

Dear Parents,

We would first like to thank all of you for the wonderful gifts we received for Christmas. They were all so thoughtful and generous. And we hope all of you had a wonderful Christmas season filled with joy, family, and lots of love and laughter.

We have begun our next IB unit of Inquiry. Our central idea is “Invisible pushes and pulls help operate the world around us.” In this unit, students explore the forces all around them. They investigate the effects of balanced and unbalanced forces, the pushes and pulls of bridge structures, and the effects of friction on the motion of objects. Students also explore the power of magnetic forces and investigate firsthand how these forces can be used to help us in our everyday lives.

In reading, we have begun reading books from the genre of realistic fiction. One group is reading Lemonade War, and the other is Tales of a Fourth-Grade Nothing. The books are broken up into assignments, with certain chapters needing to be read each week. With these assignments, the children will be working on different reading comprehension strategies and reading skills. Generally, the children will have a week to complete the reading and packet. To help keep you informed of what is expected to be completed for each assignment and the timeframe, we will be posting the information on the St. Luke Web page and the classroom google site in the homework sections.

We began our research this week about our country. Students were each given an Epic collection of books to use, and we will also be teaching them how to use kid-friendly search engines to find information. The project is being broken down into chapters. Students will research and take notes on the topic of the chapter. Then they will draft their writing, and once it is checked by a teacher, they will type their writing into Book Creator. At the end of the process, they will each have a book they have created about their country. It will be important for students to use their time well in class in order to keep up with the daily assignments. If students fall behind, they may have extra homework in order to catch up. To help keep you informed, information will be available on our web pages, on our google site, along with our writing and grammar google classroom.

#### **Upcoming events**

January 16th ~ Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday **No school**

January 21st ~ St. Luke Parish “Trivia Night”

January 23rd-25th ~ MAPS testing - **Be sure to mark your calendars.**

January 27th ~ **Free Dress day**

January 30 - Feb. 3 **Catholic School’s Week**

- Sunday, Jan. 29th, 9:00 AM Full staff attends Mass to begin Catholic Schools Week, followed by **Open House** displays throughout the school after Mass.
- Monday, Jan. 30th ~ Celebrate our parents
- Tuesday, Jan 31st ~ Celebrate our teachers
- Wednesday, Feb. 1st ~ Celebrate our grandparents and Faith community with an all-school mass followed by a brunch for the grandparents
- Thursday, Feb. 2nd ~ Celebrate our Alums and Donors – St. Luke Fan Club
- Friday, Feb. 3rd ~ Celebrate our Students and INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL in the auditorium

Thanks so much for your continued support,

Susan Smith and Valerie Sheehan