

# St. Michael's Classroom News

## November 23, 2009

### Coming to America

Take a peak in our small room and look at our beautiful big ship. We made the Mayflower for our journey to America. After making a list of things we would need for a ship, (wood, nails, sails, masts, an anchor...) **J.** said "we can use the wood from our chicken coop to build the ship". I love it when they make connections like this from one unit to another.

After we built and painted our ship each child added their own special touches over the next few days. **M.** made a Mayflower flag, **A. and A.** made horns, and **H.** and **S.** made anchors. After arriving in the "New Land" we created colonial flags with 13 stars and 13 stripes, one for each of the original 13 colonies. During rest time we watched *An American Tail*. The kids loved this sweet story about Fievel Mouskowitz, a small mouse who immigrates to America to find a safer place for his family to live. The Statue of Liberty was featured in this movie and in several of the books we read this month. We are now experts at spotting her where ever she may be.

During the week of the 16<sup>th</sup> our focus shifted from America to Advent. We created an Advent Wreath, to count down the weeks until Christmas and now have three candles out of the seven lit. Our discussions have been focused on Prayer, Fasting, and Giving Thanks. I was impressed with our class' understanding of each of these ideas. I hope you are enjoying using your prayer boxes and remembering to fill them with all the names of people who you are praying for.

#### **Try this at home:** Google the phrase **School House Rock No more King**

It should bring up a two or three minute cartoon video clip about the pilgrims and colonists. The kids loved watching this clip and would probably love sharing it with you. Enjoy!

#### **This Month's Best Bet Books:**

One of my favorite books this month was *Coming to America, The Story of Immigration* by Betsy Maestro. The kids loved *This Land is Your Land* by Woody Guthrie and Kathy Jakobsen. Next Month we will be reading *The Stone*, by Dianne Hofmeyr and Jude Daly, a wonderful Persian tale of the Magi as recorded in the writings of Marco Polo.

#### **Looking Ahead:**

In December we will be taking a closer look at the Nativity Icon to guide us to Christmas. Each day we will focus on a different part of the icon and its significance. We will be mailing messages, counting and sorting stars, making maps from Nazareth to Bethlehem, feeding the flock, and singing songs of praise. **On the 23<sup>rd</sup> we will be hosting a Birthday Party for Jesus. All of our Families are welcome to come celebrate with us from 11:30 till 12:00.**

