

Dear Parents,

We hope you enjoy the long weekend! Tomorrow, the teachers will be enjoying different workshops offered by the Archdiocese and working on making sure the grades are up to date so that you can get a good look at Toddle of your child's progress. Remember to start sending in the Valentine's Monday. We will be celebrating on Tuesday, February 13th. (Wednesday, February 14th is Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent.) We've attached a pdf of the class lists.

Third grade is a busy place these days. We are finishing different projects across the curriculum, with one IB unit ending (Weather and Climate) and the new IB unit (Communities Develop and Change over Time) starting in a week. The children have finished their Realistic Fiction books and are moving from multiplication concepts to fractions. In writing, we have been inquiring about kindness and next week, we will write our persuasive speeches. Look for these to pop up in their portfolios in the next week or two—lots of transitions for the next few weeks.

The next phase of our IB unit is about global warming and habitat stewardship. This inquiry topic is well-aligned with religion, emphasizing the importance of "Taking Care of the Planet and Each Other." The main idea behind this phase is that we are all connected and need to look after each other. The children have been building their background knowledge for the last few days to prepare for this project. They are now selecting a topic (problem) that they feel strongly about and formulating research questions to answer. As they develop their questions, we are asking them to keep in mind some essential questions: 1. How can we take care of our earth? 2. What is causing harm to our world and the species on it? 3. What can we do to fix it? After conducting research, the children will create a persuasive speech with visual aids. We will mainly work on this project in class, but some work will need to be completed at home. We will provide more information as we progress through the unit.

Our next field trip to the Burke Museum is scheduled for **March 1st**. We were very lucky. The Burke Museum has begun its guided programs again, and they have allowed us to change ours to one about Native Americans' living traditions. Permission slips were given to students today. Please fill out and return as soon as possible. For those of you who have paid for all of the field trips earlier this year, there is no need to send in any money. For those who are paying before each field trip, you should send in \$9.00. Each classroom is allowed to have 6 drivers/chaperones. Being a driver/chaperone will be on a first-come-first-serve basis. If you wish to be a driver/chaperone, please email us to let us know if you can drive and how many students you can take. We will let you know if you are a driver on the field trip. Looking forward to a trip to the newly renovated Burke Museum.

**Important Dates**

2/9 - NO SCHOOL - Teacher In-service

2/9 - Mid-Trimester

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

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

2/14 - Happy Valentine's Day!

2/19 - NO SCHOOL - Presidents Day

2/22 - Spelling Bee in the Auditorium.

2/23 - Non-uniform Day

Thanks for your continued support,

Valerie Sheehan and Susan Smith