

NEWSLETTER

We are well into October already! Unbelievable! The leaves are even changing colors too quickly for me.

The 3rd graders have enjoyed doing Meals on Wheels since the beginning of the school year. We are now nearing the end of our 1st round. It will be the 4th grade's turn the next 6 weeks, then 5th. Our class is fortunate that it is so small because the students get to go more than once. The people they deliver lunches to are so appreciative, and they love to see those fresh, young, smiling faces.

We also have been writing notes and making pictures to send to Jean's Place each month. The parish and school prepare, cook, and serve a hot chicken dinner at Transition Projects in Northwest Portland. We also deliver the same meal to Jean's Place on that day. Sometimes they'll use what they've learned in the art class Mrs. Larson teaches once a week. This month they designed a card in fall colors with a poem written on it.

Our class is beginning a new reading project which will benefit them as well as others who are less fortunate. When our class reads 100 books Scholastic Book Clubs will donate 100 books to kids in need. We have approximately 2 months to accomplish this task, and the students are sure they can reach that goal. Any book counts, although it should be at grade level, about 80 pages in length. Books can be read aloud, read at home, or read at school.

Here is an update on some of the things we've been doing in the classroom:

RELIGION: Although religion “class” is taught daily, the students can integrate much of what they learn into other subject areas, and in their interactions with those they encounter during the day. Religion takes place all day. We have been focusing on seeing God’s presence in their every day lives, and to act upon what they see. Every day we read from our prayer center: “This is what God asks of us, to act with justice, to love tenderly, to serve one another, and to walk humbly with God.”

MATH: The month of September was a time of review, especially place-value to ten and one hundred thousands. Now we are focusing on money and graphing, rounding and estimating, as well as adding and subtracting larger numbers.

SPELLING: It is vital that the homework assigned be complete and checked by the parents. Most assignments are short creative writings which are to contain some of the spelling words of the week. This is an effective way to study the words, and we often share our creations with the class the following day.

ENGLISH: So far we’ve studied complete sentences, kinds of sentences, sentence fragments, compound and run-on sentences, and subjects and predicates. We are moving on to nouns, singular and plural, common and proper, singular and plural possessive nouns.

READING: We have just finished the first unit which focused on story elements, making predictions, making inferences about characters, story problem and solution, compound words, prefixes, steps in a process, (organizing information), using context clues to determine the meanings of vocabulary words. In the next unit we will spend more time on

Cause and effect, drawing conclusions, comparing and contrasting things that happen in a story, important and unimportant information.

SCIENCE: We will soon be finished with our Earth unit. We learned a lot about rocks and minerals. Scientist Raven came from Mad Science and gave us a great hands – on experience with rocks and minerals. Our next unit will be weather and space.

* **At Back - to – School Night** I mentioned the possibility of having a Family Science Night sometime in Feb. or March. Is anyone interested in helping out? Let me know.

SOCIAL STUDIES: This year our focus is on “different types of communities in the U.S. and around the world. Our 1st unit talks about the various types of communities from rural and small town to suburban and urban. Each community has beautiful landforms and bodies of water that provide us with food, jobs, and fun. People work together to protect their environment so that they can continue to enjoy where they live. Our next unit looks back to the past, to our country’s earliest communities started by Native Americans, and then later when the English and Spanish arrived.

COMPUTER: Our program is self-directed in keyboarding. Some students have finished all lower case letters and have moved on to capitals and punctuation. Most students look forward to this class.

CURSIVE: Each time we begin a new letter the students find that they can write more and more words in cursive. It is exciting to see the progress they are making.

If anyone has little trinkets they would love to get rid of I could sure use them in my classroom store. I am super low! Pencils, pencil pouches, pencil erasers, bookmarks, stickers, etc. The Dollar Store has great kid stuff. Thank you.