

Dear Parents,

Hard to believe we have been back in person for 3 weeks now. Starting next week, all grades will be back and our hard work following safety and health protocols will continue to be as important as ever. Students have done an excellent job wearing their masks. Staying 6 feet apart is a challenge and just not natural for children or adults. Our classrooms typically are places where students gain independence and responsibility and are actively moving around the room throughout the day. This is a big change to stay at your desk in your own personal 6 feet bubble, but we are doing it with a few reminders. Thank you for following the department of health guidelines to help keep our school open and safe.

With coming back to school, we are not able to complete the grading at the same quick pace that we did during remote learning. Plan to check **Powerschool** for missing assignments on Sundays. Our hope is to get all the grading caught up by that day.

Homework for the class can be found in two places. (google sites and St. Luke web page) Please help your child make sure to complete and bring back homework. A part of homework always is Independent reading. Every child is asked to **read nightly for 15-20 minutes**. After completing a book they should take an AR test on the book. Right now they have access at home but we also allow them to take those tests at school. The trimester ends in 4 weeks and by that time each child should have a minimum of 5 AR points. You can see how many points your child has at this time by looking at the reading gradebook in PowerSchool. Another constant (for normal weeks) is **spelling**. Monday they are to complete the Trace/Copy/Write on Monday and a spelling activity on Tuesday and Wednesday night. Also, **Math** fact fluency practice on Moby Max with optional "My Homework" review practice on the skills learned that day.

Our **Black History Project** is well underway. All students have chosen an influential person, have a book or two that they are busy reading and taking notes. Students should be done with their reading and notes by the end of the week(2/19) so they can complete the report. All directions and information is up on our homeroom google classrooms and has been passed out to students. Final projects are due by Thursday, February 25th along with their presentation on Flipgrid.

We have been so impressed with the **Summative Assessments** that the children have shared with us to show their understanding of the concepts that were taught in our Invisible pushes and pulls that help operate the world around us. Many have been able to show their understanding at the highest level by showing the concept not only in familiar ways but going beyond to show it using unfamiliar ways. That shows a deeper understanding of the concept.

It's hard to believe that this week we begin our Lenten journey. We will have time in religion to focus on our faith and how the 40 days of Lent help to form us and strengthen our bonds with each other and our relationship with Jesus. Our next religion session, session 14, is titled Mary is Holy. In this session, we will be learning about, how to say, and practicing saying the

Rosary. If your child has a rosary at home please have them bring it in to class to use. If your child does not have a rosary please let me know and I will see about obtaining a rosary for them.

It is very very important that your child have **headphones** at school everyday. We are not able because of the need to keep a 6ft distance between children, to have students work in our usual cooperative groups without the use of zoom. If you have ever been in a room with others also on zoom without headphones you know that it just doesn't work.

Thanks again for your continued support. Have a wonderful long and hopefully snowy weekend!

Warmly,

Susan Smith and Valerie Sheehan