

A CHRISTMAS PRAYER
by Father Kizito
of Nairobi, Kenya.

Prayer for an African Child
(translated from the Italian original)

God smiled, leaning toward a Sudanese boy

*who did not attend school, and did not know His prayer, and
He said:*

*"You know, I have a child just like you. The colour of his skin
is just like yours; he lives in a refugee camp just like yours; he
is often hungry just like you; and he is
forgotten just as you are..."*

*I encouraged him to come and live in your world, so that he
could have lots of friends*

*and play the games of the day, the game of tears and laugh-
ter, of doubt and failure.*

*I sent him into the world of men and he spent his life teach-
ing them the way of love.*

*A few tried to kill him, but they did not succeed: he lives. He
lives in you so*

*that you can grow in happiness and in freedom, so that you
can conquer*

*loneliness and injustice. You know, in him and through him
you are also my child now.*

I see Myself in your eyes and thus I call you....Jesus."



**Web sites of note providing good resources on
the subject of Christmas.**

www.virtualmuseum.ca/Exhibitions/Noel/angl/intro
(gives excellent bibliography for all sorts of Christmas tradi-
tions both French and English)

www.tamu-commerce.edu/coe/shed/espinoza/s/tschoerner
(math lessons with Christmas theme)

www.fidnet.com/~dap1955/dickens/christmas
(good site on Dickens material)

www.geocities.com/heartland/7134/christmas/chridiffi
(interesting activities for students)

www.educationworld.com/a_lesson/00_2/lp2254
(several lessons for teachers)

www.teachersfirst.com/lessons/autoframe
(more lessons)

www.teachersfirst.com/lessons/dickens
(virtual tour of Dickens House)

www.wickham.newbury.sch.uk/xmas/xmastory
(history of Christmas traditions)

www.techdirect.com/christmas/religion
(many links to religious sites, Advent material)

www.rotation.org/lessons/Christmas
(good religious link)

www.christmas.com/worldview
(somewhat secular)

www.educationplanet.com/articles/christmas99
(large master site, lots of links to other sites)

www.njwebworks.net/christmas
(a Christ centered site, no Santa and no Frosty. Excellent link
to other spiritually centered pages on Christmas)

www.kirkofkildaire.org/faithquestflyers/advent
(religious site, good material)

www.christiancrafters.com/candymaker
(excellent, has origins of candy cane, Jesse Tree, Christmas
tree)

www.danishshop.dk/pages/papercut/gallery
(good on clip art, paper cuts and mobiles)

www.store.doverpublications.com/o4869996x
(commercial site, sells CD-ROMs, clip art)

www.rampages.onramp.net/~classics/3_bcpe
(curriculum source but at a price)

www.my.hsonline.net/~kidart/htdoc/lesson51
(details on how to craft a luminary or pierced lantern)

www.7-12educators.about.com/library/weekly/aa112600a
(secondary school ideas for lessons)

**CHRISTMAS
CURRICULUM SUPPLEMENT**

December, 2001
as prepared by the staff of
The Interim

Each day is holy because each day the Lord has made. But Christmas nonetheless has held a special place in the hearts of Christians for centuries. It is a feast which we cannot and must not forget. We must also celebrate it in the proper spirit and with a clear understanding of its religious meaning. These curriculum guidelines are intended to help the teacher to teach about Christmas and the traditions associated with it. The thrust of this month's material deals with the needs of elementary teachers, but there is no reason why some of the topics and activities could not be adapted for high school grades.

An effort has been made to refer teachers to good internet sites which provide useful information and further helpful links on the topic of Christmas.

ELEMENTARY GRADES

Activities engaged in by classes are listed here, in no special order. Some may be too late to implement this year but keep them in mind for the future. Again some are well-known and quite demanding in terms of time required.

1. plan a Christmas concert or put on a pageant or play
2. assign writing assignments on Christmas themes and lore
e.g. the origins of decorating Christmas trees, the singing of carols, the tradition of sending Christmas cards, burning the Yule log, Boxing Day, setting up a creche
3. other writing assignments could deal with comparing Christmas then and now or Christmas in the country or on a farm versus Christmas in the city
4. develop a few math lessons around the following topics: shopping for Christmas dinner; calculating costs of wrapping gifts; shopping for gifts for others; adopting a family; sacrificing personal time to help others in need; costs of travelling certain distances to visit extended family in another city or country.
5. use the internet to virtually tour Charles Dickens House and have students report on their tour. Prepare questions ahead of time to guide their tour or make use of the questions found on the web site.
6. have research done on special Christmas carols and holiday songs, films associated with Christmas, foods of the world and specialties prepared just for Christmas, stories of charity, the real origin of St. Nicholas and the tradition of the exchanging of gifts, how Christmas has been portrayed in art through the ages, the colours associated with Christmas.

7. develop crossword game with Christmas facts and lore.
8. play Jeopardy with Christmas facts and lore.
9. have the class perform an act of charity not for other members of the class but for a child elsewhere in the world. (see the suggestion on Italian web site www.peacelink.it/editor/edit_24)
10. have students organize or participate in a food or clothing drive for a local group in need or for one outside Canada.
11. have students write prayers in prose or in form of poetry and e-mail to others in the world, or deliver to shut-ins, to senior citizens homes, or post to schools in other nations. Choose a school that is in need and have young ones think about the spirit of charity.
12. have students listen to Handel's Messiah and react to what they hear. Explain to them how this type of music speaks across the centuries.
13. decorate a Jesse tree, or conduct a bell ringing service, attend a Christmas cantata, attend an outdoor Living Nativity Scene, read poems.
14. read the Bible story of the Nativity of our Lord.

ESSAY TOPICS OF 200 WORDS LENGTH.

- When did the Christmas tradition start?
Why does Christmas fall in December?
What is the real story behind the composing of Silent Night?
How is Christmas celebrated in your family's culture?
What was your best Christmas ever?
What does Christmas mean to you?
How did the candy cane come about?

**OTHER TOPICS FOR
WRITING ASSIGNMENTS**

- My favorite Christmas short story is.....
My favorite Christmas food is.....
My favorite Christmas poem is.....
My favorite Christmas movie is.....
My favorite Christmas carol is.....
My favorite Christmas song is

- My favorite Christmas game is.....
My favorite Christmas activity is.....



THE MATH LESSON FOR A GRADE SIX CLASS

Grade: Six	Project: Adopt A Family for Christmas	Subject: Mathematics	Strand: Number Sense and Numeration
Overall Expectations: By the end of Grade 6, students will: Select and perform computation techniques appropriate to specific problems involving unlike denominators in fractions and the multiplication and division of decimals, and determine whether the results are reasonable. Solve and explain multi-step problems using the multiplication and division of decimals and percents.			
Specific Expectations: Students will: pose problems involving whole numbers, decimals, and percents and solve them using the appropriate calculation method: pencil and paper, or calculator or computer. solve simple rate and ratio problems.			
Ontario Christian School Graduate Expectations: The graduate is expected to be: a discerning believer formed in the Christian Faith Community who develops attitudes and values founded on Christian social teaching and acts to promote social responsibility, human solidarity and the common good. a self-directed, responsible, life long learner who demonstrates a confident and positive sense of self and respect for the dignity and welfare of others.			
Project Description: Many church congregations organize a service outreach project during the Christmas season called "Adopt a Family for Christmas". Family parishioners, a school or individual class, or a company can participate in this project. A basket including complete food items for Christmas dinner is requested. Other items such as gifts for family members, treats, additional groceries and / or appropriate good quality new or used clothing could also be included.			
Resources / Materials: Canada's Food Guide (booklets) Grocery flyers (different stores) Chart paper / markers Camera Photo album Scrap book for student reflections Other		Plan: Begin by brainstorming with the class how funds will be raised to purchase the food for the Christmas dinner (e.g. bake sale, walk-a-thon, etc.) and set goal for amount of money to be raised (e.g. \$200). Set a date for the fundraising event. Once money has been raised, begin class work related to the preparation of the Christmas dinner basket. Break students into small groups. Provide students with grocery flyers and Canada's Food Guide booklets. Have groups brainstorm grocery list (including miscellaneous items) for Christmas dinner. Lists should be recorded on chart paper. Remind students to try to keep a balance of each food group by referring to Canada's Food Guide. Each group is to present their list to the class. Class to refer to group grocery lists on chart paper to finalize a class grocery list of items to be purchased for Christmas dinner. Budgeting for the purchase of the dinner would be wise, i.e. how much money should be allotted for each food group and miscellaneous items. Class discussion could focus on which food(s) would be more or less expensive.	
Methodology: Cooperative Learning Class discussion Group Discussion Student Presentations Teacher Directed			

THE MATH LESSON FOR A GRADE SIX CLASS (cont.)

<p>Cooperative Learning Strategy: Brainstorm Jigsaw (Food group conferences)</p> <p>Assessment / Evaluation: Presentation (Group grocery lists) Performance Task (Adopt A Family Christmas dinner grocery list) Journal (Reflections) Observation (Group work) Quiz (Solving rate problems)</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div>	<p>At this point, the teacher should introduce the concept of rate using the flyers and referring to those food items sold by kilogram (e.g. fruits, vegetables, meats, candy, nuts, etc.) . A teacher directed lesson would be appropriate here. Create problems from the flyers. (E.g. How much would it cost to purchase 0.5 kg of carrots sold at \$4.39 / kg? How many kilograms of potatoes can be purchased for \$3.00 given potatoes are sold at \$1.74 / kg? If licorice is sold at \$5.69 / kg, can we purchase 2 kg of this candy if we have \$11.00?)</p> <p>Once students are equipped with the required math skills, group students in groups of five. Each group member will be designated to a food group / miscellaneous group (i.e. grains/breads representative, fruits/vegetables representative, meats and meat alternatives representative, milk and milk products representative and miscellaneous items representative). Provide each group with the class grocery list. Groups will be given flyers for one particular grocery store (e.g. IGA, Loblaws, No Frills, etc.) and will calculate the cost of the dinner items purchased at that store. Calculations will include solving simple rate problems for the food items sold by kilogram (as per teacher directed lesson). Each group representative will calculate the cost of his/her food or miscellaneous group purchases. Together, the group will calculate the total grocery list cost. The teacher can take this opportunity to circulate among the groups and provide assistance when needed. Group work observation will provide teacher with the opportunity to assess Learning Skills.</p> <p>Once group calculations are complete, arrange for a food / miscellaneous group representatives Conference Jigsaw. Each group representative will meet with all group representatives of that food / miscellaneous group. During each conference, all representatives will present their specific grocery list calculations. Jigsaw groups will discuss which store offers the best overall prices for that group. The teacher should then have each conference group present their choice of store. The class will then decide where the Christmas dinner food items will be purchased (one or more store(s)). The teacher can invite parents to participate with students in the purchase of the food items for the dinner.</p> <p>Closure of the Adopt A Family Christmas dinner project can include student reflections on the project (outreach to the community; learning experience; collaboration of class; etc...) and / or a quiz involving solving rate problems.</p> <p>As an addition to the project, the class can create a photo album of the process for the adopted family. The album can include pictures of the students working in class, shopping for the dinner at the grocery store and / or a class picture. In addition, a scrapbook for the adopted family can be made including a class card signed by all the students and / or student reflections of the project.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Math lesson created by: C. Quadrive who teaches math in York Region, outside Toronto.</i></p>
--	---