

DorleLettersM L0009 (English)

Dear Bärbel, How are you? How are your grades at school? Have you improved? Will you be moving up to the next grade at Easter? Here, the children in elementary school don't have to do any homework, but they do have school in the afternoons. I'm often alone with the two boys, and you should see the things they get up to! If I knew more English, I would tell them stories or read to them. But I doubt that would be much of a treat for them. So instead, we play football in the midst of silver and crystal and chandeliers. That really makes me sweat. The children have colds, you see, and have to stay inside. The other day, 6-year-old Teddy got ahold of his mother's nail polish and painted the radiator, the floor, and his toenails. That gave me a few hours of work afterward, because Mrs. Duggan loves nothing more than top quality, and the cold. Today the children went Christmas shopping with their mother. Advent wasn't celebrated here at all, and they don't know about Saint Nicholas either. I also haven't heard anyone singing Christmas carols yet. The children do know "Silent Night," and "Joy to the World." In Niagara Falls, there are 3 cheap days for shopping. The shop windows are decorated, but only with artificial stuff and electric gadgets, but they do have Christmas trees here, and holly branches too. Bibbie is playing "Oh du lieber Augustin" on the piano. Have a wonderful Christmas celebration. This year you have plenty of space! Best wishes from Dorli.