

**Classroom Happenings**  
**St. Ludmila Center**  
**January 21, 2010**

**Art:** In Art we have completed our mini self-portraits and crosses for Catholic Schools Week. Next we will complete our clay unit. The students will learn how to make pinch, coil, and slab pots and also create a sculpture before taking the clay home to show their parents how to use it. Fourth grade will begin work on our Pizz-a-thon Unit, starting with the decoration of our pizza boxes.

**Climate Committee:** In November the 4<sup>th</sup> grade Climate Committee members decorated angel ornaments. The 3<sup>rd</sup> graders then gave these to two care centers on their December visit for Service Learning. In December, to commemorate Jesus' birthday, we put together Birthday Bags that were donated to the Neighborhood Resource Center. The Gazette came and took pictures for a feature story about the activity. As part of our Jesus' birthday celebration students also presented a play, "The Christmas Story", for the entire school on our last day of classes before Christmas. As part of Vocation Awareness Week, this January, Father Tom and Sister Mary came and shared with the students about choosing a life dedicated to God.

**Computer:** Third grade is revisiting research by using World Book Web and Fact Monster. They are concentrating on the topic of space. They may look for a variety of things of their choice; such as black holes, the sun, nebulas, planet facts, etc. They are creating a fact page using Inspiration.

Fourth grade has been working on skill sets that will help them create a slide show about a foreign country. They have practiced research skills, photo altering skills, and how to merge clipart and photos to create backgrounds for the slide show. The idea is to create "photos" of themselves in the country they are researching. They find out interesting facts and make it seem as if they were really there.

**ELP:** In ELP (Extended Learning Program) the 3<sup>rd</sup> graders presented our final Advent Mass before Christmas. They are finishing up their Dream Room projects and a book report modeled after a cereal box, which will be displayed at Catholic Schools Week. Fourth grade math ELP is finishing up their Travel Iowa projects and will begin working on Census activities. Language Arts has started work on writing books about states modeled after books by author Sharon Rexroth. Fourth grade ELP also helped present a Vocations prayer service for the school on Jan. 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Media Center:** We had a Scholastic Book Fair during conferences in November. We earned money to purchase books and AR tests and also received many free books. Over 30 books were donated to classrooms from this fair. The third grade classes have worked on Dewey Decimal, schedules, pictures and captions, and played a game called "Folktales, Fairytales, and Legends". The fourth grade classes worked on following directions, card catalog/OPAC, locating and collecting information, evaluating information, almanacs, and also played a game called Library Lingo.

**Music:** In November, we started our Christmas concert music. December was Christmas concert month. The weather took our December 10<sup>th</sup> concert to the 21<sup>st</sup>. On December 22<sup>nd</sup>, we had our final Advent service, which included a play directed by Mrs. DeMeulenaere, which also included music. Third grade did their part of the concert for the St. Ludmila senior citizens' Christmas party and again for the residents of Silver Pines and Evergreen Estates II. We concluded our December/Christmas month with a sing-along of some seasonal, mostly secular, songs. We are looking forward to finishing our study of musical instruments in January.

**Physical Education:** In PE we are wrapping up our Roller Skating Unit. It was a great unit filled with fun and exercise. Next, both classes will spend some time on a Health Unit. Both groups will start by learning about nutrition and making wise choices of food and drinks. On January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 4th grade will compete in the Cedar Rapids Recreation Basketball Shooting Contest. Then the 4th grade will use the Nutrition Unit in more detail when they work on our Pizz-a-thon Unit.