

January 20th, 2020

Holy Spirit, call us to ACTION

IB Attribute of the Month: Principled

*“Life's most persistent and urgent question is, 'What are you doing for others?’”  
- Martin Luther King Jr.*

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

This week we will kick off our **Social Studies** unit entitled “Different Perspectives can cause conflict.” This unit focuses on the American Revolution and will have the students establishing their own colonies and working together in groups for the second part of our simulation game. There will be many interactive learning activities for the students. This is an inquiry into the ways in which we express ideas, culture, beliefs and values. The transdisciplinary theme that we are focussing on is *how we express ourselves*. Our main areas of focus are **causation** and **perspective**. Our related concepts are conflict, justice, and power. 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, their communication skills, as well as their persuasive writing skills.

In **Religion** we will continue reflecting on ways of showing love and appreciation to our families. We will also continue our unit on Jesus, Our Lord and Savior. This unit focuses on the mystery of the Incarnation and our encounter with Jesus in Baptism & Confirmation. In this unit students will learn about New Life in Jesus, Meeting Jesus, Baptized in Christ, Growing in the Spirit, Celebrating Advent (this will be a quick review). This unit fits perfectly with how we are called to action and live how Jesus taught us. **We will be visiting Hero's Cafe on January 28th (9:30 am - 1:30 pm) to support the veterans in our own community. Please let us know if are able to drive for this exciting field trip.**

In **Math**, in Mrs. Dimock's class the students will continue working on work the work assigned last week. Ms. Bakamis's class will continue our studies of Chapter 5: Adding & Subtracting Decimals. **We will have our Chapter 5 Math Test on Thursday, January 23rd.** Mrs. Smith's class (formerly Mr. Grahek's class) will continue their lessons in Chapter 4: Dividing by a

Two-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, January 27th (Total Time: 11 hours & 45 minutes).***

This week in **Reading & Language Arts**, we will continue working on grammar conventions, & reading strategies. We will continue using a new & improved Monthly Reading Log to make sure that we are reading throughout the week. *Each student is also expected to complete at LEAST 25 minutes of independent reading on a nightly basis. Our goal for the month of January is to fill at LEAST 20 lines of the log. Please make sure to sign it before it is due on Monday, February 3rd, 2020.* We will continue working on our monthly Bookworm Book Reports. Copies of both of these will be coming home with each student on Monday. ***January's Bookworm Book Report is due on Friday, January 31st, 2020!*** In writing we will be working on possessive pronouns. We will also continue with normal spelling this week.

We begin our new **Second Step** Unit this week. This Unit will focus will be on the Calm Down Strategies (Stop, Name your feeling, Calm Down). This week's lesson will Introduce Emotion Management Strategies. 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. ***This week Second Step Homelinks will be due on Friday.***

#### **Important Dates THIS week:**

- **Monday** – MLK Jr. Day (No School)
- **Tuesday** – Music, Classroom Spelling Bee, MAP Test #1, 2 pm Dismissal
- **Wednesday** – PE (don't forget your PE shoes!), MAP Test #2
- **Thursday** – Music, Library, Spanish, MAP Test #3, Parents Club Meeting
- **Friday** – PE (don't forget your PE shoes!), Spelling Test, Second Step Homelink Due, Spelling Practice Due, Magazine Sale Kick-off Assembly, Progress Reports go home, Fulcrum Celebration of Light Dinner

***Upcoming Important Dates:***

- *Saturday, January 25th - Chinese New Year (Year of the Rat)*
- *Sunday, January 26<sup>th</sup> – Sunday Mass & Open House @ 10:30 am - 12:30 pm - Catholic Schools Week Begins*
- *Monday, January 27<sup>th</sup> – Open House during school hours & MAP testing window opens*
- ***Tuesday, January 28<sup>th</sup> – Parent Appreciation Day, Field Trip to Hero's Cafe (please let us know if you are able to drive)***
- *Wednesday, January 29<sup>th</sup> – Community Appreciation Day, Grandparents Brunch @ 9:30 am, January Bookworm Book Report Due, LIKES Film in Auditorium @ 6:30 pm*
- *Thursday, January 30<sup>th</sup> – Staff Appreciation Day*
- *Friday, January 31<sup>st</sup> – Student Appreciation Day & International Festival!*