

December 21, 2018

Hi parents,

It's Winter Break! Now hopefully we get some beautiful snow!

I want to thank you all for an excellent 2018! I appreciate all that you all do at home to encourage your kids to achieve their goals and bring a positive attitude to school each day. I also appreciate that you all probably heard our Christmas songs and our Kwanzaa song many many times leading up to the program last week! I am so proud of Room 6 and their wonderful performance!

- This week we were very focused on completing a surprise gift that went home with the students yesterday. Without giving away the surprise...I'll say that we learned the basics of circuits. We questioned if we could make a lightbulb light up if we changed how the circuit was set up and tried our different ideas. I know your kids are excited to share what they made with you!



- This week we also finished our novel, *Family Under The Bridge*. We used ChromeBooks and books to research some of the places in France that were mentioned in our book. While some groups were researching, other groups were wrapping gifts for kids at Guardian Angel. We talked about the Calcets (the family in *Family Under The Bridge*). We noticed that they didn't ask for toys for Christmas, but they asked for practical things like a place to live. We decided this family we were sending gifts to may need practical things as well like washcloths, toothbrushes, and gloves.

- Throughout the week we completed some winter-themed writing. We wrote about what we would be doing and where we would be found if we were an Elf on the Shelf! We also wrote comics by rolling dice to determine our main character (Sneezy the Snowman, Cornflake, DogMan, Ninjabread Man, etc). We then chose a random piece of paper to determine the main event of the comic (building toys with elves, building the greatest snowman, baking cookies with Mrs. Claus, etc.). It was funny to see how each character took on a very different adventure depending on who was writing the story!



- In our final *Pawn* session of the year, we used our rooks to crush a troll just like in the story! Mr. Foti taught us that the rooks had force on their own, but by using principles of physics, they could have sufficient force to crush the troll.



- A couple of weeks ago, we attempted to make snowflake crystal ornaments. Unfortunately, when we came in the next day, we found that they hadn't been successful and we still had ornaments made out of pipecleaners. I was so impressed by your kids! Instead of being disappointed, they all jumped to ideas like "maybe the water should have been cold instead of hot!" or "maybe we should add some baking soda!" After brainstorming how we wanted to approach our new experiment, we tried two of the ideas this week (duplicating our previous attempt and adding baking soda). We found that both worked! We are looking forward to January when we can continue our exploration!

I hope you all have a wonderful couple of weeks with your friends and family! See you next year :)

