

Publisher: Mrs. Lucier

Editor: Mrs. Ferreira

Kindergarten Times

January 7, 2019

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 year, we will be participating in the **2019 Zaner-Bloser National Handwriting Contest**. A copy of the manuscript entry form went home last week. Please feel free to make multiple copies of this form for your child to practice on. Three have been included in the packet along with a page explaining the proper formation of letters. **Send the best copy back to school by Wednesday, January 9th**, to enter the contest. Kindergarten has had several winners make it to the national level. Good luck and try your best!

This week in reading, the big book, *What Color is Nature*, is an informational text. This book is about different environments and the variety of colors found in each. We will ask the question, "Why do authors write informational texts?"

We will also read, *A Zebra's World*, another informational text. This book is about the life of a baby zebra born on the African plain. After the zebra learns to walk, it begins to eat grass and drink from the water hole. When the water hole dries up, the zebra joins the herd and walks many miles to the river. The herds stay there until rain fills the water holes again. Baby zebra is now ready to take care of herself.

The word wall words are **you** and **what**. The letter of the week is **Ff**. We will identify words that begin with the letter f sound. The grammar lesson for this week is writing complete sentences, using a capital letter at the beginning of the sentence and the correct punctuation at the end. We will continue to write story sentences, emphasizing the importance of adding details to our writing. The Decodable Readers are *What Can You See?* and *Fat Cat*. 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 Wednesday.

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.

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.

The Chapter 3 math test was a success. Everyone did a fantastic job! 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 three 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 lesson this week is "We Learn About God with Our Friends." We will talk about our friends being special gifts from God.

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

Please join the PTO of **Saint Cecilia's School** at our **6th annual "Taste of the Town"** at Grupo Amigos Da Terceira, 55 Memorial Drive, Pawtucket, RI on Monday, January 28, 2019 from 6:00pm to 9:00 pm. **Tickets were sent home last week and we are asking each family to purchase two tickets to support our biggest fundraiser of the year.** Tickets are \$25 in advance or \$30 at the door. Guests will enjoy an array of delicious food and drink options provided by local restaurants and caterers. This event is our biggest fundraiser, and your support is greatly appreciated. With the money raised, we hope to expand our S.T.E.M. programs (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) and make much needed physical improvements to the school. **Thank you for your continued support of our school!**

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 23rd so we can submit your orders.

A **new milk order form** was sent home last week for the second half of the school year. If you would like to order milk for your child beginning January 31st until the end of school, please complete this form and send it in with your payment by January 12th.

Catholic Schools Week is scheduled from January 27th– February 1st. 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