



December 3rd, 2023

Attribute of the month: Knowledgeable

“Reflecting God’s Kindness!”

“To know that we know what we know, and to know that we do not know what we do not know, that is true knowledge.” - Nicolaus Copernicus

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

This week in **Writing** with Mr. Scholz, we continue our Grammar focus on commas, using our interactive notebooks and online MobyMax quiz to zoom in on sentences that use commas for yes/no questions, direct address, and tag questions. We are continuing our mini-unit on informational writing, “Intro to Info.” We started with paragraph structure (topic sentence, supporting details, and conclusion), practiced compare/contrast, and now moved into drafting and revising for clarity. These foundational skills will help our whole 5th-grade cohort move quickly in January when students begin researching for major informational papers!

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 follow our lesson on the sacraments as key signs with a pause to focus on the liturgical season that begins this week: Advent! 5th grade will lead the prayer service on Monday, December 11th, reflecting on the theme of “Peace” for the Second Week of Advent. In these busy days before the joyful holiday, we will also consider how the signs and symbols of preparation remind us to refocus on the Lord’s presence in our lives, and the call to share His love with others.

This week in **Math** with Ms. Bakamis & Mr. Scholz, assisted by Mr. Carson, we concluded Unit 6, "Multiplying Decimal" with the test. Integrating the core skills of place and decimal estimation, the unit ends with strategies for decimal multiplication. We will next move to Unit 7, "Dividing Whole Numbers," challenging students to expand their prior knowledge, and further develop procedural skills and fluency in this core domain. Please continue to check in with your student about their achievements and challenges in both ALEKS and our math curriculum **(reminder that the weekly expectation for ALEKS is 45 minutes and 5 topics by Sunday evening).**

This week in **Reading & Spelling** with Ms. Bakamis, will continue to work on their comprehension skills. They will work on another comprehension packet for chapters 9, 10, and 11 from our read-aloud A Week in the Woods. As a nightly practice, students are expected to read for 30 minutes of a book of their own choice in their current Lexile Level. **Our second trimester AR goal is 15 points!** We will have new Spelling to practice this week (on Tuesday)! **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 Toddle Announcement for your students to begin practicing for the Classroom Spelling Bee in late January and the School Spelling Bee on February 22nd!

Important Dates THIS week:

- **Monday** – PE & Library (both classes), Spanish (5B), **Start of Second Trimester**
- **Tuesday** – Music (5A), Spanish (5B)
- **Wednesday** – PE & Library (both classes), Spanish (5A), **St. Nicholas Day**
- **Thursday** – Music (5B) & Spanish (5A), Caroling Competition Practice #1
- **Friday** – Music (both classes), **Feast of the Immaculate Conception, Christmas pageant rehearsal (after mass).** & **1st-trimester report cards ready for family view on Toddle**

Upcoming Dates:

- **Monday, December 11th** – **Second Advent Prayer Service led by 5th grade in the auditorium (8:30 am), Spelling practices due & assessment**
- **Tuesday, December 12th** – Second rehearsal for Christmas program (9:00 am - church)
- **Wednesday, December 13th** – Penance Service in church – (9:15 am - start), **Dress rehearsal for Christmas program – school views show (1:30 PM), Christmas Program (6:30 pm)**
- **Thursday, December 14th** – Second House Caroling rehearsal (1:30 pm)
- **Friday, December 15th** – **Non-Uniform Day, Christmas Clothes Encouraged!**, Staff caroling during morning carpool, Third House Caroling rehearsal
- **Monday, December 18th** – **January 2nd Christmas Vacation**
- **Tuesday, January 2nd** – **Welcome Back!**