



Christ The Teacher Catholic School Division #212

Advent Projects – St. Michael's School

A YEAR OF MERCY....

Dear St. Michael's Families,

Mercy

In conjunction with our school goals and our Spiritual Theme of “Mercy”, St. Michael's School is pleased to share with you the fine work and actions taken on by our teachers and students.

Prior to and after Christmas, each classroom participated in completing an Advent Project. The following is a summary of the list and description of the projects that were completed, who and how they may have benefitted, and what our students may have learned as a result of participating in these projects. We believe it is important to share what the classrooms have been doing and celebrate those successes.

Kindergarten A and B classes donated 44 gifts to children in families in our school division. Kindergarten C, Grades 4E and 6E participated in Operation Christmas Child. This is an organization run by Samaritan's Purse, a Christian organization led by Franklin Graham. This organization collects and distributes over 100 million shoebox gifts worldwide. It allows individuals and groups in Canada to help bring joy and hope to children in desperate situations around the world, through gift-filled shoeboxes. It is one way to remind children suffering through war, poverty, famine, disease and disaster that they are loved and not forgotten. These grades brought many donations such as puzzles, toy figurines, crayons, unused socks, soap, toothbrushes, etc. to school. Approximately 46 shoeboxes were filled, then labelled by age and gender and taken to a drop-off centre to travel to a National Leadership Team. This team represents several different religious denominations and organizations and identifies the children of greatest need and coordinates the distribution. Children are then invited to a children's event in which they have no knowledge that there will be a gift given to them. The gifts are given unconditionally to every child. In addition, grade 4 students collected and donated food to the food bank in Yorkton as well as collecting and donating clothes which were taken to Value-Village.

Grade 1E's Advent Project is a travelling Advent Bag. This is a bag that goes from house to house of all the families in that grade. In the bag there is an Advent Wreath with the correct amount of candles for each week. There is a Christmas Nativity Story and an Advent Book for

families to do activities with their child. The activities are light the candle, say the Advent Prayer together which is provided, write what their family traditions are, draw a Christmas picture, sing some Christmas carols together which are provided, and the most favorite part is that each family makes a special treat to pass on to the next family to have. The students love to share about what their family does in the advent season and the next child cannot wait to get home to eat the treat with their family. The students learn about each family, and families get to talk about Advent together. Advent becomes very special in the grade one classroom as it is celebrated daily.

Grades 1FW, 1FL, 2E, 2F, 3E, 3F, 4F, 5F and 6/8F teamed up to provide hope to children in developing countries. What more could a child in a developing country hope for than go to school? Sometimes barriers, like distance from school, prohibit a child from receiving an education. This project was designed to purchase bicycles that would allow a child to fetch water, do chores, and get to school faster – all thanks to a bicycle. Families were asked to donate an amount of their choice. We were blown away by the generous support we received from our families for this project. Altogether, \$840.00 was raised. Through Unicef Canada, this allows us to purchase 4 bicycles, as well as playing an invaluable part in bringing life enhancing nutrition, education and relief to children who need it most in Syria.

The Grade 5E classroom decided to create Christmas cards for the residents of the Yorkton Nursing Home. The cards were thoughtfully and prayerfully created by each student and were delivered to the Nursing Home on Dec. 17th. The coordinator at the Nursing Home was very appreciative of the student's gesture and assured us that the residents would love them! They were delivered to residents by staff on Christmas morning.

Grade 7F and Grade 8E classes combined to raise funds for Free the Children. The classrooms purchased clean water for a family, sent 5 children to school with school supplies, bought a goat for a family and a bundle of chicks. Total funds raised was \$600.00.

The Grade 7E classroom walked over and spent some time playing games and being social with the residents of the Bentley Seniors Complex. By playing games and music and conversing with our seniors, students provided service and showed mercy. Students were told that after Christmas there isn't a lot of visitors and that the residents can sometimes feel lonely. The students enjoyed their time and many have asked to go back and visit again later in the year.

Hats off to our entire St. Michael's School Community for demonstrating Mercy and showing support for others who are most in need. We are indeed extremely proud of all your hard work and efforts.

A job Well Done!!