

A Message from the Principal...Mrs. Bland

**Standardized Testing** - Next week is Standardized Testing Week for students in Kindergarten – 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Please make sure your children are well rested and have a good breakfast.

**Pet Blessing** - Deacon Don will be blessing pets on Tuesday, October 4. Pets can be brought to school between 2:00 and 2:15. The blessing of the pets will begin at 2:15. There will be a short prayer service in the gym before the students go out to the parking lot to meet up with their pets for the blessing.

**No School** -There will be no school on October 7. Teachers will be attending a Catechetical Institute at Lewis University in Romeoville. There will be no school on October 10 which is Columbus Day. Enjoy the four day weekend with your children.

**School Pictures** – Tuesday, October 18 is School Picture Day. This is casual or dress-up day. Remember to wear shoes that have a back to them.

As summer ends and we begin a new season, remember to enjoy the beauty of God's colorful autumn.

**Dates to Remember**

September 23 – Spirit Wear Day

Popcorn Day provided by PTO (no snack needed today)

1<sup>st</sup> Grade visits the Public Library @ 10:40

September 26 – Standardized Testing begins

Volleyball Game @ St Cyril – 7:30

September 28 – Kindergarten Mass @ 8:10

8<sup>th</sup> Grade Parent/Sponsor Meeting @ 6:00pm

September 29 – Speech Contest Practice – 2:40 – 3:30pm

September 30 – SOWIC Proportionate share Meeting @8:30 am – Intermediate School

## News from Preschool...Miss Montgomery

The preschoolers are having so much fun at school! Here are a few things that we worked on this week. MWF students have learned a new good morning song to help them remember their classmates' names. *Hello, \_\_\_ How Are You? Who Is Sitting Next To You?* T/Th students are still working on stating their own name each morning. The song we sing every morning is; *Hickity Pickity Bumble Bee, Won't You Say Your Name For Me? My Name Is \_\_\_.* T/Th students made their own Hickity Pickity Bumble Bee this week at school so they can practice at home with it. We read a book about sharing and God's Creation. The students are working hard on recognizing and ordering numbers 0-5. We also discussed how we take individual letters and put them together to create words. Our focus this week has been words that begin with the letter *Bb*.

Next week we will be working with the letter *Cc*, the color *green*, the number *3* and triangles. MWF group will start their *Seeds* religion program. On Monday, we will celebrate Johnny Appleseed with Kindergarten and First grade students. Students will get to participate in many different activities. Next week we will have our first show-n-tell days. For this show-n-tell students may bring in anything they would like. Remember this should be something that will fit in their backpacks, nothing that may scare our friends and no toy guns/weapons. MWF students will share on Wednesday, September 28<sup>th</sup> and T/Th students will share on Thursday, September 29<sup>th</sup>.

Have a wonderful weekend!

## News from First Grade.....Mrs. Vimpeny

The first graders did a fantastic job with yesterday's communion service! I am so proud of them. Now we can concentrate on our Religion and Skills for Growing books for a while.

In Reading, Phonics, and Spelling, we are still working with short i words and words that end with x. We are also learning about the setting of a story: where and when the story takes place. In Language Arts, we read some mixed up sentences and figured out the correct word order so they made sense.

In Math, we learned how to write addition sentences. We read story problems and solved for the sum. Now would be a good time to start working with those addition flash cards!

The students did a really neat art project by make line designs with Sharpie pens on an oak leaf pattern. They did a very nice job.

Thank you for returning the latest set of yes/no slips so promptly! I have another set ready to go home.

Remember that we are walking to the library tomorrow. We will be leaving school at 10:40 and returning approximately at 11:20. I may need a chaperon or two.

I send the Reading book home on Mondays and Wednesdays after we have read stories in class. I ask that you have your child read them with you on those evenings. Please do not look ahead at stories that we have not yet read. It is fine to go back and revisit earlier stories.

Next week is Testing Week. Please make sure that your children get a good night's sleep and eat a nutritious breakfast so they can do their best on the cognitive tests. We will not be doing a regular unit in Reading, so there will not be a spelling test next week.

Enjoy your weekend!

### News from Second Grade.....Miss Allmon

The second graders have adjusted to the routines and procedures of the classroom. I am very proud of how well the second graders did at the Grandparent's Day Mass. It was very nice meeting all the grandparents last week on Grandparent's Day! So far in second grade we have had 3 star students. Alicea Warriner was our first star student and she continues to prove each day she is a star! Raelene DesRochers was last week's star student. She is a good friend to everyone in the class and a hard worker! This week our new star student is Jessen Valone. Jessen is a good listener and takes pride in his work!

Our reading story this week is The Three Little Bikers. Finding the author's purpose and using clues to figure out the setting of a story are the comprehension skills we are looking at this week. Our phonics and spelling words focus on the long *e* sound spelled *ee* and *ea* as well as final consonant digraphs: *sh, ch, th, ng*. In writing we will continue to practice writing complete sentences and identifying the subject and predicate of a sentence.

In Religion we have finished chapter one in our Reconciliation book. We looked at how God calls each of us by name and the importance of Baptism. Our focus this week is on the Great Commandment. Students learned new words like conscience, free will, and sin. We also discussed how to make good choices and follow our conscience. The Act of Contrition Prayer has been sent home with your child. Please practice the prayer with your child each night. They will need to know the prayer for Reconciliation.

In math we continue topic 2: addition strategies. Students will be tested on this unit next Tuesday. Please practice basic addition facts with your child.

Science has been exciting. We are continuing our unit on living and nonliving things. Last week the second graders built terrariums to help understand more about animal habitats. We will next examine the parts of a plant, and compare a cactus to a mum. In Social Studies we will continue to learn about communities, maps, and directions. Students will practice reading maps and using a map key.

We begin testing next week. Please make sure your child gets plenty of rest. I give them many breaks and try to make it as relaxing as possible for them. I have been passing out special treats for energy and to reward them for all of their hard work. Please emphasize to your child that next week is very important and it is important that they focus and try their best. There will be no Spelling homework or test next week. We will be spending the available time we do have reviewing concepts taught so far in Reading and Math. We will also use the time to catch up on the topics in Social Studies and Science we haven't had time for.

Just as a reminder there is a Reconciliation meeting for parents Wednesday, October 5th at 6:00 pm. This is for the parents only; the second graders do not need to attend. I will be sure to send home a reminder next week. If you have any questions about the Reconciliation meeting please contact me.

## News from Third Grade.....Mrs. Girot

I'm happy to say that our third graders have settled into our daily routine. So many things are happening in our classroom.

Religion: Our focus is on the three sacraments of initiation which are Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation. We continue to recite the Apostles' Creed each day. The children are to continue working on this prayer at home. One of our goals is to have this prayer memorized by midyear.

Penmanship: We continue to learn new lowercase cursive letters during penmanship.

Reading: The students are enjoying entertaining stories such as "Goldilocks and the Three Bears", "Anthony Reynoso: Born to Rope", and "Herbie and Annabelle". We are using these stories to practice skills like making predictions, drawing conclusions, determining the author's purpose, and main idea.

English: The students are identifying types of sentences and subjects and predicates.

Math: The third graders are learning to read, compare, and order numbers into the hundred thousands. We are also practicing counting money and counting back change. This is a great activity to practice at home. Ask your child to count out amounts of money for you at home. Then, ask them to count back change from a given amount by counting up. We will take our test on Topic 1 on Friday.

Science: We continue to learn about life cycles. The students took a close look at eggs, which is the first stage in the life cycle of many animals. We have also spent time this week learning about complete and incomplete metamorphosis. We are studying the life cycles of the butterfly and the grasshopper to understand these concepts more clearly.

Race for Education: The students completed filling out all of our mailers for the Race for Education. Thank you to all of our families for participating by filling out all of those mailing labels. It will be exciting to see the results of everyone's efforts.

Market Day Cookie Dough: The students are enjoying wearing their cookie lanyards and showing off how much cookie dough they have sold. Many of our third graders have even been prize winners. Thanks to everyone for selling those cookies!

Engrade: A letter was sent home this week to help explain Engrade to everyone. Parents with older siblings will already be familiar with Engrade. If you're new to Engrade this year, it is very easy to use and you can check your student's progress at any time. If you have any questions, please be sure to ask.

Testing Week: Next week is standardized testing. The best help you can give your child is to be sure they get a good night of sleep as well as a healthy breakfast each morning. Encourage them to do their best and really "show what they know". Testing week can be a little stressful for some, but we build in many breaks throughout the week as well.

## News from Sixth Grade/ Jr. High Science.....Mrs. Plese

Thank you to the sixth grade parents that were enthusiastically planning on accompanying us on our field trip on Tuesday. Special thanks to Mr. Ekberg, Mrs. Narine, Mrs. Cooper and Mrs. Nutt. The field trip has been rescheduled for Monday, October 3rd. Again, all of the sixth grade parents are invited to join us.

Information regarding two reading incentive programs will be sent soon. Both Pizza Hut and Monical's Pizza are offering reading reward incentives to our students. Additional information will be sent home soon. The programs begin in October.

Next week is standardized testing week. Please send a snack to school each day with your well rested child.

Have a great weekend!

### **PreSchool**

The Preschool class is working very hard on a website called Starfall.com. Each week they come into the computer lab and we work on the letter of the week. They get to navigate the mouse to click on different items on the screen. They are doing excellent and they are quickly learning how to operate the computer.

### **1<sup>st</sup> Grade**

We have worked with the paint program and made gumball machines. The paint program is a great way for the students to learn how to use the mouse and how to draw lines, fill in objects, and make designs. They have a blast with this program.

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Grade**

This week 2<sup>nd</sup> grade has started learning how to use PowerPoint . We have gone over the basics on creating slides and doing fun animations. They are learning very quickly and they are just about ready to create their own presentation.

### **3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> Grade**

3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> graders are working on an Animal PowerPoint Presentation. They are working in pairs and they are creating a 5 slide presentation to show the class. They are researching on the internet to find out the information that they need. They are also saving all of their information on their USB drives. The students are working very well with their partners and I can't wait to see their presentations!

### **5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup>**

5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders are working on a new PowerPoint presentation that will be called "Come, See My Great State." They are working in groups of 3 to develop a presentation of their state (those will be picked on Monday). They are going to try to persuade me to move my business into their state. I can't wait for this project!

### **7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup>**

7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders are starting a project called "Moving On Up". They have each been assigned a partner and salary by random. They are going to select a city in each of the 4 regions of the United States. They have been given a sheet that has all the requirements of what they need. Once all of that information has been researched, they will put it in an excel graph and choose which city will be best for them to live in under their circumstances. Then it will be presented to the class.