

Dear 5A Families,

Happy New Year! We hope you had a fabulous celebration of Christmas and start to 2019. The class welcomes our two new students from Korea tomorrow, Lucy and Steve. We'll be gearing up to celebrate Catholic Schools' Week at the end of the month. This week, we will also have a Family Group activity on Thursday. We're excited to be back with this class!

In **Religion**, students will be focusing on what Epiphany means in their lives and then learning about the Sacraments of Healing, starting with the Sacrament of Reconciliation and supporting the second graders as they prepare to receive this sacrament for the first time. As you may know, our students had the privilege and responsibility of moving the Magi incrementally closer to the crèche each day in the Nativity scene in the main hallway. They've had a chance to reflect on what this journey must have been like and will now be challenged to transfer the meaning they have found into their own lives.

This week, in our **Second Step Bullying Prevention** unit, we will focus on "Bystander Responsibility." Before Christmas break, students reviewed what a bystander is and learned about the power bystanders have to change a situation for the better. We will spend this week exploring the responsibility that accompanies that power and how to exercise it in a safe and supported way.

Culture, Trade and Geography Played a Part in the Formation of the 13 Colonies is the Central Idea of our second IB unit. This week, students will be working in their colonial groups to complete plans and stock their ships for our simulation voyage as settlers to the New World. Each team chose a name before break and created a flag that showed their values and hopes. Mid-week, they will begin the journey, addressing challenges and opportunities that arise, using knowledge they gain along the way about this time in our country's history. The students will begin a research project in the library this week as well, focusing on a specific colony.

Math – We are ready to dive into adding and subtracting decimals and problem solving with decimals in our new unit. As we begin, we will continue gathering data, including our January MAP data, to guide us in grouping students for our next unit, to best meet their needs. Students are expected to continue working on ALEKS at home, for at least 45 minutes weekly.

ELA – Students are writing goals for the new year and will be journaling as part of our IB simulation. To enhance that experience and focus on specific reading skills, they will also be reading about the early colonies. We'll be talking about our first book project this week.

Upcoming Important Dates:

- 1/12/19 – Trivia Night
- 1/18/19 – Geography Bee
- 1/21/19 – Martin Luther King Jr. Day – No School
- 1/25/19 – Mid-trimester Progress Reports go home, Father-Daughter Dance
- 1/26/19 – Parents Club Meeting
- 1/27/19 – Open House after 9:00AM Mass – Kickoff For Catholic Schools Week
- 1/28/19 – Open House during school day
- 1/29/19 – Parent Appreciation Day
- 1/30/19 – Community Appreciation Day
- 1/31/19 – Student Appreciation Day
- 2/1/19 – Free Dress, & International Festival