

Dear Parents,

Today marks the ninth day of Lent, and the children have created their Lenten booklets to track their progress in keeping their Lenten promises. Father Brad has assigned different virtues to learn about, along with a Saint who exemplified that virtue in their life. Last week, we learned about the virtue of faith and Saint Jerome. Our virtue to focus on next week is reverence.

This week, we introduced a new unit called "Communities Develop and Change Over Time" to our students. As a part of this unit, our students had the opportunity to learn about anthropology. They were asked to select a tribe they would like to study. Over the next week or two, the students will act as cultural anthropologists and learn about their chosen tribe's way of life in the past. They will document all they learn in their field journals, including notes and pictures. After exploring their past, the students will then find out where their tribes are located today.

During reading, the children will study the legends of various tribes and their origins. They will start by comparing the origin legends of different tribes and then move on to exploring a range of other legends and the lessons they taught the people. The study unit will conclude with the children presenting various readers' theatre performances of the legends they have learned.

We will write our persuasive speeches next week about a problem students see in the world. We wrote claims and began to develop reasons this week, and we will write them next week. Speeches will be due Thursday, March 7th. Students will present their speeches along with their visual aids (slideshow or poster) later. There has been some confusion about their slideshows and posters. These are being used just as a visual aid to support their persuasive speeches. So, for example, if one of their arguments is that the ice is melting in the Arctic, they should have a picture to support that. Their pictures will directly relate to their arguments in their speeches.

Our spelling and grammar tests will be on Thursday, with the field trip to the Burke Museum on Friday. Students will receive spelling and grammar packets on Monday to complete as homework, due Thursday morning.

Our field trip to the Burke Museum is scheduled for Friday, March 1st. It is mandatory for the children to wear their uniforms. Although we will eat at school, the children cannot access the lunch program. Therefore, kindly avoid ordering a hot lunch. During the field trip, our students will represent our school. It is essential for them to be mindful of their actions and words, as people who are not aware of our school will form an opinion based on their behavior.

**Important Dates:**

2/25 - Re-enrollment Deadline

2/29 - STATE OF THE SCHOOL ZOOM (6:30 pm)

3/1 - Field Trip to Burke Museum ~ Leave by 9:00 am

3/8 - NO SCHOOL - Teacher In-service

3/14 -16 - MYP Winter Musical - The Sound of Music Jr. - stay tuned!

3/22 - End of Trimester

Have a great weekend,

Susan Smith and Valerie Sheehan