

## **Kindergarten News**

### **Classroom News**

I'm glad we are back to school! I am eager to start our New Year off filled with new learning and fun! We are practicing our routines in and out of the classroom. It is great to be together again!

We will continue to have reading and math homework most nights. The students will also start writing each night. There will be a slip of paper or lines on the math homework for your child to write. One sentence is okay! The concepts that students will be practicing are: starting with a capital, using lower case letters, leaving spaces between words, and ending with a period. The students should also be practicing stretching words and writing as many sounds as they can hear in a word (please don't spell the words for your child).

### **Curriculum Focus for Next Week**

#### **Religion**

In religion, we have learned about Martin Luther King, Jr. and highlighted the concept of peaceful and not peaceful actions and words. We are kicking off our theme of the month-respect. We will talk about what this looks like in the classroom and outside of the classroom.

#### **Language Arts**

We are working on comparing and contrasting while we read. We have been emphasizing that good readers think while reading. We are thinking about things that are different and alike in books.

We have been focusing on using a checklist for writing sentences. We use it to highlight the capital at the start, lower case letters in the rest of the words, spaces between words, and a period at the end.

We are also working on informational writing by making maps and writing directions to get somewhere in our school. We write directions and make a map as a class, then move on to individual projects.

#### **Math**

In math, we are working on counting to 100 and filling in a 100 chart with missing numbers. We will discover the patterns on a 100 chart that make this easier. We will also count by 5's, and 10's to 100 and 2's to 20. Please practice this at home.

When you see the 100's chart coming home, it is great to use it to play simple math games. You can play mystery number: have your child put a finger on any number, have them count forward 5 numbers, count backwards 8, add 10... Have fun with it and link several of these steps together.

#### **Social Studies**

We are embarking on a unit all about maps. We will look at many different types of maps as well as learn about map keys. The students will have artwork to compliment our study of maps.

### **School News**

Pre-kindergarten is sponsoring the coin drive. Bring in the coins in your change purse, have your child earn some coins by doing some chores or service for others... Coins can be brought to our classroom. All donations will be given to St. Vincent DePaul School in Salem.

Our annual celebration of Catholic schools, National Catholic Schools Week, will take place January 29th to February 3rd, 2017. To kick off the week, we will hold a special Mass on Sunday, January 29th, at 9:00 am. All students are invited to participate in the Mass as greeters, readers, ushers, gift bearers, or join the procession. If you will be attending this Mass and your children would like to participate, please go to <https://goo.gl/forms/MIj4qopSrYeHR2dH3> to complete the online form.

During Catholic Schools week there are special events each day. One to highlight for planning purposes is Special Friends' Breakfast on Wednesday, February 1<sup>st</sup>. Students are invited to bring one adult friend to enjoy breakfast in the cafeteria, tour the school and classroom, and go to Mass. The morning starts at 7:50 and ends at 9:20. Mass is at 9:30. Sometimes, special friends stay until Mass is done; sometimes they just come for breakfast. The breakfast schedule is: 7:50- 8:20 students with last names from H-M; 8:20- 8:50 students with last names from N-Z; 8:50- 9:20 students with last names A-G.

### **Upcoming Events**

1/25- POW

1/27- PBS Assembly, ½ day

1/29- CSW Mass, St. Mary's at 9 a.m.

1/29- 2/3- Catholic Schools Week

2/1- Special Friends' Breakfast and Mass

2/2- No school, Teacher in-service