

January 8, 2010

Dear Parents,

I hope all of you had a wonderful Christmas and a chance to relax a bit. The children seem eager to get back in the swing of things. I share in their excitement and in the excitement of the remaining months we have together.

Below you'll find topics we'll cover this month. It is going to be a busy month that concludes with Catholic Schools Week. Further information on the events for that week, such as Walk-a-thon, will be coming home soon.

RELIGION - The Good News of Jesus

BUILDING CHARACTER - Acceptance

MATH - geometry, patterns

SCIENCE - finish unit on plants and animals

SOCIAL STUDIES - learn about our country and flag, as well as about Martin Luther King, Jr.

READING

Phonics - long o (o_e), review long i and wh/ch/tch, long u (u_e), review long o, long e spelled e and ee, long i and e spelled y

Comprehension - sequence, author's purpose, compare and contrast

Spelling - long o words, long u words, long e words words with y as the i and e sound

Vocabulary Skills - classifying words, multiple-meaning words, antonyms

Grammar - proper nouns, singular and plural nouns, nouns in sentences, action verbs

Writing - prewriting, drafting and revising

Share topics.....

week of January 11 - free choice

week of January 18 - oral book reports

week of January 25 - something with a long vowel sound

BOOK REPORT!!!!!!

This month's book report will be an oral one. Students are to read a book of their choice/ability and be able to tell the class the following:

- 1. name of book*
- 2. author*
- 3. what the book is about*
- 4. what they liked or didn't like about the story*
- 5. show a favorite page*

Students will give their report on their assigned share day the week of January 18th. I encourage you to have your child practice at home in order to be prepared and to feel comfortable in front of an "audience".

Starting next quarter, we will start something called DOL which stands for Daily Oral Language. The students will be given a page that has four sentences that have mistakes in them. Mistakes include simple spelling errors, capitals, and ending punctuation marks, as well as things we have recently learned in class (ie-compound words). Students will receive their page each morning, Monday through Thursday. They will do one sentence per day, writing the corrected version under the incorrect one. We will discuss them daily after we do them to help reinforce the concepts. Review your child's paper with him/her and, if needed, make up some of your own sentences for him/her to correct. My hope is that the concepts covered will transfer into their writing and lead them on their way to becoming fluent writers.

*Sincerely,
Julie Brand*