

Dear 5A Families,

**Thank you** for your support of our St. Vincent de Paul **Food Drive**! The 5<sup>th</sup> graders helped collect food donations from the lower grade classrooms to add to ours and bring to the auditorium, and they were so impressed and proud to see what our community accomplished. We have been praying for the recipients daily in class.

Please remember that all families are encouraged to think about how **Scrip** can be incorporated into holiday shopping and making basic household purchases this month.

**Religion** – The class will be reading and reflecting on the **Advent** Sunday readings and celebrating this holy season at school. The 5<sup>th</sup> graders will take a turn leading one school-wide Advent prayer service in December (12/17) and will be decorating one of the pillars in the auditorium to symbolize the candle for the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent.

Additionally, Fr. Brad is offering an optional opportunity to receive the **Sacrament of Reconciliation** during the school day next week. We will be reviewing preparation for this sacrament in class.

This week, we will start our **Bullying Prevention** unit with the introductory lesson. The Home Link will come home Tuesday and will be due on Friday.

**Culture, Trade and Geography Played a Part in the Formation of the 13 Colonies** is the Central Idea of our second IB unit. The Transdisciplinary Theme for this unit is: “Where We Are in Time and Place.” In preparation for our simulation learning activity, in which the students take on the role of early colonists, we are working on map skills to gain understanding of the geographical factors influencing settlement.

Speaking of Geography, last week we conducted our in-class round of the 5<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade **Geography Bee**. The students all stretched their thinking and got excited about making connections between what they know about the world and the questions from the Geography Bee introductory rounds. Special congratulations to Nathaniel, our 5A representative to the school-wide Bee, and to Owen, our close runner-up!

**Math** – We’re tackling **division with double-digit divisors** and practicing estimation skills, using hands-on manipulatives, drawing models, and using the standard algorithm. This is a short unit, and we will wrap it up before Christmas break. This week, we will work on “adjusting quotients” – when we estimate the incorrect number in trying to find the quotient and need to use what we learned to try again, and we’ll also be dividing larger numbers and problem solving.

We’ll be talking about the **ALEKS** expectation in class, which is 45 minutes per week of practice (at least!) for each week that school is in session. It really is evident when students are putting in this much time or more – both in their confidence and skills. When students complete the 5<sup>th</sup> grade ALEKS class material, we are bumping them up to more advanced ALEKS content. Also, if your child gets into material that is consistently frustrating and overly challenging, please let us know and we can assign a Knowledge Check to place him or her at the ideal instructional level.

**ELA** - Students are wrapping up their mini-novel about three families trying to survive on an island, *Washed Up*, and will be reading some historical articles within our IB unit.

This week, we will continue working with verbs and will be using what we learn in our paragraph writing. We’ve been focusing on verb tense and learning about some irregular verbs.

Students should be reading at least 25 minutes each evening. The Trimester II AR goal is also 15 points.

Have a wonderful week!

**Upcoming Important Dates:**

- 12/7 – Report Cards go home, Figgy Pudding Caroling Competition in Downtown Seattle (MYP Choir sings)
- 12/10 – Second Advent Prayer Service
- 12/12 – All School Mass in honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Christmas Ship performance (MYP choir) @ 6:30 pm – 7:30 pm
- 12/17 – Third Advent Prayer Service – **planned and led by 5<sup>th</sup> grade**, First House Caroling Rehearsal (2:15-2:45 PM)
- 12/19 – Christmas Program – ALL SCHOOL
- 12/20 – Second House Caroling Rehearsal (2:15-2:45 PM)
- 12/21 – Last Advent Prayer Service, House Caroling Competition, Noon Dismissal