



October News, Room 103



September 29, 2017

Dear Parents,

Autumn is here, and we hope it brings great weather for learning! The children have settled in quickly, and following a long summer of fun and relaxation, they are officially back in business for learning! This month is full of special activities and events, so please carefully read the school calendar, weekly blurbs, this newsletter and other info on the Wednesday E-envelope each week via the St. Chris website so that you and your child will be well informed.

Reading: Comprehension skills we will work on this month include sequence, compare and contrast, and author's purpose. Comprehension strategies include visualization (picture in your head what you read) and noticing story structure (beginning, middle, and end). This month, and throughout the year, we will also review comprehension skills and strategies previously taught in the year (such as theme, and context clues). Regarding Book-it, please remember the children are expected to read at least 400 mins. at home each month as part of their daily homework, and return their completed Book-it form to Mrs. Daigler on the first class day of each new month (Oct. Bookit due Wed. Nov. 1). The October Book-it form was given to the children on Thursday 9/28, it should be in their Homework folders.

L. Arts: This month the children will be introduced to "The Writing Process", which is writing that focuses on one stage at a time, like draft, revision... (see LA journal). In addition, we will focus on The Six Writing Traits in formal writing, focusing on ideas, organization, and word choice this month. In October, third graders will study the characteristics of a personal narrative, and write one of their own. We will also spend a great deal of time learning to produce a strong written response to literature we encounter, not only in reading, but in Science and Math as well. In addition, we will explicitly work on listening skills (understanding and recalling details of verbal information), which we will continue to work on all year. I hope you work on this skill with your child at home as well. Other learning objectives include learning to write more elaborate sentences, writing paragraphs that focus on one main idea, and using reference sources to find more interesting and sophisticated words to use in writing that are spelled correctly, such as a dictionary, thesaurus, and glossary.

Math: For the next few weeks we will be working on Chapters 2 and 3 in our Math book, Addition and Subtraction. A study guide was emailed home and posted on my

web page last week for our first Math test on Oct. 11, which will cover skills, vocab and concepts from Chapters 1 and 2. After a little more review with addition and subtraction, later in October we will have a test on Ch 3, then begin Chapter 4: Understand Multiplication. We will begin Division in November. The children will start to memorize their 2 and 5 multiplication facts this month. Practice will be needed at home to properly memorize multiplication facts. Lastly, before we jump into multiplication it would be most helpful to review simple addition facts daily at home so your child knows the answer to $8+8$, (or 8×2) for example, instantly. Finger counting is not a good practice at this point, as it will lead to many errors in virtually all aspects of Mathematics. Thank you for anything you can do to help!

Religion: October is the month we will honor Mary, as we learn to pray the Rosary. We will say a decade of the rosary in class whenever possible, and encourage you to do the same with your family this month if at all possible. We will review the Hail Mary, and learn what the words in this prayer mean. We will also be working with our "Good News" magazines each week, which parallel the Gospel readings read at the previous Sunday Mass. We encourage you to play a special role in your child's faith development this year by taking them to church every weekend and talking about the sermon, as well as praying together as a family. This will make a huge difference in your child's journey toward First Eucharist in May. We are planning a Bible Blessing and Distribution Ceremony in church, immediately following one of our Tuesday School Masses. Parents are encouraged to join us, as each child will be given their own blessed Bible that they will use this year to help them learn to understand scripture and bring them closer to Jesus. We will also take the children on a tour of St. Christopher Church this year. We will send you these dates as soon as possible. You should have received a schedule from St. Chris. Religious Education, regarding important dates concerning preparation for First Communion, including a mandatory Parent Meeting this month, Oct 2nd or 3rd(parents must attend only one night).

Science: In October, we will focus on atmosphere, weather, and storms. We will have "pop" quizzes regularly this year in Science that will ask questions for topics we discuss in class. Important vocabulary and facts can be found in your child's Science Journal so they can study a little bit at home to better understand the terms/concepts we discuss in class.

SS: The students are enjoying our journey in North America for the Amazing Race. We have begun our journey with focusing on the geography and landmarks of the United States and Canada. Students will be completing map tasks and activities to sharpen their skills. Next, we will focus on the types of government of the United States and Canada. The students will learn the fundamental parts of our government and the Canadian government. We also will role play as a class so the students can experience the responsibilities and decisions that our governments have each day. Throughout the month, students will complete "roadblocks" or mini

quizzes on the content covered in class. As long as the students are paying attention in class, and completing tasks, the roadblocks will come naturally.

Halloween: Grades K-3 will celebrate Halloween on Tuesday, Oct. 31 which will feature many fun activities, including a Halloween parade. After the parade we will have a simple party in our classroom. Students may arrive to school on the 31st wearing school-appropriate Halloween costumes (please respect the school's policy regarding weapons and masks, which are not allowed). Please feel free to send in store bought treats for your child to pass in the classroom for their friends to take home, Rm. 103 has 19 students.

Our Field trip to the Buffalo Naval Park was amazing!! I hope your son/daughter told you all about it! Mrs. Pronti and I were extremely grateful to our fine chaperones, who made this a wonderful trip. Thank you!!

Parent Teacher Conferences are October 19. Reminders with the time and date you signed up for will be sent home in your son/daughter's Orange Take-home Folder.

Finally, even though your child is doing well completing his/her agenda and homework, that doesn't mean you should stop checking their agenda and homework each night. As competent as they seem to be getting, remember they are still little kids, and while they may complain when you ask to see their agenda and homework, they will also hear you proclaim, "Learning is awesome, **and** important!" when you take the time each night to check in on their schoolwork. I can't thank you enough for your continued support this year!

Best wishes for a wonderful October!

Blessings,

Mrs. Daigler

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