

12.15.2023

HO HO HO! It is that special time of year again! This week, the topic was Christmas. The children first learned the history of Christmas. What does Christmas Day celebrate? Christmas celebrates the birth of Jesus Christ. When is Christmas Day celebrated? December 25th. Who celebrates this day? This day is a Christian holiday celebrated by Christians around the world. Many non-Christians also celebrate this day as a time of peace, joy, family, and giving of presents. What do people do to celebrate? There are lots of ways that people can celebrate Christmas. Most people get together with family and exchange gifts on Christmas morning. Many people attend church services either on Christmas Day or Christmas Eve. Christmas decorations are a big part of the holiday. People decorate their homes with festive lights and winter decorations. People also put up Christmas trees and decorate them with ornaments and lights. The tradition of the Christmas tree comes from the country of Germany. The earliest known decorations for the tree were apples. Another part of the celebration of Christmas is singing Christmas songs such as Silent Night, The First Noel, The Twelve Days of Christmas, and Jingle Bells etc. On Christmas Eve, it is believed that Santa Claus piles toys on his sleigh and flies around the world with his magical reindeer to give gifts to children. Elves are known to be Santa Claus's helpers and live with him at the North Pole throughout the year.

Academic enrichment and small group:

We wrote a letter to Santa telling him what favorite toy we wanted for Christmas and drew a picture of it. The children made their own ornaments and decorated their own Christmas tree with gems, glitter, and sequins. The children also decorated a stocking; they used cotton balls/sequins and decorated it. The students also made Christmas wreaths and Christmas cards and decorated them. We also made elves and snowmen and reindeers. In the journals, they drew a picture of a festive Christmas.

Next week we have spirit week and the activities will be as follows:

Monday: pajama day

Tuesday: wear blue and white for Hanukkah

Wednesday: wear red and green and Santa/Christmas hat. The students will be doing a short Christmas caroling at 10 am.

Thursday: ugly sweater day

Friday is a non instructional/ teacher planning day and attendance is not mandatory for VPK.

We also had a visit from Santa this week and the children got to take pictures with him and got books on Thursday.

Graphing: What is your favorite Holiday? Most said Christmas because they enjoy getting presents.

Books we read this week:

Moseltoe, It is Christmas?, Santa's Stuck, The Great Reindeer Rebellion, A Bad Kitty Christmas, A Chick N Pug Christmas, The 12 Days of Christmas, A Magical Christmas Eve, Llama Llama Holiday Drama, Gingerbread Mouse, There Was an Old Lady Who Swallowed a Bell.

We recommend checking some of these books out and reading them with your children; they really enjoyed them. Their favorite was Santa's Stuck.

Student of the week:

Brown door: Kaiden Jenkins

Purple door: Benjamin Ortiz

Please bring a decorated poster on Monday (12/18/23) with family pictures, favorite places to go, food that they like, pets, or anything that you think will make your child happy to share with classmates and teachers. Have them participate while you are putting it together with them.

Quote of the week:

"The Joy of brightening other lives, bearing each others' burdens, easing each other's loads and supplanting empty hearts and lives with generous gifts becomes for us the magic of the holidays." –W. C. Jones

Have an amazing weekend!

Ms. Ana and Ms Nadia

Ms. Laura and Ms. Andrea