

Welcome back! I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas break and are ready for a great new year in Kindergarten.

I would like to extend a very special "thanks" to Hannah's family for the nativity statue for our class room and to Leah's family for their many gifts for our classroom- clipboards, magnetic letters, stamp pads, and dry erase markers. They will get lots of good use!

As we begin this new year, there will be some additions to the curriculum. In Religion we will continue with our "We Believe" books but will also be adding the "Growing in Love" program. On Thursday you will receive a Family resource book that will enhance what we do in class. The first lesson is "Made by God." There are seven lessons. This program continues through 5<sup>th</sup> grade.

We also will begin our Scott Foresman science series. The chapter this week is called "Matter" and will cover describing objects, solids, liquids, and gases. For our "Cooking Day" we will make snowballs from vanilla ice cream!

Other special things this week include: "Word of the Week" - epiphany, our Bible verse to learn - John 8:12, Class Mass on Tuesday, Epiphany prayer service on Wednesday, and DIBELS testing. Book orders are due next Monday January 11. Please remember that our library day is Tuesday and return your child's book so another one can be checked out.

So far for "homework" this year we have had a family project each month and asked that you read with your child often. Beginning this month I will send home a sheet for you to record the books you read together and ask that it be returned by the end of the month. This will give you more flexibility than asking for specific work each day. Our goal for the rest of the year is to read more than 2500 books! This goal will easily be met by each child reading (or being read to) just 25 books each month. If you'd like a second sheet, send a note when you return the first one.

Have a great week and Happy New Year 2010!

Norma Morrison  
January 4, 2010