



December 10th, 2023

Attribute of the month: Knowledgeable

"Reflecting God's Kindness!"

"If we have no peace, it is because we have forgotten that we belong to each other." - Mother Teresa

Here's where we're headed in the classroom:

This week in **Social Studies**, students will be developing their colony's identity with personalized flags and reflecting on the motivations for their particular group. "Diverse beliefs and values motivate people to leave home" provides context for how and why these groups took on risks and made compromises with each other and the societies of both the "old world" and "new world." The simulation next pushes students to pack their ships carefully before crossing the Atlantic, highlighting our first Line of Inquiry: "Every decision has costs and benefits!"

In **Religion**, we will expand on our Advent reflections, particularly the third and fourth week themes of "Joy" and "Love," after 5th grade leads the prayer service for "Peace" in the second week of Advent on Monday, December 11th, reflecting on the theme of "Peace." We will also consider the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary as we approach the great festival of the Lord's Nativity! Students will have the opportunity for the Sacrament of Reconciliation on Wednesday as part of our reflection and preparation in learning to better imitate the Lord's example of love and mercy towards others.

This week in **Math** with Ms. Bakannis & Mr. Scholz, assisted by Mr. Carson, we continue Unit 7, "Dividing Whole Numbers," stretching ourselves to recognize and apply the conceptual link between multiplication and division! We will have the Unit 7 test when we return from break in January. As a reminder, one week of ALEKS will be expected during the Christmas break (the usual weekly expectation for ALEKS is 45 minutes and 5 topics by Sunday evening).

This week in **Reading & Spelling** with Ms. Bakannis, will continue to work on their comprehension by taking AR tests on the books that they have finished. **Our second trimester AR goal is 15 points!** As a nightly practice, students are expected to read for 30 minutes of a book of their own choice in their current Lexile Level. We will have our Spelling to practice this week (on Monday, December 11th)! **Each student is expected to have practiced their spelling words at LEAST three times and will turn in their Spelling Notebook before their Weekly Spelling test on Monday, December 11th.** We have posted

the Spelling Bee Word Lists on Toddler Announcement for your students to begin practicing for the Classroom Spelling Bee in late January and the School Spelling Bee on February 22nd!

This week in **Writing** with Mr. Scholz, our Grammar lesson centers on the formatting of titles. This is a great skill for our Informational Writing unit, as we prepare to write history research papers after Christmas! This week our writing lessons wrap up our foundational practice on understanding how to read a source for relevant details, outline a paragraph, and revise to include transitions and vivid vocabulary. We will also reflect on growth from the Fall narrative unit by seeing the changes from the first week of school to the final versions of the small moment stories. There is much growth to celebrate and I'm looking forward to even more in the coming units!

Important Dates THIS week:

- **Monday – Second Advent Prayer Service led by 5th grade in the auditorium (8:30 am), Spelling practices due & assessment**, PE & Library (both classes), Spanish (5B)
- **Tuesday** – Music (5A), Spanish (5B), Second rehearsal for Christmas program (9:00 am - church)
- **Wednesday** – PE & Library (both classes), Spanish (5A), Penance Service in church – (9:15 am - start), Dress rehearsal for Christmas program – school views show (1:30 PM), **Christmas Program (6:30 pm, classroom/church doors open at 6 pm)**
- **Thursday** – Music (5B) & Spanish (5A), **5th Grade Holiday Party**, Second House Caroling rehearsal (1:30 pm)
- **Friday** – Music (both classes), **Non-Uniform Day, Christmas Clothes Encouraged!**, Staff caroling during morning carpool, Third House Caroling rehearsal

Upcoming Dates:

- **Monday, December 18th – January 2nd Christmas Vacation**
- *December 31st – Deadline for financial aid applications*
- **Tuesday, January 2nd – Welcome Back!**
- *Friday, January 5th – Epiphany of the Lord*
- *January 8th – Feb. 2nd – MAP testing window*
- **January 26th – Non – uniform day**
- **January 29th – February 2nd – Catholic Schools Week!**
- **Wednesday, January 31st - Grandparents Brunch**
- *February 2nd – International Fest!*