

December 2nd, 2019

Holy Spirit, call us to ACTION

IB Attribute of the Month: Knowledgeable

“Knowledge is power. Information is liberating. Education is the premise of progress, in every society, in every family.” - Kofi Annan

Our classes are filled with exciting learning activities! Here’s where we’re headed this week in the classroom:

This week we will wrap up our first **Social Studies** unit. This is an inquiry into orientation in place and time the relationships between and the interconnectedness of individuals and civilizations. Our main areas of focus are change and connection. Our related concepts are trade, costs, and benefits. We will be examining how culture, trade, and geography played a part in the formation of the 13 colonies. We will also explore how trade impacts societies and how geography influences human settlement. Throughout this unit the students will also learn significant historical events have implications for current decisions and influence the future. Some of the questions we will focus our lessons on are: How did countries colonize and who did it impact?, How did colonists make decisions to meet their wants and needs?, and What are the characteristics of the 13 colonies?. Many of these learning activities will be through an interactive simulation in which the students will form groups that are sailing to the New World. They will be making decisions as a group and working on their cooperation skills as well as their communication skills. *This week we will wrap up our unit with a narrative writing assignment where the students will reflect on their journeys sailing to the New World.*

In **Religion** we will continue learning about the beatitudes & showing gratitude in our community. We will also continue our unit on God, Our Creator and Father. This unit focuses on God’s call to family, community, and participation. This fits perfectly with how we are called to action and we will decide on a service project that we can experience in our own community. We will also be reflecting on the first week of Advent. The theme for the week is **HOPE!** As we prepare ourselves for the birth of Jesus, we will be moving/adding pieces of the creche (located outside the LRC) closer and closer to the manger where the Baby Jesus lays on Christmas morning. We have many exciting activities planned to help us better understand what Hope & the Beatitudes mean to us and how we can apply them to our own lives. *These activities will include writing, reflecting, artistic expressions, and an engaging Escape Room Challenge!*

In **Math**, Mrs. Dimock's class will be finishing up operations with decimals. We will review on Tuesday, December 5th. Students will complete a brief assessment requiring them to demonstrate their ability to apply understanding of decimals in the real world. ***Students will take a test on Wednesday, December 4th.*** Ms. Bakamis's class will begin our studies of Chapter 4: Dividing by a Two-Digit Divisor. Mr. Grahek's class we will begin their lessons in Chapter 3: Dividing by a One-Digit Divisor. Please make sure to check the Homework Website nightly to see what your student is expected to be working on. Every 5th grade student is expected to complete at LEAST 45 minutes of ALEKs per week. When they achieve 95% or higher on all of the overall 5th grade topics. I will move them into a more advanced section of the ALEKs program. ***This week the students are expected to complete AT LEAST 45 minutes of ALEKs by Monday, December 9th (Total Time: 8 hours).***

This week in **Reading & Language Arts**, we will continue working on grammar conventions, & reading strategies. Throughout the week in Language Arts we will be writing questions for interviews, expanding our sentences & singular/plural nouns with an assessment of these rules on Friday. In Reading we will be analyzing characters. There will be continue spelling this week with at test on Friday. ***Each student is expected to practice their words at least 3 times in their Words Their Way notebooks and turn their notebooks into Ms. Bakamis at the end of the week. Each student is also expected to complete at LEAST 25 minutes of independent reading on a nightly basis.***

We will begin our **Second Step Bullying Unit** this week. This week we will review our class rules and make sure that we are being respectful & responsible as we follow them and we will change them if needed. Similar to Second Step lessons, students will participate in a learning activity at school and then will be expected to complete a Homelink with a parent, trusted adult, or older sibling. All Second Step Homelinks will be turned in on Fridays.

Important Dates THIS week:

- **Monday** – Advent Prayer Service - Hope (please join us if you can!), Robotics, Spanish
- **Tuesday** – Music, 2 pm Dismissal
- **Wednesday** – PE (don't forget your PE shoes!)
- **Thursday** – Music, Library, Spanish
- **Friday** – **Mass @ 8:35 am**, PE (don't forget your PE shoes!), **Report Cards Go Home**, Figgy Pudding (MYP Christmas Caroling - Downtown Seattle)

Upcoming Important Dates:

- *Dec. 9th - Grade 1st Peace (prayer service led by 7th Grade), Fr. Brad will hear confessions for 3rd - 8th grade students from 9 am - 12 pm*
- *December 12th - Our Lady of Guadalupe Mass @ 9:30 am led by 5th Grade (Please join us if you can!)*
- *Dec. 16th - Grade 2nd Joy (prayer service led by 6th Grade), All School Mass (Our Lady of Guadalupe)*
- ***Dec. 19th CHRISTMAS PROGRAM – NOTE THE NEW DATE***
- *Dec. 20th Grade 3/4th Love (prayer service led by 5th grade) - Please join us if you are able!, House Caroling Competition*
- *December 23rd - January 3rd - Christmas Vacation*
- *January 6th - School resumes*