

First Grade News February 24th, 2017

Classroom News

On Monday, we will celebrate our 100th day of school! Can you believe we have been in school for 100 days?? We will be doing many fun activities to celebrate being 100 days smarter!

The auction is coming up on March 4th! We hope that you will be able to come and share in the fun! If you have not yet sent in your RSVP, please send it in as soon as possible. The first graders made a mosaic picture of the city of Portland. There is also a class party to sign up for alongside the kindergarten and 2nd grade classes. Your child can sign up for an after school party on March 16th for science engineering activities and of course, some snacks!

First graders have been working on learning basic math facts efficiently and fluently. It is our goal that by the end of the school year, first graders should be able to fluently compute the sums/differences of numbers within 12. Within our math time I have noticed that many of us are still relying heavily on finger counting. While this is natural and age appropriate, we would like to begin relying more on mental math. If your child is not already spending time practicing their math facts, please help them to do so. There are many fun math games, apps, or good old-fashioned flashcards to accomplish this. We thank you for your help in this math fact endeavor.

Surprise reader has moved from Fridays at 11:20 to **Wednesdays 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.

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 teaches about love. We will also learn a little about St. Thomas of Villanova. We will have Ash Wednesday Mass on March 1st.

Reading

We continue to focus on questioning. It has been helpful in our animal research to read with a question in mind. We will continue to work on this next week.

Writing

Next week the students will begin drafting their personal animal reports. Stay tuned for more details on this awesome writing project! We will also write a fun book about the 100th day of school!

Math

Next week we will be finishing topic 6, the focus is on subtraction facts to 20. We will be using what we know about subtraction to solve number sentences. On Monday, we will be celebrating the 100th day of school with many fun math challenges.

Science/Social Studies

Next week we will begin our social studies unit on how culture is shared. We will be learning about how families around the world are alike and different.

School News

Viteznik Boys' 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

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

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

Upcoming Events

February 26th - 9:00 Family Mass by Gr. PK & 4

March 1st - 8:30 Ash Wednesday Mass by Gr. 3

March 4th - 5:00p Cathedral School Auction at the MAC