

January 2010

It's hard to believe but I'm seven months old now and a lot has happened in that time. My mom says I'm growing – I'm getting quite a bit taller. Someone told me that you grow when you sleep. Maybe that's why I'm growing. I take naps a lot; I just lie down in the pasture and sleep for awhile. In order to grow, I must be eating a lot, too. I've tried to eat the snacks that people bring me like carrots and apples but my baby teeth aren't strong enough to hang onto the food to get a bite; it falls out of my mouth. The hair on my coat and on the other Fjord horses has really gotten thick. We are ready for cold winter weather.

My days and nights have been much quieter since Christmas. I've heard that December is busy for you with buying and wrapping gifts, Christmas program practices and the anticipation of Christmas Day. It's nice to have some quiet time. Have you ever noticed how much you can see when you're not busy? During the day I like to watch breath coming from the horses' noses. It's like little puffs of steam. I can see my breath, too. It comes out faster when I run to keep warm. At night when I can't sleep I try to count the stars. It's amazing how they twinkle. One night I thought I saw a huge star that was really close. But my mom said it's the light from the steeple on the church at our ranch. Pam took us for a walk over by the church just after dark. The steeple light was on but as I looked at the ground I saw different snowflakes sparkling like diamonds. It made me feel rich. God's creation is amazing!

In the quiet moments I've also been thinking about what my world will look like when Joy Ranch is completed and people come to stay in the new buildings. As I look toward the church I can imagine light coming from the windows of the Welcome Center, the bunkhouse or the Thirsty Boot Café. I can almost hear the talk and laughter of campers and retreaters. It gives me a warm feeling inside to know that so many people are working to make this place a reality. Thank you for being warm glowing lights, "little diamonds" working to raise money for the playground.

Pam mentioned that she's been rereading some of the Christmas cards she's received. I'd like to get mail, too. Could you write me a letter and let me know what things your Sunday School is doing to raise money for our playground? I'm looking forward to hearing from you.



Your friend,

Sven