

February 24th, 2020

Holy Spirit, call us to ACTION

IB Attribute of the Month: Open-Minded

“Always keep an open mind and a compassionate heart.” - Phil Jackson

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

In **Second Step** this week we will focus on Handling Put-Downs. 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, February 28th.*

This week we will continue 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 focusing 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 focus our time and reflections as we prepare for the season of Lent. On Tuesday, we will learn about the traditions of Mardi Gras and we will complete a writing exercise based on the 3 colors and their meaning of Justice, Faith, & Power. We will also begin to review lessons that we have learned so far and concepts for the ACRE test that the students will take in April. The students will be given access to a Quizlet on the Homework site to practice for this Assessment.

In **Math**, Mrs. Dimock's math class, we will finish our work with exponents, order of operations, and expressions. *The test is Tuesday.* We will then quickly move through writing and solving 1 step equations. Ms. Bakamis's class will wrap up our studies of Chapter 6: Multiplying & Dividing Decimals. *Our Chapter 6 Test will be on Tuesday, February 25th.* Mrs. Smith's class will wrap up their lessons in Chapter 5: Adding & Subtracting Decimals. *Their Chapter 5 Test will be on Friday, February 28th.*

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, March 2nd (2nd Trimester Time: 7 hours & 15 minutes).***

This week in **Reading & Language Arts**, we will begin our historical fiction book club groups. In these groups, we will be exploring how different perspectives can cause conflict during the American Revolution. There will be many skills that we focus on like vocabulary, comprehension, and making predictions. We will also 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 February is to fill at LEAST 15 lines of the log. Entries can be completed in class with our book club books or at home with our independent reading novels. Please make sure to sign it before it is due on Monday, March 2nd, 2020.* We will continue working on our monthly Bookworm Book Reports. Since we are working hard in our historical fiction book groups, we will be pushing the ***February/March Bookworm Book Report's due date to Tuesday, March 31st, 2020!*** In writing we will be working on using Linking Verbs. We will also continue with normal spelling this week with a Spelling Test on Friday (2/28). The students are expected to complete at LEAST 3 Spelling Practices that will be turned in on Friday (2/28).

Important Dates THIS week:

- **Monday** – Spanish, Robotics, Library, Lenten Food Drive begins
- **Tuesday** – Music, Lenten Food Drive continues, **Ms. Bakamis's Chapter 6 Math Test, Mrs. Dimock's Math Test**, 2 pm Dismissal
- **Wednesday** – PE (don't forget your PE shoes!), Lenten Food Drive continues
- **Thursday** – Music, Library, Spanish, Lenten Food Drive continues, State of the School @ 6:30 pm in the Auditorium (please join us!)
- **Friday** – Free Dress (wear Yellow in honor of Childhood Cancer), PE (don't forget your PE shoes!), Spelling Test #8, **Ms. Smith's Chapter 5 Math Test**, Second Step Homelink #14 due, Lenten Food Drive continues

Upcoming Important Dates:

- *March 2nd – Monday Lenten Prayer Service*
- *March 4th – Wednesday afternoon Mass before dismissal*
- *March 5th – First 8th Grade Bible study class at 2:05PM – parish center*
- ***March 6th – End of Lenten Food Drive***
- *March 9th – Monday Lenten Prayer Service*
- *March 11th – Wednesday afternoon Mass before dismissal*
- ***March 12th – End of 2nd Trimester and 8th Grade Bible study class at 2:05PM – parish center***
- ***March 13th – Non-Student Day (No School), Full Day of Accreditation Workday***
- ***March 14th – Math Olympiad for student in grades 3-8 (Shoreline Community College)***
- *March 16th - Monday Prayer Service (led by 5th Grade)*
- *March 18th – Wednesday Afternoon Mass before dismissal (5th Grade is responsible, Please join us!)*
- *March 19th – School Reconciliation Services and 8th Grade Lenten Bible classes*
- ***March 20th – Report Cards go Home & Fulcrum Staff Visiting Our School***
- ***March 21st-27th – Usborne Book Fair***
- *March 23rd – Monday Lenten Prayer Service*
- *March 25th – Wednesday Lenten Mass before dismissal*
- ***March 26th – Spring Conferences***
- ***March 27th – Spring Conferences***
- *March 20th – Monday Lenten Prayer Service led by*
- ***March 31st – Spring Open House***