



St. Thomas Regional School

is full **S.T.E.A.M.** ahead!

Arts Integrated Learning

December 14, 2016

Dear Parents,

I pray that you and your family are enjoying the joys of the Advent season. Advent is a time of quiet, joyful preparation for the celebration of Jesus' birth and also a time to remember that we wait for Christ to come at the end of time. It is a season to enjoy the hope that Christ's resurrection points to. As a school community we are preparing for Jesus' birth. We gather each morning to rejoice and pray of God's promise to send a great light in the darkness, to fill us with comfort and hope, to put an end to sin, to give us more than we could ever hope for, and to fill us with joy and peace. On Friday, December 2nd we attended a Mass prepared by Grade 4 in celebration of Advent. It was a beautiful way to start the Advent season.

Our Tablets as Technology campaign, in partnership with Microsoft, is underway and is proving to be a huge success. The St. Thomas PTO has been purchasing tablets using the monies raised from PTO events. We currently have purchased 55 tablets. The goal of the program is to have a Microsoft tablet available for each child to use in school each day. In January 2017 we will start distributing the tablets, beginning with the 8th grade. We are thrilled to be working with Microsoft and we appreciate your support as we continue to move towards being a Microsoft Technology School.

The children have been very busy in their classrooms. The children in Preschool enjoyed a Polar Express Day and kindergarten has been working on estimation, ordering, and writing numbers to 31 in Math. First grade has just completed their Social Studies projects based on the book character Flat Stanley. Grade 2 is learning about Christmas traditions around the world and animal food habitats in Science. Grade 3 is deep in the study of multiplication and are working to learn their multiplication tables daily. The children in Grade 4 are learning about geometry (polygons, pyramids, prisms, angles, parallel lines, perpendicular lines, triangle classifications, quadrilaterals, etc.) During the next few weeks, they will be creating a dance, writing a skit, and making costumes that

incorporate all the geometry topics they have studied. The students in grade 5 have been reading *A Long Way from Chicago* by Richard Peck and discussing using reading strategies such as background knowledge, visualizing, and questioning. Grade 6 is finishing up with Describing Patterns and will be learning how to use variables and how to evaluate algebraic expressions. Grade 7 completed their Interview with Alex Haley puppets and grade 8 is making board games for their "Growth of Industry" chapter in Social Studies.

During the Advent season the St. Thomas School community will be reaching out once again to those who are less fortunate. As you know the number of people who depend on the St. Thomas food pantry increases each week. As a result, many of our service projects aim to help replenish high need items. Unfortunately, some families are unable to provide for the basic necessities never mind a Christmas wish list. Therefore, we will be collecting certain toiletry items for the food pantry. Let's work together to make this Christmas season special for everyone.

"Breakfast with Santa", sponsored by the PTO, was a huge success. Students, parents, and teachers were able to enjoy an amazing breakfast and got to take pictures with Santa. A special thank you to the PTO for such a wonderful morning.

Our annual Children's Christmas Shop is tomorrow, Wednesday, December 14th. Mrs. Mele and the PTO have collected various gift choices, all wrapped, for the children to Christmas shop during school for relatives.

There is **NO** After School Care Program or clubs on Tuesday, December 20th, due to our St. Thomas Regional Faculty and Staff Christmas celebration. Our annual Christmas Pageant is Wednesday, December 21st, at Bishop McVinney Auditorium in Providence. There will be **NO** After School Care Program or clubs on that day due to the pageant. Ticket order forms have been sent home. Please note: There will be **NO ADMITTANCE** without a ticket and all students who attend must have a parent in attendance. Tickets will **NOT** be sold at the door, so it is imperative you purchase your tickets soon. All students are expected at the auditorium by 6:30 pm. When you drop your child off, please take their coats so they will not need to carry them on stage. Dress code for students in Preschool through grade 5 should be "Sunday Best". At the end of the pageant, I will be dismissing the students from their rows, starting with the Preschool class. Please wait until your child's class is being dismissed. Thank you in advance for your patience.

Winter is here!! Please be sure to send your child to school dressed for the colder weather. Coats are a must, as well as hats and mittens or gloves. We like to get the children outside as much as possible and will not allow them to go outside if they are not dressed appropriately. Along with the winter comes the possibility of snow, and with snow comes the possibility of no school. In case of inclement weather, announcements

regarding our school closing, delays, and early dismissals will be made over WJAR Channel 10 under the category RI Catholic Schools as “St. Thomas Regional School”. We will also be using the School Messenger Communication system to announce closings, delays, and early dismissals. Please make sure the number we have for you on file is current as that is the number the School Reach System will be calling. If by any chance you miss the School Messenger message, you may call 1-855-955-8500 to hear the announcement. Also, please visit us on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter if you haven’t done so. You will be pleasantly surprised to see all of the photos of the day-to-day activities around the school.

Our last day of school before the Christmas break will be Wednesday, December 21st. On behalf of the faculty and staff at St. Thomas Regional School I would like to wish you all a blessed Advent and a very Merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

Peace and Prayers,

Mrs. Mary DiMuccio