

Special Reminders for this week: St. Andrew's *A Day Away With The World*, Saturday at 10:00 AM  
 Junior choir sings Sunday at Centennial

**ST. ANDREW'S PRESENTS: *A DAY AWAY WITH THE WORLD***

Children ages 3-11, December 10th, 10AM until 5:00PM—Drop your children off in the morning. Go shopping, decorate or just relax. Come back in the late afternoon and join us for a dinner that your children helped to prepare. Free! Your children will cook, sing, play games, hear a story, decorate cookies, make art projects, and more. Pre-register at 744-1806. Space IS limited. St. Andrew Lutheran Church is located at 1132 W Oklahoma Avenue.

**CHRISTMAS SERVICE**

Christmas service parts went home. Please help your child to take this memorization seriously. The Christmas service will be Friday, December 16th at 6:30 PM. Each of the children has individual and group parts. For this reason we need to know in advance if there is a conflict making it impossible for your child to participate. The children work hard and enjoy the opportunity to share the Gospel with their families and friends. They will also be travelling to Wilson Commons on Thursday, December 15th, by bus, to perform their service for the seniors who live there.

**SPORTS**

Practices

- Monday 12/5 Boys A 3:30-5:00
- Tuesday 12/6 C-3:30-4:30  
Girls B 5:00-6:30
- Wednesday 12/7 Boys A 3:30-5:00
- Thursday 12/8 C-3:30-4:30  
Girls B 5:00-6:30

Game

- Friday 12/9 Girls B 5:00 @ St. John's (W)  
Map across from gym bulletin board
- 12/9 Boys A 6:00 @ St. John's (W)  
Map across from gym bulletin board

**CHRISTMAS PARTIES**

Each of the classrooms will be having a Christmas party on Tuesday, December 20th. This will be a half day. Some other important details about that day. Each classroom will send home details concerning how gifts will be exchanged (the upper graders pick names, some rooms exchange with boys buying boy gifts and girls girls, some ask you to buy a generic gift for a boy or a girl or you may be buying a gift for the classroom). Pay close attention. Secondly, we ask that parents and students keep the cost of the gift within a certain range (usually around \$5). Please keep your child's gift within that range. There have been times when one student gets a couple of trinkets from the dollar store while another student gets a \$25 Blockbuster gift card. This can make what is to be a simple fun gift into an opportunity for jealousy to take over. The information coming home will also let you know how you may be able to help with snacks and games. Ask your child's teacher for more specifics if you are uncertain.

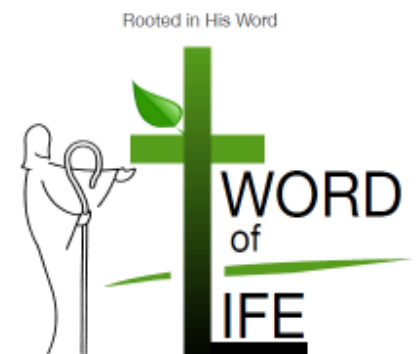
**UPCOMING EVENTS**

- December 11 Junior Choir at Centennial
- December 15 All school trip to perform at Wilson Commons
- December 16 Word of Life Christmas Service at Centennial (6:30PM)
- December 18 Word of Life Voter's Assembly
- December 20 Last 1/2 day of school / Christmas party
- January 3 School Resumes



**2012 SCRIPTURE CALENDARS**

A limited number of wall calendars with NIV scriptures are available for \$5.00. These calendars were sold for the 2011 year and have been brought back for sale by request. See Mrs. Nolte if you are interested in purchasing a calendar. A sample is hanging in the school hallway across from Mrs. Nolte's room.



*Sink your roots in Christ Jesus the Lord and build on him. Be strengthened by the faith you were taught, and overflow with thanksgiving. Colossians 2:7*

## MRS. RECKZIN MRS. NOLTE

This week Christmas practice begins in earnest. All is leading up to our school Christmas service on Friday night, December 16th when the children will proclaim the story of Jesus' birth to family and friends. The service is at 6:30pm here at school/church. Our Bible story this week ties in with Christmas as we hear the angel Gabriel announce the birth of Jesus to Mary. We will work on the letter Rr in reading and continue our unit on community helpers as we discuss being safe. Have a great week!

Come into the building and take a look at our room and the ornaments we have hanging in the hall.

Our Spelling lists this week are on Christmas red paper!

We will have two Look, Listen, and Learn groups present this week. Next week groups 3 and 4 will present. The sheets are in the envelopes.

We began our Christmas service practice in the church this week. We are very happy to be getting ready to tell you about the birth of Jesus!

Take time this week to worship in a special Advent service on Wednesday evening. We will lighten the homework so that it is not a burden for those who choose to attend church.

Have a wonderful week in Jesus' care.

## MR. MORGAN

This week we are working on our Christmas service. We will be starting all school practices. Last week we put up our Christmas Tree and during Art class we painted ornaments. This week we will be put those up on the tree. In Reading we are starting a new novel. Fifth grade will be reading "The Whipping Boy" and sixth grade will be reading "Number the Stars". Last week we finished up our Math board games and they turned out really good. This week we will be getting back into our normal math lessons. Enjoy your week and have a good one.

## MR. KRUEGER

Christmas Practice.

Christmas Practice.

Unit 14 in Spelling.

Christmas Practice.

Christmas Practice.

Any questions?

## MR. STERN

Separate note will be sent home.

## Week Thirteen Tips for Teachers, Students and Parents

When you look at the truly effective teachers, you will also find caring, warm, lovable people. Years later, when the students remember their most significant teachers, the ones that they remember the most are the ones who really cared about them. Effective teachers know that they cannot get a student to learn unless that student knows that the teacher cares. (Wong & Wong, 1998)

Quotes like the one above from Wong and Wong relate to the art of teaching more than the science of teaching. This remains a major goal of teachers within a Christian school -- caring deeply for our students and our craft.

Although the art of teaching is important, one which goes a long way toward making one an effective teacher, we must also examine the science of teaching — focusing on research that sheds light on what makes some teachers more effective, efficient, and relevant than other teachers. In one of the first graduate classes I ever took, I learned that teachers who were identified as exemplary possessed six common characteristics (Rice & Taylor, 2000):

- Knowledge of content
- Planning skills
- Use, after selection, of appropriate materials
- Classroom management skills
- Human relations skills
- Instructional skills

Obviously, the qualities listed above are neither esoteric, mystical, nor new. In addition, all but one is necessary for success in any line of work, not just teaching. The one characteristic unique to the teaching profession is instructional skills. What exactly are "instructional skills"? Rice and Taylor (2000) identified these five core instructional skills:

- Selecting an objective at or near the correct range of difficulty and level of complexity
- Teaching to the objective
- Maintaining the focus of the learner on the objective
- Using, without abusing, the principles of learning
- Monitoring and adjusting

(As a mnemonic device for my exam, I used the acronym TUMMS to recall these five instructional practices.) The science of teaching, then, comprises these five instructional skills. No matter what subject or grade, these skills remain constant. Both the kindergarten teacher and the algebra teacher must select objectives at or near the correct range of difficulty and level of complexity. Elementary and secondary teachers need to teach the objectives while maintaining the focus of the learners on those objectives. The principles of learning are present in any instructional lesson, and all effective teachers monitor and adjust their lessons as situations arise.

An oft-debated topic in many of my education classes revolved around whether effective teaching is an art or a science. Personally, I have always focused more on the art of teaching than the science of teaching. However, in reality, the two are equally important as well as interrelated. Many of us at Word of Life Lutheran School are artists at the craft of teaching. Even the most sterling teaching performance may prove meaningless unless such a performance is based upon a sound scientific knowledge base. At the same time, the most scientifically sound lesson in the history of pedagogy will prove fruitless in terms of student learning if the teacher is not proficient in the art of teaching. Because Word of Life School is staffed by teachers who are both artists and scientists, we are able to teach with passion each day.