ELEMENTARY SCHOOLERS CALCULATING THE TOTAL COST OF PRESENTS IN 'THE 12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS'

How much are you spending on Christmas presents this year? Probably not as much as the "true love" in the classic Christmas song "The 12 Days of Christmas."

WHAT:	'The 12 Days of Christmas' Calculations
WHEN:	**Wednesday, December 20** third graders at 8:10 a.m.; fifth graders at 11:25 a.m.; fourth graders at 1:45 p.m.
WHERE:	Clara Barton Elementary School, 1417 6th Street South, Fargo
CONTACT:	**Anna Wuitschick**, Clara Barton gifted and talented teacher, wuitsca@fargo.k12.nd.us or 701.446.4435 for more information.

The "true love" of the protagonist of "The 12 Days of Christmas" spent hundreds of thousands of dollars on their near-two week display of affection. The third, fourth, and fifth graders in the gifted services math groups at Clara Barton Elementary School have been working to figure out exactly how big their Christmas present budget was and will complete their calculations on Wednesday.

The third grade students are tasked with calculating how much money is spent on presents each day of "The 12 Days of Christmas." The fourth graders are calculating the total cost of each present – for example, how much it costs to purchase a partridge in a pear tree 12 times. The fifth graders are learning how to input the data into a spreadsheet and create charts that show their results.

PNC Bank has researched the cost of each present in "The 12 Days of Christmas" since 1984 and has released the findings each year as the Christmas Price Index. The students have used the Christmas Price Index to help guide their calculations. This year, the price of a partridge in a pear tree is $319.18 and the cost of seven swans is $13,125.

Gifted and Talented Teacher Anna Wuitschick starts the unit by watching YouTube videos of performances of the song; one by The Muppets, one by Sesame Street, and ones that other schools have recorded. Then the start to look at the prices of the presents and work on their math skills and start calculations from there. Wuitschick also makes sure that the students know the 12 days of Christmas start on Christmas and not before.

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