"! We have been studying Australia in Kindergarten and Pre-First. They have been busy making boomerangs and kolos. While our First graders have been exploring the different geographical features and making coral reefs. Antarctica is our next stop!

Science

This week in science featured lots of magnet exploration. The PreK classes made magnetic spiraling snakes, kindergarten finished their unit on simple machines by making magnet powered cars, and Pre-first experimented with magnets and iron filings and learned how to turn paper clips into magnets. First grade continued to explore how animals and plants adapt to a desert environment and learned how to grow a new succulent plant from a single leaf.

Art

The 3s carried on with our magnet theme from science by creating paintings using magnetic marbles. Pre-k drew polar bears, then painted them with pompons dipped in white paint. Kindergarten recreated a scene from "A Snowy Day" by Ezra Jack Keats with a watercolor background, tempera paint snow, and a paper cutting of themselves in snow gear. Pre-first continued their winter theme by reading the book "Extra Yarn" and creating winter portraits with printed knit textured papers to make sweaters and hats. First grade learned about Australian artist Pete Cromer and his brightly colored birds. They used painted paper to make their own bird collage.



Kindergarten with Mrs. Smith & Mrs. Vandenberg

We are having a fun and busy time growing and learning in Kindergarten. We are continuing to become more independent at school and hopefully at home. Please have your child practice zipping their own coat and work on tying shoes. Please send in several extra masks for your child as masks get wet and dirty throughout the day. An extra set of winter clothes is also needed because we get muddy during this time of year. In the next few weeks in our unit studies, we will be learning about penguins, and Presidents. We will be learning about geometry and 3-D shapes in math in the upcoming weeks. In language arts we are sounding out words and beginning to read books together. Please continue to read with your child at home!



Pre-first with Mrs. Barta

The pre-first children jumped right back into our routine from the holiday break and have been busy at work. In Language Arts, we did a story comparison of the book, *The Mitten* by Jan Brett and Alvin Tresselt. We discussed the many similarities and differences throughout the stories. We continue to work on our phonics skills and learned 8 new glued sounds with words ending in -ng or -nk. Currently, we are learning about consonant blends in words and sounding them out while reading and writing. Our handwriting remains to be a focus as well as punctuation in sentences when writing. In our next Math unit, we will learn all about money and the value of each coin. We will practice exchanging smaller coins for larger valued coins (EX. 10 pennies can be traded for a dime or 2 nickels.) Money is a difficult concept to grasp so we will continue to work on this throughout the year. Please ask your children to help you "pay" the next time you buy something using coins. Last week, we learned about Martin Luther King, Jr. and how he was such an important person in history. We created our own P-1 class book with each students' dream for the world, and what they would like to be when they grow up. Next week, we will focus on polar



Pre-k: Mrs. Arrup, Mrs. Baker, Mrs. Knott & Mrs. Wyatt

Happy and Healthy New Year! January has been filled with Joy in the Redeemer Pre-K classrooms! We are all very happy to be back at school. Winter has kept us very busy with snowflakes and snowmen crafts in addition to all the time we spend outdoors. Digging in the sandbox is a new experience in January. We have successfully worked our way through some more letters of the alphabet. There were lady bugs with specific number of spots, lions and our classrooms were taken over by Math Monsters! Numbers are being mastered and we are counting with our ten frames. Owls and opposites have been interesting to explore with the kids. Being outside is still one of favorite things to do, so please continue to send in the hats, mittens and boots. Also, having the children practice with their zippers and mittens is appreciated. Looking forward to a fun-filled February where we will embark on an imaginative trip to the Arctic and what makes friendships so special. Thank you for all your support! Stay Warm.

The 2s with Mrs. Pyzik & Mrs. Zuidema

The children haven't missed a beat and were all smiles returning at the beginning of the month. There's certainly been an (artic!) chill in the air outside this month as well as in our classroom. We made and decorated our own tin foil snowflakes and bedazzled sets of paper mittens using glitter glue, beads, stickers and pom poms. The snowflakes and mittens are our current classroom decor but we'll send them home to brighten your spaces soon! We painted big ice cubes and watched how the colors changed and the ice melted. We have talked, read and sang about artic animals and hibernating bears. The children played with big blue ice cubes, cotton balls, and plastic artic animals. It was fun to see their reaction to the cold ice! This week we read *Bear Snores On* and *Hibernation Station*. The children curled up in a ball and pretended to hibernate – they all thought this was quite funny! The children spend plenty of time playing freely, dancing, reading, building, and just being 2! Freeze dance has been the #1 requested song in our room if you want to try it at home too!