

Dear 5A Families,

We had a great first spring **Learning Garden** class last week. We were the first class with our new garden educator, Emily Wilkins, so the 5<sup>th</sup> graders showed her around the garden. We did some early spring cleanup and composting, trimmed the raspberry canes and pulled out dead canes, weeded, and harvested the last few potatoes from our 5<sup>th</sup> grade garden bed. Tomorrow, the class will get training on checking and weighing the **compost** in the lunch room each day, then taking it out to the garden where Emily will help them transfer it into the worm bin. We will share this responsibility with 5B.

Tuesday morning we also have **Book-It Repertory Theater** coming to St. Luke School for a production of “New Shoes.”

In **Religion**, the class will be focusing on this week’s Lenten theme of reverence, as we deepen our understanding of this season of Lent. We are also continuing to review for the upcoming ACRE religion test next month. I’ll put the link to an online review on our Homework page tomorrow. Please feel free to join us for our weekly school-wide Lenten Mass on Wednesday at 2:15 pm.

This week’s **Second Step** topic is *Avoiding Assumptions*. The Home Link (Lesson 15) will be due on Friday.

**IB** – The class really did impressive work on their water projects, making meaning of our “**Water is essential to life and is a limited resource for many people**” IB Central Idea and beginning to transfer that learning to a real-world water issue. I think we all learned quite a bit from their research and thorough presentations!

We’re ready to start our next **IB unit**, “**Different perspectives can cause conflict.**” We’ll be exploring this central idea through the lens of the **American Revolution**. We’re beginning this unit by reflecting on and sharing what we already know about this unit’s key and supporting concepts: **causation, perspective, responsibility, conflict, justice, and power**. Students will be moving around the room discussing, recording their ideas on sticky notes on posters, and journaling about guiding questions to help them interact with the concepts in an activity called “Chalk Talk.” More information about this unit next week!

**ELA** – This week, we’ll be beginning a short reading book entitled, *Beyond the Horizon*. We’ll be analyzing the plot, characters, comparing and contrasting, and looking at cause and effect. In addition, we are beginning our next at-home **book project**, based on the same assignment options (everyone must choose a different one!) and the same rubric as last time. Students will receive a new copy tomorrow. This project will be due on **Thursday, April 11<sup>th</sup>**. Later in the week, we will be dividing students into groups to read different **historical fiction selections, from a variety of perspectives about the American Revolution**. We will be spending several weeks in these reading groups and will be comparing and contrasting the characters and their motivations and perspectives. We’re also reviewing **pronouns** of all types.

**Math** – Our next unit is **Expressions and Patterns**. Students are either starting this unit or preparing for the test on multiplying and dividing decimals. In Expressions and Patterns, we’ll be learning about order of operations, problem solving by working backward, identifying and creating patterns, reading map locations, using ordered pairs, and graphing patterns. This unit includes a variety of math strategies and can sometimes be a welcome change of pace after decimals, decimals, and more decimals. Fractions will be next!

**Upcoming Important Dates:**

- Friday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> – Report Cards
- Tuesday, March 26<sup>th</sup> – Open House
- Friday, March 29<sup>th</sup> – Free Dress