

First Grade News February 17th, 2017

Classroom News

On Monday we are excited to welcome Ivory Mulqueeney and her family to our first grade community. Please say hello if you see this terrific family around!

Next Monday (2/20) is our schoolwide author visit. Mike Thaler will be visiting with our students. He has produced over 200 published books for children and is known as "America's Riddle King." You're likely familiar with his book "Teacher From the Black Lagoon". Your child may bring any of Mr. Thaler's books to school on Monday to be signed.

Surprise reader has moved from Fridays at 11:20 to **Wednesday at 11:20**. If you would like to come in and read a favorite picture book to the first graders, please sign up via Volgistics. Surprise readers are also welcome join their child for lunch on the day they come in.

Thank you to Jennifer Scott, Kristi Denahan and Wendy Gallo for planning and hosting a lovely Valentine's party. First graders celebrated by playing Jenga, crafting cute heart penguins and kitties, and enjoying tasty cupcakes.

A special note from our wonderful room moms:

Mark Your Calendars: Art Show and Spaghetti Dinner: May 4th

The First Grade Parents are responsible for helping in the dining room (aka cafeteria!) for this year's Art Show and Spaghetti Dinner night on May 4th. Shifts will likely be posted on Volgistics by the middle of March, but mark your calendar now, so you keep the night open. This is the Parent Association task-of-the-year assigned to First Grade Parents so we will need all hands on deck to fill out the spots and keep the masses fed for the evening. It's always a fast and fun event and we will work side-by-side with the 7th Grade Students. If you have questions, just let us know, but jot down that date on your calendar. Thanks in advance!

Sara & Melissa

Star of the Week

February 27-March 3 – Colton

March 13-17 – Dermot

April 3-7 – Isabella

May 15-19 – Vincent

June 5-9 – Hannah

Curriculum Focus for Next Week

Religion

Next week we will learn about how Jesus' healings showed God's power and love. We will also learn a little about Mother Teresa and St. Louise de Marillac.

Reading

We continue to focus on questioning. We will keep a question in mind as we read to answer it. We will use navigational features of texts to find answers to their questions. We will learn how one question can lead to another question to expand thinking.

Writing

For the next several weeks we will focus on informational writing. Our first project will be a group project. We will be researching penguins in order to write an informational report. Next week, each student will be choosing their own animal to research and write about.

Math

Next week we will begin topic 6, the focus is on subtraction facts to 20. We will learn different ways to subtract from numbers as high as 20. We will be thinking addition and using related facts and fact families to help us solve number sentences.

Science/Social Studies

Next week will conclude our study on properties of light. We will be working on answering how light can be used and developing models that use one light source to light up three “rooms” in different ways (bright, dull, shadow, colored filter, etc.).

School News**Science Expo**

Tonight is Cathedral School’s annual Science Expo from 5:00pm to 7:00pm. This year’s Expo includes many favorite activities from years past and some fun new ones introduced this year via the MakerSpace Cart. We hope to see many first grade families join us for this awesome event.

Viteznik Boy’s Book Drive

Seventh grader Jake Viteznik and his older brother Jonathan (Cathedral alumni) are hosting a book drive. They will be collecting new and gently used books to donate to The Children’s Book Bank. Check your child’s folder for a handout with more information. The book drive will run from February 20th – 27th.

Snow Day Calendar Changes

Feb. 20th, Regular School Day (President’s Day)

Feb. 21st, Regular School Day (previously In-service Day)

March 10th, Half Day (11:30 dismissal), Conferences

April 14th, Regular School Day (Good Friday), Stations of the Cross, time to be determined

Upcoming Events

February 24th – Token goal free dress and March lunch order deadline
March 4th - Auction