

# CRY OF THE CARDINAL

## ST. JOHN LUTHERAN SCHOOL

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December 1, 2017

### IMPORTANT DATES

Dec 2 – Christmas Parade

Dec 3 – Silent Auction

Dec 17 – Children’s Christmas Ser. (Gr 1-8) 10:15am @ St. John Lutheran Church

Dec - 20 EC & K Christmas Service 6:30pm @ St. John Lutheran Church-

Dec 22<sup>nd</sup> Christmas Break starts

Jan 2 – School resumes

### SCHOOL NEWS

#### Wrightstown Christmas Parade

All those interested in joining us and our entry in the parade should plan on meeting in the St. John Lutheran Church parking lot by 11:00am, Saturday morning. The weather is slated to be in the 40’s (fingers crossed), we encourage everyone to dress for the weather. Most of the kids joining us will be walking as Christmas gifts. There should be plenty of space within their costume to weather a normal winter jacket if needed. Right now we have a dozen parent and twenty children participating. We would love a few more adults to supervise candy distribution and distribution of materials.

#### Silent Auction

We would love for ALL our school families, their relatives, friends, neighbors, and coworkers to stop by and take a look at the amazing array of items that have been given, donated, and collected for the silent auction. The auction opens at 8am and concludes at 1pm. During the hours of the silent auction there will also be baked goods available for purchase, as well as a raffle with its prize being a brand new IPAD. It is an opportunity to purchase tremendous items, with all proceeds benefitting St. John Lutheran School in two specific areas: technology updates/upgrades and tuition assistance for families currently attending St. John as well as those contemplating our school

family. Please note that payment for any and all items can be made by cash, check, or credit card. What a great way to pick up some early Christmas gifts, while passing on tremendous support to St. John Lutheran School and all the families and children they serve and will serve well on into the future. **THE AUCTION IS SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3<sup>RD</sup>, 8AM-1PM.**

#### Children’s Christmas Services

Grades - Preschool & Prek will join the service on Wednesday, December 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm. The service will be held at St. John Lutheran Church. The children will be singing songs during this final advent service. Children are asked to be at church by 6:15pm

Grades – 1<sup>st</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> will be leading everyone in their Christmas Service “*From Heaven Above to Earth I Come*” The service will be Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup> at 10:15am. The service will be held at St. John Lutheran Church. Children are asked to be at church by 10am.

**Tuition Payments:** Please remember that a payment must be made every month, unless quarter or semester options were selected. Those with quar/sem. payments, please remember that those payments are submitted prior to the start of the ensuing period. Per the new payment policy instituted prior to this school year, a minimum of 2% of the outstanding balance should be paid, with the balance paid in full by the last day of school, this year May 25<sup>th</sup>.

**Preschool & Prekindergarten (Miss Buss)** E: miss\_jbuss@yahoo.com

Wow, it's December already!

While the weather has been beautiful this week, we all know what is coming our way... eventually! I have a few kids that have already brought in some snow pants. If you are starting to think about winter gear you can bring it to school and leave it on your child's hook if it isn't going home every day. This does include snow boots. Gloves with 5 fingers are difficult for some of the children to get on so if you have mittens so that they just have to put their thumb into the correct placement I would encourage sending those to school.

Also, I know the weather is cooler but if you could still send water bottles to school with the kids that would be great. They look forward to grabbing theirs at snack time. It also helps those younger ones consume more water that find the bubbler tricky to drink out of. On the line of snack I want to personally thank those of you that have dropped off snack donations! It definitely is helping and I appreciate it a lot!

A quick reminder that the kids are singing in church for Christmas on the night of Wednesday, December 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:30. After singing in church, all in attendance will be invited downstairs to the church basement for cookies and hot chocolate. The kids have already started practicing some of their songs that will tell you about Christmas being Jesus' Birthday Party! **If anyone is able to assist me, I am looking for some small boxes (about the size of a shoe box or smaller) that will not take a lot of time to wrap. I plan to use these in our Christmas service on December 20<sup>th</sup>. I am in need of about 32 of them. Please help! ☺** Thanks in advance if you can assist me in this matter!

The kids and I started to decorate our classroom for Christmas. A reminder to you that our class Christmas party will be on Thursday, December 21<sup>st</sup>. Parents are invited to attend with their child. We will have a collection of activities from games, crafts, stories, and our annual gift exchange. In case the note sent home last week was missed... the gift exchange will work like this: If you have a girl please buy a gift for another girl in the class (not to exceed \$5), if you have a boy, please buy a gift for another boy. When labeling the gift – in the section that says TO please indicate whether the gift goes to a boy or girl. In the FROM section please write your child's name so I can make sure they don't go home with the same gift they brought to school. Please email me if you have any questions. Also, please have the gift to school by Monday, December 18<sup>th</sup> so I can make final preparations for the party that week.

As always, thanks for all your assistance. I am going to leave you with this Bible passage today that reminds us of the true meaning of Christmas, the very reason why Jesus had to be born for us. Isaiah 53:5 – But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed.

I wish you blessings as you prepare for Christmas this Advent season. May we remember the beauty and perfect love of God that prompted him to come from a perfect, blissful heaven to be born on this sin filled earth only to live and die, and live again, for us!

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*Isaiah 53:5 – But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed.*

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## Kindergarten (Mrs. Wicks) E: mrs.rebeccawicks@yahoo.com

Kindergartners are speeding along as we make our way through second quarter. In math, we continue using pictures and manipulatives to perform basic addition and occasional subtraction. We have also spent time recently working with tangrams and pattern blocks. Our Mon/Wed/Fri afternoon rotation has switched over to animal habitats. We started with rainforests, learning from the book *The Great Kapok Tree*.

In literacy, we have been reading simple words and sentences using the eight letters we have worked with so far (c, o, g, d, a, s, l, and i) and some simple sight words. We continue to sound out our writing, with several students spelling phonetically very well. Students have also learned how to edit basic writing problems like forgotten finger spaces, lack of capital letters, and missed ending marks.

Parents, please help us to continue strengthening our reading skills by remembering to send books back to school the next day. We have a limited number of the student books that can be shared. The Superkid books have only five copies each to share between thirteen readers and the sight word books are made for individual children. If we do not have the books back, students end up falling behind in their work and our volunteers do not have materials they need to help with our reading. Thank you for your help.

Please make note of the following special dates from the December calendar:

December 7th is our only STEAM Club for the month.

December 8th is when our last book orders before Christmas are due. Catalogs should have arrived home on Monday.

December 20th is our Christmas service. Kindergartners do not sing in the program on December 17th unless they are in Sunday School. Please have everyone to the church by 6:10. If you wish, you may bring in cookies to share after the service.

December 21st is our last day before Christmas break. We will have a Christmas party in the morning; notes should have been received this Wednesday regarding lunch and gift-giving. School will resume on January 2nd.

Please also note that our second rotation of turns for Star of the week is starting partway through December.

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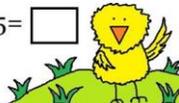
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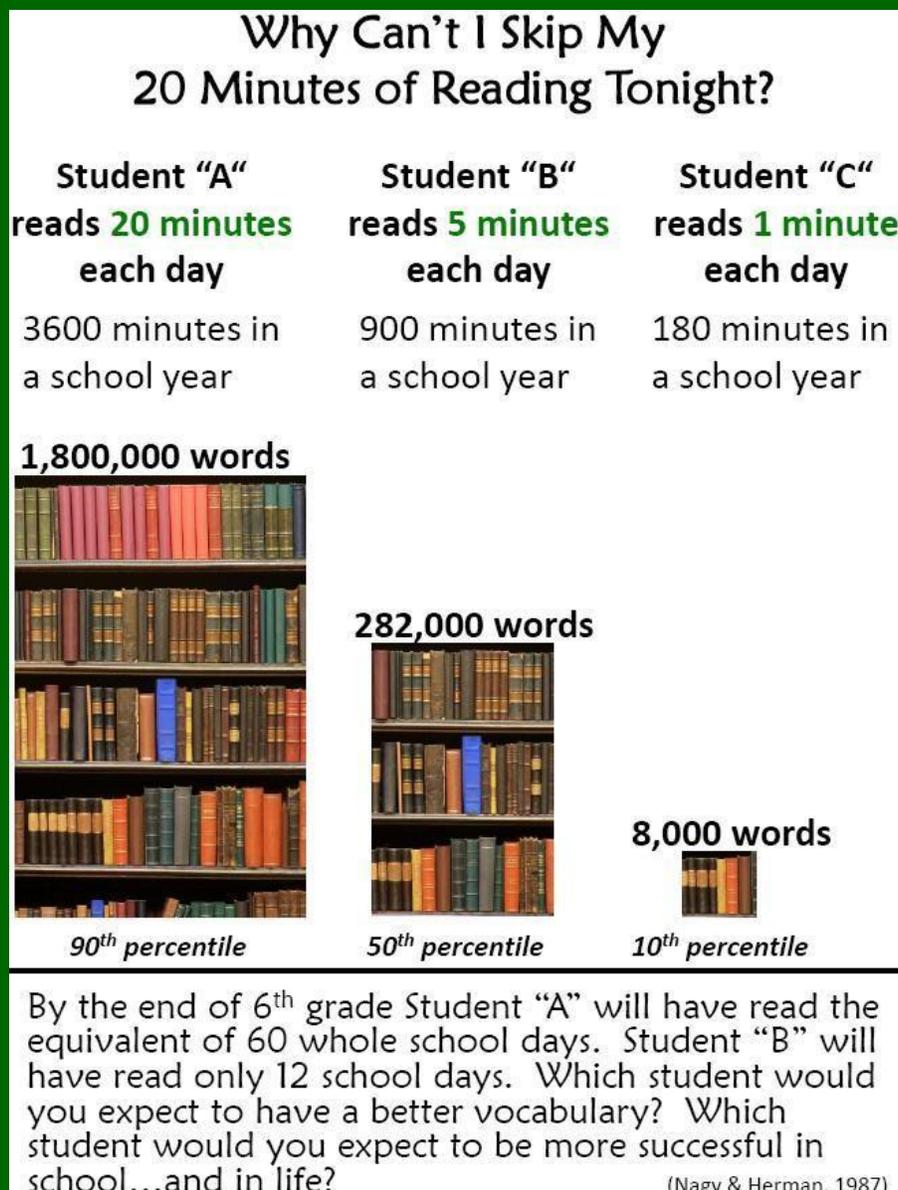
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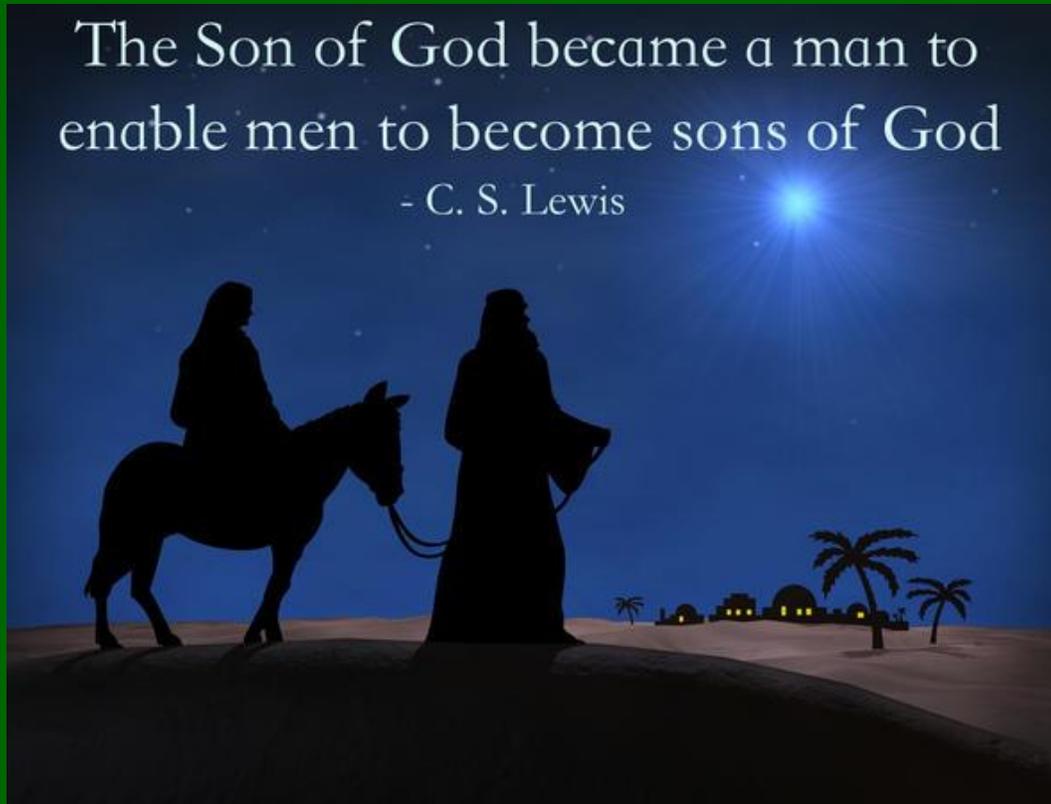
Church House Collection ©

Thank you for the hard work you do at home with your children. Those extra moments you spend reading or helping with homework make all the difference at school. Your child will continue to be bringing home books to read each night. Please make sure your child is reading 20-30 minutes each night. If your child brought home two 5 minute books, take a moment to reread them or choose more from home. It is super important for your child to spend the full amount of time practicing their reading. Second and third graders are independent readers, but that doesn't mean that they can't still read to mom or dad occasionally. First graders should be doing a mix of both as they work towards independence with their reading.

Please spend some extra time on memory work these upcoming weeks as we prepare for the Christmas service on December 17. It's important that they know those pieces exactly word for word since they will be saying it with others. Recitations work well when everyone can say their parts with confidence. This is my favorite of the year with memory work and these pieces offer some great entry points for discussion on the true meaning of Christmas with your child.



It is hard to believe that we are now entering the month of December. It doesn't seem all that long ago that we were speaking of finishing our first month of school, then Thanksgiving. . . and now Christmas. I was talking with some of our students the other day that it just seems to make sense that Thanksgiving comes prior to Christmas, a time where so many are focused on getting, instead of what was given to them. For so many it is



hard to focus attention on the manger when we are sidetracked by Black Friday shopping, presents beneath the christmas tree, and the wonderful food and candies that will adorn so many tables.

Many kids keep asking why we spend so much time working on our Christmas service, the recitations, the songs, the delivery, but so many forget that God is found there within His word. Giving His truths, telling of

the Son that he sent for us, the real reason we all should look forward to Christmas.

Don't get me wrong, if a nice new rifle or a new power tool shows up beneath my christmas tree I will be ecstatic, and likewise I will cherish the moments when my children's faces grow big when they open their gifts. My hope, though, is that I along with my family will take the time to truly appreciate the one gift that keeps on giving. . . giving peace, giving joy, giving love, giving life.

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*the One gift that keeps on giving. . . giving peace, giving joy, giving love, giving life.*

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St. John Lutheran School's mission:

**Ignite** the love of learning,

**Infuse** the Word of God,

**Inspire** tomorrow's leaders