

March 9th, 2020

Holy Spirit, call us to ACTION

IB Attribute of the Month: Risk-Takers

***“I think risk-taking is a great adventure. And life should be full of adventures.”
- Herbie Hancock***

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

In **Religion** we will focus our time and reflections as we begin the season of Lent. Our virtue of the week is **studiousness** & we will learn about St. Thomas Aquinas. There will be multiple opportunities for the students to share how they are studious learners and what stood out to them in the life of St. Thomas Aquinas. The entire 5th grade will also be preparing for our Lenten Prayer Service & Mass next week. Next week’s Lenten theme is hope. On Monday (3/16) @ 8:30 am, during our school-wide Lenten prayer service we will have the students reflect on where they see a need for hope in their lives. On Wednesday (3/18), there will be 5th grade student readers at our all-school Mass @ 2:30 pm. Please join us if you are able to. We will also continue to review concepts 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 class we will be starting on Chapter 8, focusing on functions and inequalities. Ms. Bakamis’s class will continue our studies of Chapter 7: Patterns & Expressions. Our Chapter 7 Test will be early next week. Mrs. Smith’s class will begin their lessons in Chapter 6: Multiplying & Dividing Decimals. 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 16th (2nd Trimester Time: 8 hours & 45 minutes).****

This week in **Reading & Language Arts**, we will continue 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 March 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***

Wednesday, April 1st, 2020. (No fooling :D) 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 focus on writing descriptive pieces that tie into our Social Studies simulation. ***Due to the short week we will NOT have any spelling this week.***

In **Second Step** this week we will focus on following the Problem Solving Steps (Part 1). 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 Monday, March 16th.***

This week we will wrap up 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.

Important Dates THIS week:

- **Monday** – Spanish, Robotics
- **Tuesday** – Music, 2 pm Dismissal
- **Wednesday** – Freed Dress, PE (don't forget your PE shoes!), Kids Heart Challenge (during PE time), Library, Lenten Prayer Service @ 2:30 pm
- **Thursday** – Music, Library, Spanish, last day of 2nd Trimester
- **Friday** – No School, Teacher inservice

Upcoming Important Dates:

- *March 16th - Monday Prayer Service @ 8:30 am (led by 5th Grade, Please join us!)*
- *March 18th – Wednesday Mass @ 2:30 pm (5th Grade is responsible, Please join us!)*
- *March 19th – School Reconciliation Services*
- *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*
- *March 31st – Spring Open House*