



February Newsletter, Room 105

February 5, 2018

Dear Parents,

Where did January go? We've learned a lot this week while we had loads of fun celebrating Catholic Schools Week! Go Cougars!! February will bring plenty of great opportunities for learning, as well...

Language Arts/Reading - We will look at the specific elements required to present an effective declamation, which is a performance of a memorized poem, speech, or other famous piece of literature. Information for this project will be posted on next Wednesday's classroom page. All of the children will need to have the poem/short story/speech they would like to use, approved by Mrs. Pronti by **Tues., 2/28**. The children won't begin presenting their declamations to the class until March (probably Mar. 21), so they will have plenty of time to work on their presentation. Also this month, we will learn about the characteristics of informative writing (as for writing a report), and the children will write a formal piece with the purpose of informing their audience (readers) for a given topic they are "experts" on, focusing on organization.

As for reading, this month in class students will have the opportunity to read many, many poems to find the "just right" poem for Declamations next month. We will learn to identify the theme of a poem as we read to understand and appreciate poetry. We will also work on identifying the sequence of events, and compare and contrast stories, characters, and settings. In addition, we will learn about understanding suffixes, idioms, and homophones to help us decode unknown words we may encounter as readers. In addition, students will develop their skill for responding to their reading, in the form of a written response.

Book report: Our next book report will be handed out to the students at the end of the week. The students will be choosing a fiction book (approx. 80-100 pages). The book report will be discussed in detail in class, as well as ample time during the month of February to read and work on their report in class. The book report will be due on **Friday, March 9th**.

Math - We are currently working on Ch. 9, Properties and Equations. The Chapter test will be given around Thursday, Feb. 15. After the Ch. 9 test, we will head right into Chapter 10, Fractions, followed by Ch. 11, Measurement, which includes elapsed time. It is assumed the children know how to tell time by 3rd grade, so if they struggle with this, please work on it at home every chance you get in the next few weeks. They'll need to know what time it is, to be able to learn how to calculate elapsed time (time intervals) in chapter 11. Also, please encourage your child to continue practicing at home the multiplication facts they haven't quite mastered (6, 7, and 8 facts for most). Next month, we will skip ahead to Ch. 13: Perimeter and Area.

Science - Tropical Rainforest, Arctic Tundra, Desert, and Saltwater Ecosystems, identify the landform, climate, animals and plants that live there, and other interesting facts unique to each ecosystem; Quickie quizzes should be expected, careful listening in class will pay off! Coming soon...Directions will be posted next Wed., Feb. 7 for the animal research project our kids will complete at home for Science/ELA, the final project will be due on **Wed., March 7**.

Social Studies: During our journey in Brazil, we have learned about the country's geographical features, the diverse culture, the language, and how their government runs. This month, students will be creating a Brazil brochure, compiling all the information we have learned in class. This project will be completed in class, with their small groups, using the information from their Social Studies journals. The students are looking forward to creating their first social studies project.

Religion - We will focus on the vocabulary, prayers, and customs that apply to the second part of the Mass: *The Liturgy of the Eucharist*. **Our mini retreat/Family Afternoon for 1st Communion candidates will be here soon: March 3 or March 10** (students attend just one). Please consider volunteering to help at our retreat if you are able! Soon, we will begin practicing the songs we will sing at our First Eucharist Mass!

FYI...

*We will pass Valentine's Day treats/cards on Wednesday, 2/14. The children are welcome to bring in valentines (without individual student's names) and/or individually wrapped treats to pass out to all of the children in our class (we have 17 kids in Rm. 105).

*Also, since nearly 100% of our kids completed their January Book-its this month, we will celebrate with a Game Day/Popcorn Party next Fri., 2/9,!

*February 19-23: Winter Break, NO SCHOOL.

Be sure to look over the February School Calendar to keep you and your child informed. Best wishes for a fabulous February!

Sincerely,
Mrs. Pronti

