

Dear Parents,

Happy St. Patrick's Day! Spring feels like it is right around the corner with this sunshine. We were so impressed with the student's floats and suitcases. They were all so creative and enjoyed sharing them with each other; the 4th-grade classes came by too. Their region presentations were also completed this week. Students gained valuable experience presenting to their classmates.

Our region's unit comes to an end with these projects, and we are starting our next. For this next unit, we are going back in time to before the United States was established. We are looking at the various Indigenous tribes that inhabited the land. Our central idea for this unit is "Indigenous people express their culture based on the resources available to them." After learning about the land, water, and climate across the United States, the children will take this knowledge to find out how the Indigenous people used what was available to them to create all they needed. In reading class, we will explore the legends starting with creation legends from across the continent.

Spring is in the air so what better time to look at poetry? We began our poetry unit last week. The children are looking at the structural elements and parts of a poem. They will take this knowledge and apply it as we study different poems by different authors. We hope to study one poem each week and give them quite a collection by the time we finish.

Our newest writing unit, "Changing the world: persuasive speeches," got off to a great start. We brainstormed ideas to improve our playground and upper field once the turf is in. Boy, they had some great ideas! They drafted a short persuasive speech and presented their ideas to Mr. Boyle, who was very impressed. He is taking them to the finance council to see what he can do. Next, we discussed problems in class, school, home, neighborhood, community, and the world. We created a large list and practiced writing bold brave opinions. Students will choose one of the problems to write about and think of solutions for their persuasive speech.

To help the children focus on memorizing their multiplication basic facts, we are testing all the children table by table starting with the 0's table and going up to the 12s. Each child will be working on the table that they are not fluent at and able to quickly recall. They will have a set of individual cards on just that table to practice until the next testing time. If you would like to earn some volunteer hours and come in and test during math time (10:35-11:30 most days) we'd love to have your help. We have all the materials so it would just be checking for quick recall.

Upcoming Events

3/22 - 5th-grade Exhibition - 1:00 pm - Parents Welcome!
3/22 - All-school Mass - 8:45 am
3/24 - Report Cards go home
3/24 - Soup Supper Sponsored by Parents Club - 6:00 pm
3/29 - All-school Mass - 8:45 am
3/29 - Lenten Penance Service 6:30-8:00 pm in the church.
3/30 - Hearing and Vision Screening
3/31 - FREE DRESS DAY!
3/31 - St. Luke Athletics - Fish Fry Drive Thru (**More slots added!**)
4/2 - Palm Sunday - Procession at 9 am Mass
4/5 - All-school Mass - 8:45 am
4/6 - Holy Thursday - 7 pm Mass - Adoration until 10 pm
4/7 - Good Friday, Stations of the Cross, 11:15 am
4/7 - NOON DISMISSAL

Enjoy this great weather,

Valerie Sheehan and Susan Smith