Happy December!

In **ELA** this month, we are using steps of the writing process to improve our informative writing. Students are building on their knowledge of grammar and parts of speech to construct engaging paragraphs. We are learning a variety of methods to write interesting topic sentences, as well as how to support the topic with relevant facts and details. This will culminate in the students writing informative paragraphs about various topics, and eventually, an essay!

In **Math,** the students will extend their arithmetic work to include using variables to represent numbers in algebraic expressions and equations. Students explore operations in terms of verbal expressions and determine that arithmetic properties hold true with expressions because nothing has changed—they are still doing arithmetic with numbers. They will begin to understand the relationships of operations and use them to generate equivalent expressions, ultimately extending arithmetic properties from manipulating numbers to manipulating expressions. Later this month the students will read, write and evaluate expressions in order to develop and evaluate formulas.

In **Science**, we are exploring types of energy. Students are getting the big picture right now by understanding kinetic and potential energy through experiments and graphs. Later this month, they will learn about other forms of energy and the law of conservation of energy.

In **Social Studies**, we are finishing up our study of Ancient Egypt. The next ancient civilization we will explore will be the Indus River Valley Civilization. We will take a look at the geography of India and how that impacted early settlers. We will also examine the government, religion, economy, daily life and achievements of these people.

In **Religion**, students are taking time to appreciate and celebrate the advent season by writing daily reflections. They are continuing their study of God's people by reading about the Israelites' journey to the promised land.

Have a blessed and joyful Advent month.