

January 27, 2012

Dear Parents,

I can't believe the year is more than 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 – Tens and Ones, Comparing/Ordering Numbers to 100

SCIENCE – Environments, Plants and Animals Living Together

SOCIAL STUDIES – Heroes, Symbols of America

READING

*Phonics: (vowel pairs ai, ay, oa, ow, oo), counting
syllables, review long vowels*

*Comprehension: making predictions, critical
thinking, sequence of events*

*Vocabulary: parts of the body, animal action words,
categorizing, friendship words, city words,
words with multiple meanings*

*Grammar: naming words for one or more, proper
names for people and animals, compound
words, proper names for places and things*

*Writing: writing a summary, writing an opinion,
writing with naming words, writing a
description*

*SPELLING – y as a vowel, tr/br/nk/ng blends, plurals, verbs
ending with -ed*

SHARE

*week of 2/6 – animal related item (stuffed animal, picture,
book, etc.)*

week of 2/13 – symbol of love

week of 2/20 – favorite picture of family

week of 2/27 – free choice

This month's book report will be a written one. I've attached the form. This is due on or before February 29th.

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 Mass on Sunday!

Valentine's Day will be here soon. Students can bring in valentine cards. I do ask that candy, pencils, toys, etc. not be in them. I want the students to understand and appreciate the meaning of the day rather than being concerned with what 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 are coming home today. Please review your child's report card, sign it, and return it to school. Please contact me if you would like to meet.

This is just a reminder that the 20th annual school fundraiser, the Shamrock-a-thon, will be held next Thursday. Please remember that all forms and money are due on or before that day. Students will have fun showing off their dance moves, as well as walking with their friends to help raise money while earning great prizes. Thank you in advance for your support!

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 a, o, i, 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