

# MRS. MACDONALD'S MULTI-AGE CLASSROOM

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## “MATH CAN BE FUN”

This week students worked on several math projects dealing with symmetry, patterning, and fractions. Everyone was given a styro-foam ball and asked to think about what we have learned about fractions, and symmetry. They were given the assignment of using sequins and pins to create a symmetrical design on the ball, or divide the ball into fractions. We looked around

and found that many items have symmetry. This project resulted in some beautiful examples of patterning, and symmetry. We continued our work with symmetry by taking a simple piece of paper and creating a square. We found all the lines of symmetry on this four sided figure. We cut on these lines and then made a skip pattern of pulling them to the center. The result was a

beautiful poinsettia flower. These flowers were gathered and are on display in the lobby. On Friday, the class then helped the younger children at The Academy create the same poinsettia flowers. The cooperative learning was a great experience for everyone.

### Important Dates

- ☺ December 21st—Holiday Party for Academy students.
- ☺ January 3rd— Return to School
- ☺ January 25th evening parent night penguin program



# PARENT NIGHT

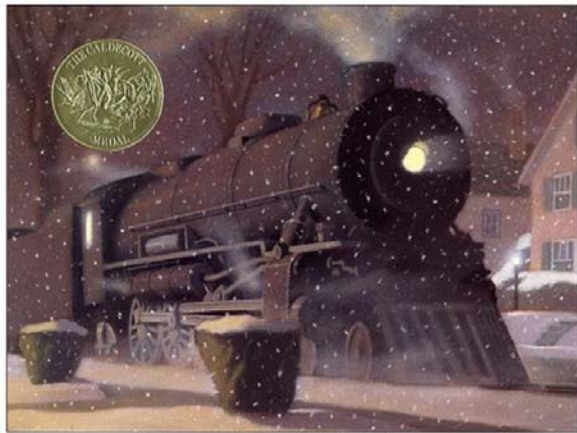


On Thursday evening last week students gathered at the Academy for an evening viewing of the Polar Express. It was a fantastic turnout and everyone seemed to enjoy the movie. The hot dog dinner was enjoyed by over 33 students. We plan to offer another movie night in the New Year.

## READING

Reading groups handed in and reviewed their work on the TIC TAC TOE reading response. Students were given the opportunity to respond to the book they read in a variety of different ways including a letter to the author, a diorama of their favorite scene, or what they would have done if they were a character in the book. We will be reviewing language arts skills this coming week and starting a new book in the new year.

### THE POLAR EXPRESS



The younger readers this week participated in a taping of The Polar Express. They read the book into a digital recorder and then I put the pages of the book onto CD with their voices reading the story. We played this on Friday for the entire Academy. They did a great job. They practiced reading with expression, reading and stopping at the given punctuation and reading a story for fun. They will be reviewing reading skills this week and move on to a new chapter book in the new year.

# YEARBOOK

The yearbook group met last week with Mr. Dinsmoor . We worked on page layout for the yearbook. Most students remembered their homework assignment of having the section they chose and page design ready. This week they learned about how to use Adobe Pagemaker and many of the features in this program. The students have some fantastic ideas and Mr. Dinsmoor has been a great leader for this group. I have learned so much in this EXTRA CLASS. Unfortunately we will not be able to complete all the work necessary to create a yearbook in the 5 week extra time, so I will be asking those willing to help to stay after school once a week in the new year. We will also offer it as another Extra Time in the second semester.



# SOCIAL STUDIES

We are learning about the colonies, starter colonies like Roanoke that failed, and successful colonies like Jamestown. We are comparing the French influence, and English influence in these settlements. We are discussing the impact the Native Americans had on their success and the impact the Europeans had on the Native Americans. We are looking at the impact of slavery on these new colonies and the work of indentured servants. We will continue to explore the early colonies, the impact of coming together and the results of their dissatisfaction with the rule of England over these colonies.



**THE ACADEMY  
MINDS IN MOTION**

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Paul playing the piano at Spotlight and cooperative work on Poinsettias



Movie Night...fun at the  
Polar Express!!

