

January 29, 2010

Dear Parents,

I can't believe the year is half way over. I think of the changes and progress the students have made and I am constantly amazed.

Below is a list of topics we'll be covering in the month of February.

RELIGION - We Live as a Family, We Live as a Community,
Moses Leads God's People

BUILDING CHARACTER - Friendship

MATH - finish Telling Time, Counting & Number Patterns to 100

SCIENCE - Environments, Plants and Animals Living Together

SOCIAL STUDIES - Heroes, Symbols of America

READING/LANGUAGE ARTS

Phonics - /ng/, /ngk/ spelled nk, adding -es to make plurals,
inflected ending -ed and -ing, er/ir/ur

Comprehension - plot, classify and categorize, sequence

Spelling - words with ng, nk, plurals, words with -ed, words with
er, ir ur

Vocabulary Skills - synonyms, descriptive words, using a
dictionary/glossary

Grammar - verbs that add -s, verbs that don't add -s, past and
present verbs, verbs am, is are, was and were

Writing - animal fantasy, realistic stories

SHARE

week of 2/1 - oral share: "What I like about St. Pius
School..."

week of 2/8 - symbol of love

week of 2/15 - favorite picture of family

week of 2/22 - free choice

This month's book report will be a written one. I've attached the form. This is due on or before February 26th.

As we begin Catholic Schools Week, I want to take this opportunity to thank you, the parents, for all you do. Whether you work in the classroom or take things home, I truly appreciate the help you give me. More importantly, you make a difference in the lives of your children. The love and support you give them shows in all they do. I look forward to seeing you at Open House on Sunday.

On Friday, February 12th, students can bring in valentine cards. I do ask that candy not be in them. I want the students to understand and appreciate the meaning of the day rather than being concerned with what kind of candy they might find in the card. I've attached a class list. You may want to start having children put their classmates name on the valentines ahead of time.

Report cards came home today. Please review your child's report card, sign it, and return it to school next week. Feel free to contact me if you would like to discuss any issues.

Below you'll find some general guidelines as to what I'm expecting a first grader to do at this point in the year. Keep in mind that they are guidelines and that children develop at different levels or times.

MATH- completion of at least 15 on math drills on a regular basis, understanding of concepts covered (daily work and tests)

WRITING- able to write a complete sentence (including structure and grammar), starting to write 4-5 sentences in journal with sentences that flow

READING/PHONICS/SPELLING- able to identify all letters, know sounds for all consonants, short vowels and long vowels, able to blend sounds together to form words, in reading silently and aloud should be able to "attack" or sound out word and be fluent in their attempts, show understanding of what was read by way of discussion or comprehension page

ENGLISH- writing complete sentences that start and end with proper punctuation, are able to identify nouns and verbs

RELIGION- understanding of basic concepts we have covered,

quizzes/tests, show through actions that they follow the example of Jesus

SCIENCE/SOCIAL STUDIES- participation in discussions-activities, activity pages, quizzes/tests

LISTENING and SPEAKING- be attentive and show respect to person talking, uses a clear, loud voice, able to speak to a group, connecting thoughts together, remembering share and book reports is important

ART/MUSIC/PE/COMPUTER- effort and participation, as well as conduct

HANDWRITING- letters should be formed neatly and legibly

If you ever have a concern or question, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Julie Brand