December 7th, 2015

 Today we worked on making stockings in class. This project took a lot of time and was quite intense! The students got a little frustrated at how time consuming the project was. I kept reminding them of the outcome, which would help motivate them once again. The project involves weaving yarn in paper, which requires fine motor skills. Some students are struggling with this, while others have great motor skills. There can be such a wide gap in abilities at this age! Thankfully, by the end of the day everyone had completed his or her project successfully.

December 8th, 2015

 My master teacher gives award out each week to a few students. By the end of the month, each student has received one award from her. Today, I made 6 awards for students. It’s a bit hard to think of creative awards to give out each week. I have mixed feelings on these awards. On one hand, it is great to recognize students. On the other hand, giving so many awards out each month almost takes away the “special-ness” of awards. This is something I am sure I will continue contemplating as I prepare to become a teacher.

December 9th, 2015

 Today was a busy day! The students had library time as well as computer lad. This didn’t leave much time for intense lesson plans. My master teacher and I ended up having a few odd gaps to fill in the day. During one time frame we decided I would read a bit of Hansel and Gretel to the students, which I began reading a few days ago. I read the story and checked for understanding by asking students what certain words meant, and having students interpret pictures. I also asked what had happened previously and had them make predictions. I found that these questions were a great way to check for understanding, and I was glad that I had the opportunity to read them the book and ask questions. I love sharing my love of reading with students, and it is something I plan to do often in my own class.

December 10th, 2015

 Today I taught a lesson on position words. We made a bubble map and did this lesson as a whole class. Although the lesson was not as interactive and fancy as I like to have my lessons, it was still productive. The students were participating and enthusiastic during the whole lesson. They all understood the objective of the lesson and gave great ideas. Participation was fabulous. It reminded me that although cooperative learning is great, its still okay to do a more direct instruction focused lesson every once and awhile☺

December 11th, 2015

 The main event of today was a manger scene project. I was an art-centered project that was fairly simple to teach. I also included the history of manger scene art, which originates from France (according to the information my master teacher wanted to use). The projects came out beautifully and were all unique and original. I would love to use this project if I teach at a private Christian school in the future. I am not sure if it is well suited to a public school, but I think it would be wonderful at a Christ-centered school.