

Dear Parents,

Happy New Year! We hope you all enjoyed a wonderful Christmas season filled with lots of joy! We wanted to thank all of you for your generosity and overwhelming support. Your gifts, and especially the cards and notes, meant so much to us. Thank you so much for all of your kindness and support.

Each child has chosen an influential black history figure to read a biography about at home during their daily reading time. They need to take notes about what they learn about this person as they read. On Tuesday, we sent home a packet with a note-taking form, a cover page (for a picture of their person), and then the final report form to fill out. We will be grading the note-taking and the final project, so please help your child keep it organized as they work. We are attaching a PDF of the forms we have sent home in case your child can't locate them. These finished projects (and notes) are not **due until Monday, February 5th**.

In math, our ongoing goal is for the kids to know their basic facts well. We've concluded our first unit on multiplication. It focused on 0, 1, 2, 5, and 10 facts. The kids received flash cards to practice these facts at home. The new unit we started on Tuesday builds on these facts. It introduces the distributive property of multiplication to learn more facts. We'll send home additional flashcards with each new fact table. The kids can use these in their daily practices. We hope they'll know all the facts from 0-12 by year's end.

In ELA, the children did not have spelling this week because of the number of absent students this gave us a great opportunity to get started on our new book clubs. The children are divided up into three reading groups. Each group has been assigned a different book from the realistic fiction genre. The three books are *Frindle*, *The Lemonade War*, and *Tales of a Fourth-Grade Nothing*. Each group will be working on the same skills during our reading time but the focus will be on using the skills learned with the elements of their book.

We have begun our new writing unit, Change the World: Persuasive Speeches, Petitions, and Editorials. We are learning the parts of opinion writing, specifically working on stating a claim (opinion) and giving reasons to support an argument. We will construct a persuasive speech together using the same claim, and then students will construct their own persuasive speech on a topic they feel strongly about.

In our IB unit of inquiry with the central idea, *Weather Affects Human Actions*, we learned about Meteorologists and the tools they use to gather data on the weather. Each student made a tool to bring home and set up to gather weather data. Please set it up and take a picture to send to us. We will add these to their portfolio. Next week, students examine clues about how clouds look and feel to discover what they're made of and how they form. In the Gas Trap activity, students add hot water to clear cups to observe evaporation firsthand. They observe the condensation of the water vapor on the sides of the cup. They use this model to understand how clouds are formed.

Catholic Schools Week will be celebrated the last week in January. We are busy preparing for it already. Please take a look at the schedule of events so you can plan accordingly. The Grandparents and Grandfriends mass is such a special event. Please use the link below to

RSVP. To end the week, the international festival is returning. If you wish to participate, please see information in the Thursday WRAP and use the link below.

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 MASS / PROGRAM](#)

THU 2/1 - PARISH & ALUMNI APPRECIATION DAY

FRI 2/2 - STUDENT APPRECIATION DAY and [International Festival](#)

Other Important Dates to Remember

1/8 - PURPLE AND GOLD SPIRIT DAY! LET'S CHEER ON OUR HUSKIES!

1/9 - Student Assembly (Grades 3-8) Dr. Knight's presentation on Cultural Humanity through the lens of our Catholic Faith

1/15 - NO SCHOOL - MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY

1/16-1/18 3rd Grade MAP testing

1/26 - Non-uniform Day

Wishing you a wonderful new year,

Susan Smith and Valerie Sheehan