

Dear parents,

We were in full feast mode today and yesterday. To get us in the mood, we kicked off Monday morning by singing a song about all the foods we'd each bring for Thanksgiving dinner - turkey was a popular choice, as were sweets of all sorts, mashed potatoes, pie, and stuffing. We talked about how all of us have our own food preferences and dietary restrictions - some of us are vegetarians, others are omnivores; many of us love dessert, but some aren't so keen. We agreed that every choice is the right choice as long as we eat a healthy, balanced diet! In the classroom, the children wrote a journal entry identifying their favorite food.

In the art room, we "served" a tasty Thanksgiving dinner, complete with cotton ball mashed potatoes (don't forget the felt butter!), pom-pom peas, pipe cleaner corn, dried and dyed macaroni, construction paper green beans, foam carrots, and felt cranberry sauce, all of which they could help themselves to and place on a paper plate. There were also foam turkey legs (our vegetarians wisely decided to pass on the turkey) and big slices of foam pumpkin pie, which the children got to cut themselves. Using multi-dimensional materials to create artwork is a unique experience for children. It not only provides interesting sensory feedback, but also challenges their perspective and "gluing up" skills.

A big thank you to all of you for our real "Thanksgiving feast," enjoyed at lunch today. Our Show and Tell was particularly delicious, and the children were so proud to tell what they brought to share with their friends. We enjoyed sampling everyone's offerings - it was a fun and tasty way to celebrate our very special Red 4s family. We are immensely grateful for you and for your children, today and every day!

### **Looking ahead to December:**

**Thanksgiving Photo** - If it's not too much trouble, please send us (via email) a photo of your Thanksgiving fun - it could be a family dinner, a museum visit, a trip to the beach, playtime with cousins, you name it. We will be writing a journal entry about what we did over the break next Tuesday, so ideally we'd have them by this coming Monday morning. Don't worry if you don't have the chance to get us a photo. We find that photos serve as wonderful prompts for our journaling, but we can always draw a picture in a pinch.

**December 6 and December 13 Show and Tell** - Next week's Show and Tell (December 6) will feature the letter D.

For Show and Tell on Friday, December 13, we thought it would be nice for the children to bring in a new, unwrapped toy that they would like to give to a child in need this holiday season. Pam and Vicky will deliver the toys to the Toys for Tots toy drive on Saturday, December 14. In the spirit of encouraging kindness and generosity, we hope this is something you all will enjoy doing with your children. We know our collection of toys will bring smiles to lots of children's faces.

**December 20 Holiday Show** - Our 4s Holiday Show (featuring holiday songs and two special performances by the Red and Blue classes) will take place on Friday, December

20, immediately following the 3s performance (around 9:35) in Parish Hall. Our morning will wrap up right after the show. If your child will be unable to attend that morning, please let us know - don't worry, they will still rehearse and participate fully with us over the next three weeks. We invite anyone who can't attend on Friday to drop by Parish Hall on Thursday, December 19 at 9:30, when we will be doing a dress rehearsal. We'll send more reminders about all this as we get a bit closer to the big day.

**Holiday Traditions** - Over the next few weeks, we will be talking about holiday traditions from around the world, and we would like to compile a book of our holiday traditions with something from every family. Please fill out the attached document and return it to us by Monday, December 9. (Your children also have hard copies of the form in their backpacks.) We are excited to learn about everyone's favorite holiday traditions!

We wish you all a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday, full of family, friends, and fun!

Vicky and Pam



