



**St. Martin of Tours Academy**  
**Fourth Grade Newsletter**  
**December 2009**

*Dear Parents,*

*I want to extend warm wishes, thoughts, and prayers to everyone throughout this Advent season! As we joyfully await and prepare for Jesus' birth at Christmas I hope that we all remember to stop and simply enjoy this wondrous time of year! I was thrilled to see everyone who attended our annual Advent/Christmas program. The students gave a wonderful performance.*

*As we enter into Winter Break, I want to remind you to ask your student if they are in need of a "refill" on basic school supplies (pencils, erasers, lined notebook paper, etc.). As always, it is important for your child to be reading a minimum of 30 minutes a night as well as reviewing/practicing basic multiplication, addition, and subtraction problems. Although it is vacation, encourage your child to write about the festivities and/or traditions around them. They have really become quite the writers!*

*Have a wonderful holiday season and stay safe! I cannot wait to see you all in 2010!*

*Kimberly Murray*

**Upcoming Curriculum. . .**

**Religion:**

Throughout this month we have focused on preparing for the arrival of Jesus. We have been studying the various traditions and practices associated with this joyful time in the Liturgical Year! Through creating personal advent calendars, "lighting" our class advent wreath, and much more, the students are expanding their level of understanding the reason for this wonderful time of year! When we return from the winter break we will begin to review the various parts of our church calendar and begin Chapter 5 of our textbook. Our Life Perspectives focus for this upcoming month will center around the topic "God Invites Us to Enjoy Adventures With Him".

**Language Arts:**

We have moved into Theme 3 of our textbook. Throughout January we will read the stories, "Striking it Rich", "A Covered Wagon Girl", "The Earth Dragon Awakes", and "In Around Los Angeles". In addition to reading and analyzing these stories, we will continue to be diligent learners who have developed and employed higher level thinking skills through focusing our Workshop Way phonics lessons on various parts of speech, including pronouns and adverbs and their importance to us as mature writers. As we learn these new parts of speech it is important that we are still reviewing such things as nouns and verbs. Challenge your student to tell you 10 verbs in 30 seconds!

**Mathematics:**

We have just finished Chapter 4 this week. The students are now able to perform long multiplication. They have learned how to multiply a two or three-digit number by a two-digit number. As we enter into the winter break I encourage you to review this skill with your students. Ask your fourth grader to explain the "place-keeper zero" to you! As we begin the 2010 school year we will start to delve into long division. Thus, our basic division facts are going to be very beneficial!

**Science:**

When we return from winter break we will continue our studies of conservation within the environment and how we can continue to conserve and preserve the environment around us through simple actions each and every day. As we move through January we will begin a unit on rocks and minerals.

**Social Studies:**

In social studies we have really become engrossed in the early Spanish history of our state and our own city! As we discuss each and every California mission, the students are compiling a notebook full of information that will prove to be rather useful to them as we continue to become diligent learners who have developed resourcefulness and independence in our work habits. The goal is that after winter break these notebooks will be a first reference point as the students begin to work on mission reports (more information coming soon).

**Extended Learning**

Social Studies:

<http://www.ca-missions.org/links.html>

Language Arts:

<http://games.pppst.com/languagearts.html>