

Dear Parents,

It's hard to believe that it is already February. This year is flying by. What a wonderful week celebrating Catholic Schools. We felt very appreciated on Tuesday. The cards, notes, flowers, and gifts were so thoughtful and generous. Students had a great time at the Reptile Man and enjoyed their ice cream treat during lunch. It has been an amazing week.

In writing this week, we took all of our ideas, opinions, insights, and knowledge of kindness and drafted strong, bold claims to use to write our speeches. Next week, students will choose one claim and, using a graphic organizer, will plan their persuasive speech, including three reasons to support their claim and additional examples and details.

This week, we will complete our realistic fiction books, which include Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing, Frindle, or Lemonade War. All the groups have been informed to finish the last few chapters of their respective books and be prepared to take the AR test once they finish. We will work on different reading skills, such as inference and Story Elements, using the books to demonstrate their understanding during class. Due to the shortened week and the classroom spelling bee on Tuesday, we will not have spelling again this week, allowing us to concentrate on reading.

Our upcoming IB unit topic is "Taking Care of the Planet and Each Other." The main idea that we want the children to understand is that we are all interconnected and must care for each other. To start this inquiry, the children will explore a padlet that lists various topics related to caring for the planet and its inhabitants. They will watch videos and explore different websites to learn about these topics. Afterward, they will be asked to summarize the key points they learned and share any new questions or insights they have gained. The children will then choose a topic that they want to investigate further and present their findings to the class. Finally, they will take action based on their learning to positively impact the planet and its inhabitants.

As we finish unit 6 in math this week, we will introduce Fractions in the next two units. Students should still be working on their multiplication flashcards each night. Mastering their basic facts is vital for their math development. By the end of 3rd grade, they should be able to quickly recall all addition and subtraction facts to 24, along with their multiplication and division facts.

We will be concluding our Circle of Grace lessons next week. I highly recommend asking your child to show you how they form their circle of grace during the lesson. It will also be helpful to discuss with them the things that should be allowed to pass into their circle, such as forgiveness and kind words, and the things that should not enter their circle, such as hitting and put-downs.

#### **IMPORTANT DATES**

##### **Monday, February 5th ~ BLACK HISTORY PROJECTS DUE**

2/6 - Classroom Spelling Bee

2/9 - **NO SCHOOL** - Teacher In-service

2/13 - Valentine-themed non-uniform Day! (Wear red/white/pink QR school uniform)

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

3/8 - **NO SCHOOL** - Teacher In-service

Happy Catholic Schools Week,

Valerie Sheehan and Susan Smith