

Dear 5A Families,

The fifth graders did such a phenomenal job leading the St. Luke community in prayer, through word and song on Friday morning. The congregation sang with gusto, because of the passion, enthusiasm, and spirit with which the 5<sup>th</sup> graders led us. They have beautiful voices and were attentive and focused as Rick directed them. We were all so proud! As a thank-you, Rick promised them all a day of **Free Dress tomorrow!**

This week's **Second Step** topic is Managing Frustration. The Home Link (Lesson 12) will be due on Friday.

We've begun our IB unit: **Water is essential to life and is a limited resource for many people.** This unit includes several hands-on investigations, and our Key Concepts are **change** and **responsibility**, along with the

Related Concepts of **conservation** and **distribution**. Our Lines of Inquiry include:

- Sources of water and how water is used
- What happens to water after we use it
- Distribution and availability of usable water
- Responsibility regarding water

During this time, students will be also be exploring the **current water-related issue** that they have selected, learning why it matters, and presenting to the class at the end of our unit. By this Friday, they should have an outline ("storyboard") of the information that will be in their slides. We'll go over this in class tomorrow.

We started this IB unit by learning about the **Dust Bowl**, as a lead-in to this unit, and our next exploration will help us gain information about how much **fresh water, frozen fresh water, and salt water**, there is on our planet. After that, students will work in small groups to look at geographical, botanical, and other information to determine the **best place for a well**.

**ELA** – The class will be primarily be working on **research skills** as they explore their water topics and practice **citing their sources** in MLA format. We have also been sharing journal entries from our Discovery simulation, noticing and appreciating examples of descriptive language and strong word choice. The students really did a great job with these entries, using strong author's voice, as they wrote from the perspective of a colonist. Next week, we will be setting up our Words Their Way spelling program, based on the pre-assessments that we just finished.

**Math** – Both classes are working with **multiplication of decimals** this week. In this unit, students will be using hands-on manipulative materials, models, estimation, and the standard algorithm. They are practicing explaining their mathematical thinking and processes in writing and solving problems involving multiplication of whole numbers by decimals and decimals by decimals.

**Religion** – We will be taking on the next step of helping to prepare materials for those receiving confirmation in the parish. The class will also be starting to learn about and prepare for the season of Lent, in which the school will focus on a virtue each week. Additionally, we will be having a school-wide **Lenten Food Drive**, all week this week and next, ending on March 8<sup>th</sup>. Please consider what your family can do to participate! Thank you.

We wish Allie, Nathaniel, and Owen all the best as they move on to the next level of the **Global Reading Challenge** on Thursday!

**A few notes and reminders...**

- **Remember the Magazine Sale!**
- **Support SCRIP**

**Upcoming Important Dates:**

- Monday, Feb. 25<sup>th</sup> – State of the School Meeting 6:30 pm
- Tuesday, Feb. 26<sup>th</sup> – Roller Skating Party
- Wednesday, March 6<sup>th</sup> – Ash Wednesday
- Friday, March 15<sup>th</sup> – NO School for students – Staff In-service (MAP Data Day)
- Friday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> – Report Cards
- Thursday, March 28<sup>th</sup> – Parents' Club Meeting