

FOURTH GRADE FOOTNOTES - FEBRUARY 2018

It's February and we are into the second half of fourth grade. It's hard to believe that the year is flying by so quickly. It feels like September was only yesterday. We are enjoying the regular routine, although there have been several days of indoor recess recently. We have been very busy with our adventures in learning.

Language Arts Activities:



We continue our regular routine of vocabulary and grammar. We will have bi-weekly vocabulary assessment and look for the demonstration of mastery in tests and carrying over to written expression. Please make sure the children are practicing at home and reinforce to complete the homework pages.

In Grammar, we recently completed the unit on nouns and are working on the next unit pronouns. We are using morning work to practice our editing skills and polishing our grammar in our writing. We will progress into more difficult grammar and editing as the expectations become greater.

Next we will move on to the fantasy genre. Students will be divided into groups across the grade level and will read in teacher led groups. We are so lucky to have Mrs. DeSaro and Mrs. Reilly join us for this activity. Their presence affords us the opportunity to work with smaller groups and for the children to have the opportunity to work with different teachers.

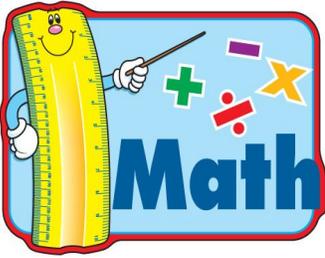
Our next book report project will come home this week. The ever favorite book float project. Please look for details along with a rubric to follow in your child's take home folder.



In writing we will continue exploring opinion writing further this month. We have been working on a constructing a three-pronged thesis statement. Using this thesis statement, each student will write a five paragraph essay. We have been working on this skill, and will continue to do so. Our next topic will be our families. We hope that you enjoy reflecting on your child's writing notebook for 2nd quarter. We are amassing a nice amount of work for our

portfolios. The focus of our next writing pieces will be persuasive essays. A three prong thesis will continue to be an important focus in this essay as well.

Math Lessons:



The children enjoyed working with patterns and sequences in our most recent math chapter. As a part of this chapter we focused on the order of operations and solving algebraic equations. This set the groundwork for more advanced math. It was also the last chapter in volume one of their books. They are so proud of themselves for completing the first volume of the math textbook. Please keep that book safely stored at home. Our next big focus will be fractions. The study of fractions encompasses three chapters and will take us until almost Easter time. Please continue to practice math facts, especially multiplication and division. The children were surprised how important it is to know their facts when working with fractions.

“Math workshop” time continues to help to ensure each student’s success. “Math workshop” is an extension of the period by 15 minutes so that students have additional time to solve problems and seek assistance from teachers and peers. Students who have completed assignments have the opportunity for enrichment activities.

Use of the resources found in the online components of our textbook is a fantastic study tool for the children. You can access the online textbooks by visiting www.connected.mcgraw-hill.com. The username for each student is their first initial, last name and 22 for their year of graduation (tsmith22). The password is onlinemath22 for each student.

Science Lessons and Labs:



We will begin our next science lessons in mid-February. They will focus on the solar system and beyond. Students will work individually and in cooperative groups to master the concepts and objectives covered in this unit. We will begin researching different space topics and incorporate an expository essay or project or perhaps both to extend our learning. Each student will have the opportunity to integrate their writing skills into science and also use different resources for research.

Social Studies Activities:



We enjoyed learning about inventions and improvements that were happening in New Jersey between the Revolutionary and Civil Wars. This month we will continue learning about the Civil War and its main causes. The children will explore different types of research strategies in media and in the classroom this month. They will explore google slides by extending their knowledge about the Civil War through a collaborative google slide presentation project.

We will also have the honor to attend a presentation given by Linda Prieto about WWII on Thursday February 8th. Mrs. Prieto will share her experience as a young child living during WWII.

Religion Lessons:



The month of February gives us the opportunity to learn about the sacraments of the church. We will also spend some time learning about Lent and its traditions, especially as we attend school liturgy for Ash Wednesday on February 14th.

Miscellaneous:



Please be sure to have your child clean out their take home folders and backpacks. There are some backpacks with papers from the fall and even some old snacks and water bottles in the bottom. Most of the children's backpacks could use a trip through the washer and dryer. Please replenish any supplies that your child may need as well as make sure they are properly dressed for the cold weather. Coats, hats and gloves are really important up here on St. Mary's Hill. It's very windy and can feel much colder than home. We are working very hard to keep the students organized and ensure that they have all of their materials for class and homework. Please continue to check your child's planner nightly and reinforce the need to not only do their homework but also to "study" and be prepared for class.

Looking Ahead: (these dates are tentative)

Vocabulary Tests - consecutive units bi weekly on Fridays

Catholic Schools Week January 27-February 2

WWII Presentation - February 8th

St. Valentine's Day Party - February 13

Ash Wednesday - February 14th (**DRESS UNIFORMS PLEASE!**)

No School (Presidents Weekend) – February 16-19