

# BRADFORD BULLETIN

B R A D F O R D A C A D E M Y ' S P A R E N T U P D A T E

## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

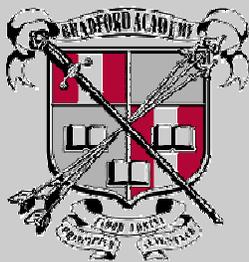
- **NUTCRACKER BALLET**-Dec. 16th
- **Sing at the MACC** - Dec.17th
- **CHRISTMAS BREAK** - Dec. 20-31  
-School resumes Jan. 3rd

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

- Drivers needed for trip to see the ballet at Elon.
- Drivers to Rec Center .
- Snacks for Christmas Party after returning from the Rec Center.

## PRAYER

- **Financial** - Strong end of year giving. Planning for the new year.
- **One another** - Let's strengthen the bonds we share in prayer for one another.
- **Students** - Pray that we would abundantly serve the needs of every child.
- **Enrollment** and plans for our future growth.



Bradford Academy takes **SECOND PRIZE** for homemade float in Mebane's Christmas Parade! The kids sing carols to the community.

## KEEP TELLING THE STORY

One of my cherished family traditions is the annual Christmas eve reading of Luke 2:1-20. While I suspect that I was not always so nostalgic about the ritual, I am now of the mind that it is important on many levels.

First, I am convinced that the reading of the story can provide opportunity for spiritual good. I think the simple reading of the Christmas story causes us to slow down and reflect. We sometimes hear people talk about our need to remember the "reason for the season," but sadly, that exhortation sometimes passes by like so many Christian clichés. We are so blessed with material things and festive gatherings that unless we stop and build in times of quiet and ritual, we will forget the Giver of those good gifts. We really ought to take some time to reflect upon the reason for the season. I say this not because I believe that the holiday is sacred in itself. I only mention it because the holiday can be a temptation to greater distance our heart from Christ when it was intended to do just the opposite. Anything that moves our

mind and heart from Christ (at any time of year) should be resisted.

While there are many other benefits, I would like to touch on one more. Reading the Biblical account of historical events will not only serve your children spiritual good but will serve them well on an academic and intellectual level as well. Let me explain. My younger brother and I recently lamented the loss of Biblical literacy among the rising generation. He teaches at a prestigious private school which serves some of the leading families in his city. He remarked that while teaching *Hamlet*, he constantly had to stop to not only explain the language but had to explain the allusions to which the text was pointing. For example, the students consistently failed to grasp allusions to Eden and the fall of man or Cain's treachery, and missed themes of justice and redemption. It wasn't that these were particularly poor students, they had just never heard the stories. In my own recent experience, those students who were most familiar with the stories of Daniel and Esther were able to best grasp the historical

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TIMOR DOMINI PRINCIPIUM SCIENTIAE

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account of the Persian Empire and the wars with ancient Greece.

E.D. Hirsch, in his bestseller *Cultural Literacy*, argues that modern education is depriving our students the cultural "background" knowledge that speakers and writers of the past assumed the audience already had. A large part of that knowledge is **Biblical Literacy**. We, of all people, should ensure that our children know the stories, know the meaning, have the background. We may be led to assume that our children are very familiar with the accounts of David and Goliath, Daniel in the Lion's Den, Noah's Ark and Jesus in the manger, but there are so many more that need to be told. We can assume they know the stories because we know them. Let's not assume. Let's be sure.

Modern brain research is confirming what parents and teachers have known for years. We cannot fill up a child's mind. The strange reality is that the more a child learns, the more he is able to learn. Learning begets more learning. We never have to worry that our children have filled their minds with trivia. There is always room for more. When that "trivia" is the word of God we can also be comforted because that trivia is not trivial. Let's fill their minds with stories, true stories.

This Christmas take the time to tell the story. Try to capture the glory and mystery of the majestic KING over all the earth sleeping in a box in a barn. Talk about the wonder of the sky being ripped open to reveal the glory of thousands of angelic voices as they sang, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men!" The stories make the message.



## FROM MR. JOHNSTON

**Language Arts:** 2nd - This week we focused on suffixes. We continue to strive to write better sentences with adjectives, adverbs, and prepositional phrases. We are also working on comprehension using several delightful books.

**Language Arts:** 3rd - Students are finishing their look at the ancient Greek Myths using D'Aulaires wonderful retelling of the myths. In grammar we discussed compound subjects and verbs, conjunctions, and interjections..

**Math:** 2nd - Identifying and naming line segments, naming triangles by the sides, word problems, and addition facts.

**Math:** 3rd - quick facts and mental computation, identifying symmetry, measuring scale on a map, multiplication facts, and writing large numbers.

**K/1st History:** Studying the coming of the messiah and the nativity. 1st grade continued to learn the presidents and early events of the Civil War.

**2nd/3rd History:** Discussed Persian wars focusing on the Battles of Marathon and Thermopylae.

## FROM MRS. OGLE

**K Math:** Telling time to the hour, subtracting 0 and a number from itself, estimating and ordering containers by capacity, and identifying even numbers to 20.

**K Reading:** Read, "To the Rim of the Map" and learned short o as in ox.

**1st Math:** Adding two digit numbers with regrouping, and using addition algorithm.

**1st Reading:** Read, "The Sailing Saint" and review of previous blends.

**Language Arts:** Review of nouns, pronouns, abbreviations of months of the year, and practice with story narration.

**Art (K/1st):** Students created a picture like that of Claude Monet. We talked about how Monet painted using short strokes and that many critics during his time said his paintings didn't look finished.

**(2nd/3rd):** Students got more practice thinking about the dot, circle, and line families as they drew a still life drawing. They also thought about light as they shaded in their drawing.

**Music: (K/1st) :** Continued the story, "Hallelujah Handel".

**Music: (2nd/3rd):** Reviewed quarter note, eighth note and quarter rest.

**P. E. :** During indoor P. E. this week, we played some games to practice following directions and team cooperation

## UPCOMING EVENTS AND INFORMATION

**Nutcracker Ballet:** We plan to make our annual trip to Elon's McCrary Theater on Thursday Dec. 16th at 9:30. See permission slip for details.

**Mebane Arts and Recreation:** We have again been invited to sing and recite to the seniors that gather at the Mebane

Arts and Recreation Center on Friday, December 17th. The seniors have always enjoyed our visit in the past. Drivers will be needed if you are available from 10 until 11:30.

We will enjoy our Christmas party when we return!

