

April 16, 2010

Dear Parents and Students,

Upcoming Events:

Wednesday April 21: Anita Passon will be visiting for our Author's Visit

Friday April 23: Book Orders Due

Friday April 7: 12:30 Mass with Bishop Reiss

Friday May 28: Fifth Grade visits Courthouse

Literacy: In Writer's Workshop this week, the students have finished editing their poems. We will be publishing our poems with the company I mentioned in the last newsletter. Today the students had their Writer's Celebration since the finished poetry books will not be coming back to school for a few weeks. The boys also got to share their poems with the third graders. The next writing unit we will begin will be Persuasive Writing. This genre usually produces some unique fifth grade writing ideas! In Reader's Workshop, the class has learned how to find inferences as they read. We are looking at what the author writes and how that relates to our prior knowledge, so we can draw our inference. The students will continue working on this skill next week as well, as exploring the theme of stories. The reading log is due on Wednesday so the boys can correct any inferences that they didn't feel were very strong. A new log will not be going home next week.

Religion: This week in Religion, the class finished Chapter 9 and took a test on it. We looked at the Holy Spirit in our lives. The students created character wheels to highlight the behavior of someone they feel is a witness to the Holy Spirit.

Social Studies: In Social Studies this week, the students learned about the Stamp Act. We discussed how this act angered colonists and the students were introduced to the Sons of Liberty. In groups, they were even able to translate the Declaration of Rights and Grievances and explain the colonists' feelings towards the king. The students will receive a study guide next week for the Events Leading to the American Revolution Test that they will have the week of April 26th.

Science: In Science, the students have been reviewing the parts of a flower and how seeds are distributed. Much to the boys liking, they got to dissect flowers and label the parts we have been discussing. Today the class investigated what seeds need to grow. We placed seeds in a baggie with a cotton ball dipped in water to see if plants would grow. The students formed thoughtful hypotheses based on their prior knowledge of plants. A study guide is coming home this weekend and the students will have a test on plants next Tuesday.

Word Study: New words will be passed out next week for the students to start to investigate.

Other News: We will be sending the poetry anthologies to the publishing company so please send \$10 in with your child by the end of next week.

I hope you have a great weekend.

Sincerely,

Sarah Melling
melling@stmarychargers.com

