

Dear Parents,

Valentine's Day is approaching quickly! If your child would like to pass out Valentines, please have them for the entire class, or if you want to include both third grades, make sure it's for everyone. We will put Valentine Envelope holders in the hall for them to mail Valentine's cards or candy as they come in. We will talk to our room parents about organizing a treat for our students. This year, we will celebrate Valentine's Day on Tuesday, February 13, because Ash Wednesday is on February 14.

On Monday we will have two guest speakers from EcoConnections presenting a workshop, Habitat Stewardship, to the third graders. This will happen during our ELA time, so we will not have grammar or spelling packets for the children next week. We will work on their realistic fiction books, reading skills, and persuasive writing during ELA.

In this lesson, students learn about "climate" and study the five main climates worldwide. In the "Climate Decoder" activity, they color different parts of a world map to understand the climates in certain areas. They combine these maps and start figuring out global climate patterns. The next lesson lets students study the effects of natural disasters like tornadoes, hurricanes, and dust storms. In the "Design a Windproof House" activity, the students build house models out of paper. Then, with a few materials, students think of many ways to make their houses stronger so they can survive a windstorm. They compare the strengths of their different solutions.

In math, the children finish up our units dealing with multiplication properties and area. Just because we are not focusing on multiplication in class does not mean we want the children not to practice their basic multiplication facts each night. We will have Mad Minute fact checks and orally test them on their recall of the basic facts for the rest of the year. Keep plugging along it will be worth the effort!

Catholic schools week begins on Sunday. We look forward to seeing many of you at the 9 am mass and the open house right after. Students should show their St. Luke pride by wearing their uniforms to mass. This is a perfect opportunity to see what your child has been doing in class. Our students have been very busy this month; our classroom and hallway displays demonstrate this.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

SUN 1/28 - 9 am MASS & OPEN HOUSE

MON 1/29 - PARENT APPRECIATION DAY

TUE 1/30 - STAFF APPRECIATION DAY

WED 1/31 - GRANDPARENTS & GRANDFRIENDS PROGRAM (RSVP is now closed)

THU 2/1 - ST. LUKE PARISH STAFF & ST LUKE ALUMNI APPRECIATION DAY

FRI 2/2 - STUDENT APPRECIATION DAY and International Festival

MON 2/ 5 - BLACK HISTORY PROJECTS DUE

TUE 2/6 - classroom spelling bee

2/9 - NO SCHOOL - Teacher In-service

2/14 - ASH WEDNESDAY (9:30 am) - Service of the Word w/ ash distribution

2/19 - NO SCHOOL - Presidents Day

2/22 - Spelling Bee in the Auditorium

2/23 - Non-uniform Day

We hope to see you all on Sunday!

Susan Smith and Valerie Sheehan