

Kindergarten Times

January 8, 2018

Dear Families,

Mrs. Ferreira and I are so impressed with the progress this class is making. During this time of the year, the children have fewer distractions now that the holidays are over and are able to focus on learning. It is so exciting to see so many starting to read to the class! It is hard to believe we are halfway through the school year!

This week in reading, the big book, *Turtle Splash!* is a concept book that teaches the children about numbers. We will count backwards from ten as turtles jump into the water after other animals scare them. We will ask the question, "What causes events in a story to happen?"

We will also read, *Home for a Tiger, Home for a Bear*, another informational text. This book tells us that animals live in all kinds of places. Starting with a spider on its web, we will learn about the different kinds of homes where snails, deer, squirrels, and many more animals live. Finally, we learn about a home children are very familiar with – a house!

The word wall words are **now** and **are**. The letter of the week is **Bb**. We will identify words that begin with and end with the letter b sound. The grammar lesson for this week is using verbs in past tense. We will write one sentence in present tense, then rewrite it in past tense. An example of this is: The duck quacks loudly. Yesterday, the duck quacked loudly. We will also learn that the events in a story happen in a certain order. Stories have a beginning, middle, and an end. The Decodable Readers are *What Now?* and *At Bat*. Again, continue to point to each word as it is read.

We will begin **written spelling tests** on Wednesday mornings at the writing center beginning **this** week. This first test will be a **practice test** to familiarize the children with the format we use. Also, this extra week will give the children a chance to get back into the school routine. Please begin to review the Word Wall Words at home to prepare for next week.

We are implementing a **new daily homework assignment** this week. The children write a sentence a day, Monday through Thursday. A sentence homework page is kept in their folder so they can complete and return the sentence daily. We feel this is a great way to reinforce many things we are learning at school and it greatly benefits every child. Several students have been doing this daily and it is absolutely amazing how it has helped them with

sentence writing. Please encourage your child to sound out words without your help. We don't expect perfection. If a word is misspelled, write the correct spelling under the misspelled word so your child can see it. This will allow us to see how well each child can hear letter sounds, and when you correct a word, they will see the right way it looks. Always remind them to reread their sentence out loud, pointing to every word, and check for the "uppercase letter at the beginning, spaces, and punctuation at the end." Thank you for your help with this. We are so excited about the progress they all are making and we are sure this will only strengthen their skills.

The Chapter 3 math test was a success. Everyone did a fantastic job! On to Chapter 4! This chapter focuses on the concepts fewer, fewest, more, most, and equal to. The numbers 1-30 are also introduced. We have collated a "Chapter 4 Math Book" concentrating on the numbers 1-10. Each child will work individually on this book at a morning rotation table. The higher numbers in this chapter will be taught at the supervised math table. We are hoping to get through this chapter quickly to begin charting, addition, and subtraction.

You may have noticed that a **fact family a day** has replaced writing the numbers 1-10 on the back of the sign-in sheet each morning. Each child rolls a set of dice to reveal the two numbers he or she will use for the fact family. He or she counts the dice dots to make two addition sentences and two subtraction sentences relating to the two numbers. If you have a set of dice at home, it would be fun, as well as great practice, to see this in action!

The religion lesson this week is "We Learn About God with Our Friends." We will talk about our friends being special gifts from God.

Throughout the next two weeks, your child will be taking the **Renaissance STAR Early Literacy Assessment** on the Chrome Books. 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.

Several Martin Luther King Jr. activities will be incorporated into the afternoon center time this week.

There is a **Sports Dress Down Day on Tuesday, January 9th**, so please send in the coupon if your child is dressing down.

You received the **School Lunch Menu for February** last week. If you are ordering hot lunch, please return this form and payment no later than January 19th. Also, if you are ordering milk for the next half of the year, please send in your form and payment by January 12th. The new cycle for milk will start on January 31st. Thank you.

Mrs. Ferreira will be sending the **Scholastic Book** flyers this 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.

Next Monday, January 15th, there is **no school** in celebration of Martin Luther King Jr. Just a reminder: **Eighth Grade Dress Down Day** is next Tuesday, January 16th, the day after the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday. If your child is dressing down, please send the coupon in his/her folder.

Have a great week, and we hope you enjoy your upcoming long weekend!

Mrs. Lucier and Mrs. Ferreira