



STUDENTS WITH THE CAST OF THE BEST CHRISTMAS PAGEANT EVER

# BSS Afterschool Program: December 2018 Newsletter

CRAFTS, MENTORING, & BOWLING

## Enrichment

On Tuesdays and Thursdays this month we have continued the process of making Christmas cutout cookies. Last month, we mixed the dough. This month we started off by baking the dough after using Christmas cookie cutters.



We ended the month by allowing the kids to show their creative

side as they frosted and decorated their cookies before taking them home to enjoy.



In addition, visiting artist Vicki Murphy has continued to work with our students on their mosaic projects.



## Literacy Activities

We had many great opportunities to focus on literacy this month. The literacy activity that our students enjoyed the most was a Christmas Roll-A-Story, which we worked on all month long.



For this activity, students worked with their grade level teachers to create a Christmas story by rolling a dice to choose the different elements of the story including the main character, the setting time and place, and the conflict or plot. Then, they used a graphic organizer to form their thoughts before writing the story in their

groups. On the last day of the Afterschool Program this month, we shared our stories with the other groups.

We also focused a lot on *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever* as a literacy activity this month. We continued reading the play before going to watch it at the Bucyrus Little Theatre. Then, we watched the movie version and compared and contrasted all three. The students and staff agreed that seeing the play was the best part. Our students even got to meet the cast after the play!

## Community Partners

We welcomed Desiree Levering from ADAMH back to the Afterschool Program this month to do an activity with our students that helped them get to know each other better. Desiree had each student write on a piece of paper 3 descriptive things about themselves. Students then wadded their paper up into a ball and had a "snow ball" fight in the hall with the papers. Next, we took turns reading the descriptions and tried to match the descriptions to the person who wrote it. This activity showed our students that what someone looks like on the outside might not be the same as how they see themselves.

## Holiday Craft

We continued getting into the holiday spirit by making Christmas crafts this month. Students could choose to make a Christmas tree, a reindeer, or a



Santa out of Popsicle sticks. Once they finished their craft, our students could make another craft of their choosing. Some of our kids even chose to give their high school mentors their craft as a gift.



## Peer Mentoring

We were able to introduce a few more middle school students to their high school mentors this month, and they are getting along wonderfully. Some of our mentors have even been taking time out of their school day to check on their middle school buddies.

When they weren't working on homework, our mentees completed Christmas activities with their mentors. Also, since

the school has been having a food drive, we had our students do a "What's in my Heart" activity to brainstorm other good things we can do in our community to make our hearts grow even bigger like the Grinch.

## Behavior & Attendance Reward

We took our students back to Suburban Lanes for our December behavior and attendance reward, and our high school mentors were able to join us again!



## Upcoming Events

- Program resumes January 7<sup>th</sup>
- No program January 10<sup>th</sup> due to conferences