

5A News – April 1, 2019
April IB Theme: **Reflective**

Dear 5A Families,

In **Religion**, the class will be focusing on this week's Lenten theme of *Honesty*, as we deepen our understanding of this season of Lent. Our Lenten saint for the week is St. Kateri Tekakwitha. We are also continuing to review for the upcoming **ACRE** religion test, which will be **next Monday**. We will have another Lenten Mass on Wednesday at 2:15 pm. The 5th graders had our spring VIRTUS Safe Environment lesson today.

This week's **Second Step** topic is *Solving Problems (part 2)*. The Home Link (Lesson 16) will be due on Friday.

One of the concepts we've been exploring in our **IB unit**, "**Different perspectives can cause conflict**" is *Responsibility*. Today, the class went up to the garden to observe and sketch, reflecting and writing about their responsibility as stewards of the garden and helping it to thrive. Back in the classroom, they watched a Catholic Relief Services video about being responsible so that others in the world can thrive. They wrote a paragraph about responsibility.

ELA – Students should be working on their **Book Projects**. I gave them a due date of April 11th, which is our first conference day, so they may either turn it in before, or bring it during conferences. We will be sharing them in class the following week. Tomorrow, we will break into our new IB unit **reading groups**. Anne Taylor will be working with a third group, so that we can keep the groups a smaller size and read books that explore the American Revolution from three different perspectives. We've seen a lot of growth in the students' writing skills this year, but we want to help them become more proficient and consistent in writing a solid first-draft paragraph. To help them gain practice, we are having them write several "**on-demand**" **paragraphs** each week. To start, we will be using a simple 10-point scoring system. In a couple of weeks, once they regularly include all of the basics, we will increase the expectations. We'll be giving them feedback and suggestions as we go along.

Math – The 5th graders are either beginning working with fractions, or they are about to start this new unit! This unit includes: fractions and division (understanding the concept); greatest common factors; simplest form; least common multiples; comparing fractions; and writing fractions as decimals. They should continue with at least 45 minutes of ALEKS each week.

Upcoming Important Dates:

- April 7th-12th – Usborne Book Fair
- April 8th – ACRE testing window for grades 5 and 8
- April 11th – NO SCHOOL FOR CONFERENCES
- April 12th – NO SCHOOL FOR CONFERENCES
- April 14th – Palm Sunday
- April 18th – Tridium Begins (Holy Thursday)
- April 19th – Good Friday: Stations of the Cross portrayed by eight graders and 12:00Noon – Dismissal IN SILENCE
- April 20th – 28th – Easter Vacation
- April 25th – Welcome back!
- May 3rd – Progress Reports
- May 6th – All school Mass
- May 17th – 18th – AUCTION!