Mrs. Irre's Classroom Notes
December 2019

December 8, 2019

Dear Parents,

This upcoming week will be filled with Joy! Ornament projects, carol singing, beautiful story books and Kindergarten children rehearsing their lines for 'Twas the Night Before Christmas, poem by Clement Clarke Moore. Please be sure to check your children's backpacks during the week to find the adorable treasures Ms. Irwin has been creating with them. There are many things Ms. Irwin does with love and care, but sitting with children as they create with their hands appears to be one of her favorites. Your children's little hands have been busy stringing beads, cutting shapes, painting, gluing and sewing. The activities are surely fun while also helping to develop their fine motor and brain skills (sewing takes A LOT of concentration!). It is also a lovely, calm, focused time where they can chat and tell and hear stories.

This month has been filled with lots of learning about the North Pole. It seemed like a great time to actually study the North Pole, the Arctic Circle, and the animals that live there. The little ones gather close as I read to the older kids, and love hearing about the different Arctic animals. There have been many conversations about the North and South Pole, the equator and why it is SO cold at the poles. While the oldest children each chose an Arctic animal to write a report about, many three and four-year-old friends listened to the phonemes in the words as the older kids wrote their stories with movable alphabets. I am astounded with the illustrations the children create to go with their written reports. There is such talent amongst your children. This week we will be tasting Spruce Tip Jelly I brought home from Ketchekan, Alaska. It is made from the tender tips of the Spruce tree in spring. We will have a mini lesson on evergreen trees and, of course some holiday carols and a new book borrowed from the DeMato's, The Littlest Evergreen, by Henry Cole.

Friday is one of our most favored events of the school year, Holidays Around the World.

Friday, December 13
8:45 a.m. - Holidays Around the World
1:30 p.m. - Winter Concert
* This is regular school day with Before and After Care and bus service

Many volunteers from Holidays Around the World take their children home with them following the morning festivities, and some kids stay for the afternoon. As you make your Friday plans, please note that the Kindergarteners will be performing in the Elementary Winter Concert at 1:30 p.m. that afternoon at Blue Wing Frog in Front Royal. If your child is younger than kindergarten age, please feel free to take them to Blue Wing Frog to attend the winter concert at 1:30. I had a sneak preview of the elementary children singing and can't wait to hear the performance in full.

Let me take this time to wish you a happy Christmas, Hanukkah, and Winter season. I hope you have a lovely winter break.

Sincerely,
Carrie