Mary’s teacher told the class about the holiday called Mardi Gras. She said that Mardi Gras means “Fat Tuesday” in French. Many people dress up in costumes. There are parades.

Today the class went to see a Mardi Gras parade. People lined the street. There were flags on the buildings. Mary liked the bands that led the parade. Drums pounded in a steady beat. Horns played. Then the parade floats began to roll by. People threw plastic beads and coins from the floats. Mary slipped to the front of the crowd.

By the end of the parade, she had caught several necklaces. Her pockets were filled with brightly colored coins. It had been fun. Mary already was looking forward to next year’s parade.