

5A News

September 10, 2018

Dear 5A Families,

It was a great first week with this class! They are such actively engaged, enthusiastic, and inquisitive learners, and it's clear that they enjoy working together cooperatively and respectfully!

This week, we will start our "normal" schedule. Rick will teach Monday and Friday and will be in the classroom for religion on Wednesday morning and IB on Thursday afternoon. I will be teaching all of the rest of the time on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. I am attaching our classroom schedule to this email as well, and it is now posted on our class webpage.

NOTE: School Photos tomorrow – students in uniform!

Curriculum News:

Math – We're diving in to our Place Value unit, as we continue with some math pre-assessments. This unit provides an essential conceptual foundation and introduction to our work with decimals. As we learn more about our students' current skills and understanding of place value concepts, we will look for opportunities in which extension activities or re-teaching might be beneficial.

ELA – The next couple of weeks will give us a chance to conduct some formative assessment of our students' reading and writing skills. We will be reading non-fiction articles and checking for comprehension. We'll also be writing a variety of types of paragraphs – persuasive, narrative, and descriptive – and will begin some mini-lessons about paragraph structure, formatting, and editing for conventions (capitalization, punctuation, grammar, spelling). On Monday, the class will learn to format a friendly letter, as we begin our St. Luke-a-thon letter writing. We'll be writing letters for a variety of purposes this fall, to solidify this skill.

Religion – In preparation for our all-school **Mass of the Holy Spirit on September 13th (9:30 am)**, we're reviewing the parts of the Mass and Mass responses and prayerful participation. Please feel free to join us for this Mass, if you're able to!

IB "Web of Life" Unit – Last week, we explored our IB Trans-disciplinary Theme, "How we organize ourselves," and our Central Idea, "Organic matter cycles through our living world in systems of interdependent parts," through an introductory Food Web activity. We have a couple of experiments planned, some outdoors explorations, and we'll be reading articles and writing as part of our inquiry into ecological systems.

Specialists – Fifth graders had their first music class, met Mr. Sauvage, our new PE teacher, and had art on Friday afternoon with Mrs. Diaz. This week, we'll begin having library time on Monday, and the class is excited about the new Thursday robotics class in our schedule!

Learning Garden – Our first garden lesson will be this Tuesday morning. We'll be tying these lessons into our IB unit. Students should wear sturdy shoes and bring a sweatshirt or jacket, in case fall weather really does roll in this week.

Second Step – On Tuesday, we will have our first Second Step lesson, focusing on empathy and respect. Each lesson comes with a "Home Link" that your child will bring home to

discuss and complete with you. A letter about the Second Step program is attached to today's email, including an activation key to access online materials.

IB Focus:

September Theme: **CARING**. Last week, we had a compliment circle and students acknowledged many acts of caring that they had experienced already! We'll be reading a book about kindness and reflecting on how we can show kindness and care in various areas of our life.

IB Approaches to Learning

This year, we will be intentional about practicing the IB Primary Years Program "Approaches to Learning" (ATLs) to build strong and effective learning habits and skills. The PYP ATLs are grouped into: Thinking Skills; Social Skills; Communication Skills; Self-Management; and Research Skills. You will be hearing lots more about these from your child and the teachers!

Other News:

Student Presentations

Over the next couple of weeks, students will be giving their presentations that they worked on over the summer as their end-of-4th-grade project. We heard four of them on Friday, and I was really impressed with how each student dug deep into their area of interest, demonstrating research skills guided by their own curiosity and inquiry. Owen kicked off the presentations, giving us a "tour" of the impressive Wonders of the World. Amanda helped us deepen our understanding of the animals that we commonly see at the zoo, and Kayli educated us about a wide variety of birds from around the world and what makes each of them unique. Elijah completed the first round with a wealth of information enabling us to better compare and contrast different reptiles. They all presented with poise and self-confidence!

St. Luke-a-thon Letter Writing

You should have received an envelope with information about the St. Luke-a-thon last week. We will be completing our letter writing this week in class for this important fundraiser. Please send your child's address list in this week, so that we can have everything ready to go for a mailing on Wed., Sept. 19th. Thank you in advance for your support and participation!

Upcoming Events:

September 11th (Tuesday) - **School Pictures (in uniform)**

September 13th (Thursday) - **Mass of the Holy Spirit 9:30 am & New Parent Night 6:30 pm**

September 15th (Saturday) - **Poker Tournament**

September 17th - October 11th - **MAP Testing**

Wednesday, September 19th - **Camp Seymour Information Meeting 5:30 pm, Curriculum Night 6:30 pm**

September 23rd (Sunday) - **VIRTUS Safe Environment Training** for new volunteers 2:00 – 5:00 pm

September 26th (Wednesday) - **St. Luke-a-thon**

September 28th (Friday) - **Free Dress Friday**