



**St. Martin of Tours Academy  
Kindergarten Newsletter  
January 2012**



*Dear Parents,*

*As we turn the calendar to a brand new year, it is a good time to take stock of your child's progress since September. By now your child is settled into the classroom and you can, with your child, set goals for the remainder of this school year.*

*Encourage your child to start setting higher expectations for themselves. I have higher expectations regarding responsibility and classroom behavior. They are growing each day and should be old enough to start doing things for themselves, such as making the bed, or helping more around the house, or getting dressed by themselves.*

*To better prepare the students for first grade, I will pick up the pace. They are now closer to being First Graders so they know I am going to start treating them as such. This includes writing their last name (for some students) and learning several Sight Words a week.*

*This week we had a presentation from the Natural History Museum. They brought their "Incredible Insects" program giving us an introduction to insects and arachnids. Our children visited 5 stations showing different "bugs". Needless to say, the kids loved it!!*

*Chinese New Year 2012 is coming! We will celebrate the occasion on January 23rd. It is the year of the Dragon. We will make dragon masks and have a parade. We will also eat fried rice and fortune cookies. The children will even find red envelopes stuffed with "money!"*

*Thank you for all the donations to the Heifer Project. The children worked hard for the money earned. We brought in over \$20.00. We requested our money go towards buying a flock of chicks for food and family income.*

*Remember that one of the greatest gifts we can give our children is the gift of time. If you ask a group of adults what meant the most to them growing up, you will often hear fond memories of people who "had time for them." Given the fast pace of today's society, what might be some ways that you can build just a little more family time into your lives? These are just a few simple ways to show you care even more:  
1) the family meal, 2) family traditions, 3) pull out the board games! 4) be around and ready to listen, 5) take a hike!*

*Mrs. Gonzalez*

**Reading:**

In the coming weeks students will:

- ❖ Identify the order of words in spoken sentences
- ❖ Identify the name and shape of the letter Ss
- ❖ Learn how to make circles to the right
- ❖ Practice making rhymes
- ❖ Review the names and shapes of letters Nn-Uu
- ❖ Learn how to make circles to the left
- ❖ Identify word changes in spoken sentences

## Reading (continued)

I introduced five sight words and will continue to teach several new words each week for the rest of the year. These words are taken from the Dolch Word List. The Dolch Word List contains between 50% to 75% of all words used in schoolbooks, library books, newspapers and magazines. The list contains 50 words for kindergarten. Most cannot be learned through the use of pictures and they must be recognized at a glance before a child can read with confidence. We will work on a few words each week very thoroughly. We will use the words in sentences that we will create together and will practice writing them during journal time.

If you would like to practice them at home as well, send a note or email requesting them and I'd be happy to send the weekly list home. (It is not required of the students to work on them at home.) The words so far are: *a, I, he, the, and*. SLEs: *2a-f, 3a-d, 4a-c, 5a, b, d*

Look to [www.kidport.com](http://www.kidport.com) for fun games your child can play.

## Religion:

In the coming weeks the children will learn that Jesus grew up as part of the Holy Family in Nazareth. They will learn that Jesus was a powerful storyteller. Everywhere He went crowds gathered to hear what He had to say. The people who gathered around Jesus must have liked being with Him; they brought their children to Him. Jesus said we should "accept the kingdom of God like a child." (Luke 18: 15-16)

When people came to see Jesus, remarkable things happened. Jesus was able to feed crowds of thousands with just a few loaves of bread and a handful of fish. (John 6: 1-15) When people who were ill were brought to Jesus, He cured them.

For an additional resource on this subject, you can check out the book, *Mommy Loves Jesus*, Catherine Snider, Daughters of St. Paul, 1993. This book presents parents as the first teachers of faith, showing their children their love for Jesus. SLEs: *1a-d, 2a-e, 3a, 4a, b, 5a, b, c*

The website [www.gardenofpraise.com](http://www.gardenofpraise.com) can give more insight to the amazing story of Jesus feeding the multitude.

Continuing with the Whole Life Curriculum, we have been discussing the following:

1. God took care of you in your mother's womb.
2. God wants to show His love by giving you a family and friends to love and care for you.
3. God has special names for you.
4. God's love never changes.

SLEs: *1a-d, 2a-e, 3a, 4a, b, 5a, b, c*

## Math:

In the coming month the students will:

- ❖ Identify, show, and draw groups of 11-31
- ❖ Compare and order numbers up to 31
- ❖ Estimate groups using benchmarks of 10, 20, 30
- ❖ Solve problems by using the Guess and Test strategy

**Fun Game:** Children race to say whether a number is greater than, less than, or equal to another number. *Materials: flashcards with numbers 1-20. Large paper with "is less than," "is greater than," and "is equal to."* You choose a number and a phrase and place it on the table. Your child has to choose another number that fits the problem. For example, I may choose 10 *is greater than* and your child has to find a number that makes the sentence true.

SLEs: *2b, d, e, f, 3a, b, c, d, 4a, b, 5a, b*

The website [www.jumpstart.com](http://www.jumpstart.com) has a wealth of fun and interactive math games!

