

Dear Parents,

It feels like Easter break was a long time ago! The children are full of joy and energy this week, many with great stories about how they spent their break. We are trying to channel that energy into productive endeavors. You will notice that we are focusing our class meeting time on respect. It's hard when the weather is sunny, warm and beautiful (let's face it even when it's raining) to remember how to behave in the classroom. Please help to reinforce and encourage the children to end this year strong.

We have finished up our IB unit, Indigenous People Express their Culture Based on the Resources available to them. The children shared their creative summative projects Wednesday. A few were things we had never seen before! One child brought in everything that was needed to create a fire (rocks, sticks, grass, a pine cone) and constructed it for the class and described how it was used. Many showed their whittling skills in the construction of spears, bows and a hoe. (Mr. Boyle was a bit concerned when he saw these items coming in that morning) We had some beautiful jewelry and dream catchers. All were able to show how they used the natural resources and the uses for their items.

We have begun our next IB unit of inquiry, "Animals and the places they live are not constant". In this unit, students develop an understanding of how animals and their environments change through time. Fossils provide a window into the animals and habitats of the past. Analyzing the traits of animals provides evidence for how those traits vary, how they are inherited, and how they have changed over time. Students also examine how the environment can affect inherited traits and determine which animals will survive in a particular environment.

In ELA, the students are finishing up writing their projects and beginning a new novel study. Spelling and grammar continue to be the nightly homework assignments. New poems are introduced each Monday and looked at throughout the week. We particularly enjoyed the poem by Jack Prelutsky "I Wonder Why Dad is so Thoroughly Mad". You should have your child share it with you or one of the others that we have learned.

Young church is back. It began this past Wednesday at 6:30 in the youth center. It ends at 8 pm in the gym. It will continue for the next 5 weeks.

Important dates in May

Friday 4/29 ~ **FREE DRESS**

Friday 5/6 ~ **Marian Mass and the May Crowning @9:30**

Saturday 5/14 ~ **Gala Auction**

Friday 5/27 ~ **Fundraising day off NO SCHOOL**

Monday 5/30 ~ **Memorial Day No SCHOOL**

Have a great weekend,

Valerie Sheehan and Susan Smith