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Kindergarten Times

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Dear Families,

We hope you enjoyed the Monday holiday. Winter is really here with prevailing **cold** temperatures. Most of the children have been remembering their winter gear. Keeping a hat and some gloves in their backpack is a great way to always be prepared for the cold weather.

This week in reading, the big book, *What a Beautiful Sky!* is an informational text. The children will learn that although we see the sky every day, it is always changing. We will read about and see pictures of the sun, moon, and stars. We will discuss and ask the question, "Why is it important to know what happens first, next, and last in a selection?"

We will also read, *How Many Stars in the Sky?* This book, a realistic fiction, tells about a little boy who starts counting the stars in the sky when he can't sleep one night. He goes outside, but it's too hard to count all the stars. His father decides to help, but he can't count all of the stars either. Finally, it is daylight and they see the only star in the sky, the sun.

The word wall words **come, me, with, my, what, you, are,** and **now** will be reviewed this week. The letters **Aa, Nn, Ff,** and **Bb** will also be reviewed. We will be discussing and writing statements. The children will learn that a statement is a kind of sentence that tells about something. They have a naming part (noun) and an action part (verb) and begin with a capital letter and end with a period. As we did last month, we will be writing descriptive sentences about one topic. We will talk about how to choose a good topic and how to write several sentences using adjectives to make the description more interesting to the reader. The children will first write several facts, then write a first draft, and finally, write a final copy about their idea throughout the week.

The Decodable Readers are *Pam Cat* and *Come With Me*. Again, continue to point to each word as it is read.

The **first written word wall word test** will be given on Wednesday morning at the writing center. The practice test last week was a total success. Every student did a fantastic job and Mrs. Ferreira and I were very proud of the class. Writing the Word Wall Words was not a problem. The use of an uppercase letter at the beginning, spaces between words, and a period at the end of a sentence were the only reminders most students needed with the dictated

sentences. Again, we are extremely happy with the results of the practice test and we are confident everyone will do a great job on the first spelling test this week!

In math, the concepts of more, fewer, fewest, and most will be the focus for the next two weeks. The children will compare and draw groups with fewer or more objects than other groups. The children will also complete two pages in the math book, completed on the independent table during morning rotations. Again, we are hoping to get through this chapter quickly to begin charting, addition, and subtraction.

The religion lessons this week are "God the Father Gives Us Jesus" and "Jesus Grew Up in Nazareth." We will discuss that God gave us the gift of Jesus because he loves us. We will also learn about the Holy Family: Jesus, Mary, and Joseph.

The **Renaissance STAR Early Literacy Assessments** are completed. The class did a fantastic job! You will be receiving the results with your child's report card next month. Should I feel a need to speak to you sooner, I will contact you to discuss your child's progress.

On Thursday, January 18th, we will be attending a **School Mass** at 8:30am. All are welcome to join us. Just a reminder: All students must wear their school uniforms. No dress-down coupons are accepted on any Mass day. Thank you for understanding.

There is an **Eighth Grade Dress Down Day on Tuesday, January 16th**, so please send in the coupon if your child is dressing down.

St. Cecilia School is conducting a **hearing screening** on Friday, January 19th. In order for us to be aware of factors that might affect your child's performance, please answer the questions on the bottom of the form you received in your child's folder and return it before the screening date. Thank you.

You received the **School Lunch Menu for February** two weeks ago. If you are ordering hot lunch, please return this form and payment no later than January 19th. Thank you.

Mrs. Ferreira sent the **Scholastic Book** flyers home last week. If you are planning to order books, please place your order online before Wednesday, January 24th so we can submit your orders.

You are invited to our first free **Winter Cooking Class** on Wednesday, January 17th at 6:00pm in the School Cafeteria. Chef Michael Makuch of Johnson & Wales will be teaching us about food safety and cleanliness. He will also show us how to make hummus boats, vegetable quesadillas, and strawberry banana smoothies. Returns are coming in fast and space is limited. Please return the registration form as soon as possible.

Catholic Schools Week is scheduled from January 27th– February 2nd. Please help us start celebrating this week by joining us at the 10:00am Mass on January 27th in St. Cecilia Church. We are asking that all students wear their school uniform as an identifying sign of our presence in the Parish of Blessed Pope John Paul II. Following Mass we will hold an Open House for prospective students and their families.

On **Sunday, January 27th**, St. Cecilia School is having an **Open House** from 11:30am-1:30pm. Please tell all your friends to come and see what St. Cecilia School has to offer. We are all very proud of our school community, and wish to share it with as many as we can.

Have a great week!

Mrs. Lucier and Mrs. Ferreira