

# The SkyLark

Prairie Sky School's Newsletter  
December 2011

## Key Dates

### Thursday, December 8

Board Meeting – 7:30pm

### Saturday, December 10 (3:30-6:30)

St. Mary's St. Nic's Party

### Monday, December 12

St. Nicholas Day at school

### Thursday, December 15

Shopping Card Orders due!

### Thursday, December 22

Family Advent Celebration

### Thursday, January 5

First Day of New Term



## Shopping Cards!!!

Please consider supporting this great fundraising initiative. Simply by shopping at one of three of our local health food stores – *Nature's Best* – *Eat Healthy Foods* and *Dad's Organic Market* – you can support the school. Each of these stores is donating 10% of the value of your purchases to Prairie Sky School. Buy your pre-paid shopping cards from PSS on the **15<sup>th</sup> of each month** and then buy your groceries knowing you are supporting PSS and local businesses at the same time. And please spread the word: this arrangement is for all friends of PSS! Many thanks again to Jill and Jenelle for setting up this wonderful arrangement. The forms for card orders can be found on the school website at: <http://prairieskyschool.com/fundraising>





### **St. Nicholas**

St. Nicholas Day is celebrated on December 6<sup>th</sup>. St. Nick was known for secret gift-giving, e.g., putting coins in children's shoes. (Children, check your shoes next Monday!). He has also been credited for being the model for Santa Claus whose modern name comes from the Dutch Sinterklaas, itself a result of a series of elisions of the transliteration of "Saint Nikolaos".

### **Celebration at St. Mary's Church**

We have been invited to join our friends at St. Mary's for a St. Nic's Party on Saturday, December 10<sup>th</sup> from 3:30-6:30pm. Please consider bringing a gift for Transition House in the spirit of St. Nick.

### **Teachers Report**

*Snowflakes falling soft and light,  
Snowflakes falling in the night,  
Soft and light, pure and white,  
When the sun shines out so bright,  
All the earth is dressed in white.*



As we connect deeply with the spirit and energy of giving and receiving, our classes are immersed in festival preparation for Advent.

Our Grade 5/6 class is immersed in the study of economics during morning main lesson. Soon we may be able to get some muffins and hot chocolate! We are looking in-depth at the ethics of money, business strategies and all while we wrestle with fractions, decimals, percent and formulas! They truly are making valiant efforts.

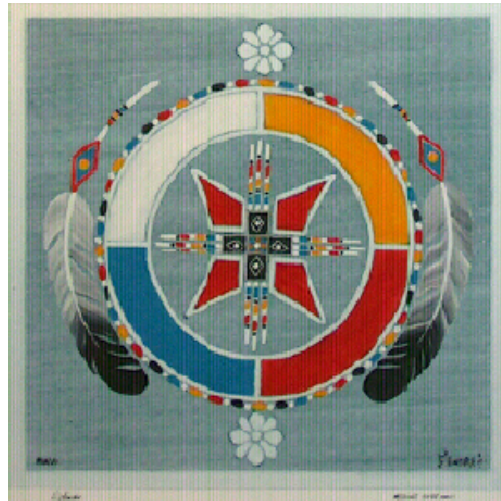
Our Grade 3/4 boys are flourishing in their literature work as we create small poems and practice handwriting. In mathematics, they are delving into column addition and subtraction. They are having extra lessons in simple geometry with their younger peers, and I must say that their stars absolutely sparkle!

The Grade 1/2 students are also enjoying the simple geometry exercises and the multiplication applications of this work. Inadvertently, they are learning about prime numbers because of the single digits, only 5 and 7 create stars that are continuous. The others are variations of triangles and squares.

In the Life Skills program, we have changed a few details. For December, we are cooking up Winter Cream Soup and Cinnamon Buns. There is a secret Saint Nicholas experience in store and everyone is enjoying the weather. Our winter campout was a warm success!

*We have continued our treaty study during afternoon theme time. We have been playing First Nations games during gym time and learning about the ways of life of nomadic living. Our study will culminate in a visit to the Pasqua Reserve School sometime after the holiday and once we have some time to share letters with our partners (like Pen pals).*

*We are busy getting ready for our advent share by singing, story telling and crafting.*



## **Adieu Jeff!**

At the end of this month Jeff will be moving on to new things. In addition to being an educator, Jeff is a talented musician, and will be spending some time focusing on his musical career with a special and sought-after mentor in Weyburn. We may see Jeff's duo – *Jeff & Julia* – at the next Indie Rock or Folk Fest opening for the likes of Yeasayer, *The Black Keys* or *Foster the People!* We wish you all the best Jeff. We have been grateful for your time at Prairie Sky School. Particular thanks for your creative games, your patience and kind nature, and your teaching expertise. We will miss you!

### **Thanks!**

Many thanks to Jodie and Kim for organizing the Wednesday after-school gym program! Many people have been coming, and the children are having lots of fun.



### **Outer Warmth**

Please help us keep your children warm and safe by sending them to school with clothing that can protect them from the cold. We spend time outside every day. Well-fitting mitts, hats that stay on, snow pants and coats and sturdy boots are necessities!

### **Inner Warmth**

The days have been getting shorter and shorter and the nights longer and longer. It can be hard to get up, go to work and summon energy for the day when every part of us feels like it is still night and that we should hibernate a little longer under the warmth of a duvet until the sun's morning rays touch the tips of the trees outside, and a warm glow pours over rooftops and awakens sleeping hearts. The urge to just rest until spring comes is hard to resist. But soon the days will become longer again. More light will be shed on our lives and energy will return. Until then, may your inner warmth sustain you.



**May you all have a wonderful holiday season!**