



St. Martin of Tours Academy First Grade Newsletter January 2012

Dear Parents,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for the thoughtful Christmas gifts. All of the treats were wonderful, and I look forward to using all of my gift cards. You have been so kind and generous. I hope the holidays brought you and your family peace, joy, and good health. I wish you the same in the new year. Happy 2012.

It is time to start thinking about conferences for the second quarter – February 1, 2, and 3. This time the tasks in our portfolio will be self-evaluated. This is a difficult process for the children at first, but well worth their time and effort. I look forward to meeting with all of you.

Janet Bruner

Upcoming Curriculum...

Religion:

During the remainder of Unit 2 the children will learn that God loves us so much He gave us the best gift possible, His own son, Jesus. He brings us the wonderful news that God loves us and calls us to membership in His Church. He challenges us to bring God's love to our daily lives and relationships. A good question for discussion with your child would be: How can you use the gifts and talent God has given you to love others?

In our "Whole Life Curriculum" the students will begin to understand that God lovingly and individually created them – no two are exactly alike. The students will be aware of God's daily love. This awareness will free them to enjoy friends and family without comparing themselves to others or trying to prove that they are worthy of love. *SLEs: 1a, d; 2a*

Math:

In Chapter 5 the children will learn place value to 100. They will take a set of ones and group them into tens and ones. At home you can help your child understand place value by playing a simple game. Give your child a group of paperclips. Have him/her make groups of ten. Then have him/her tell you how many tens and ones there are. The children will also learn to show 2-digit numbers in different ways. (for example: 15 is equal to 1 ten and 5 ones or fifteen) At home ask your child to name the number based on the clue. "My number has 3 tens and 4 ones" (34). Take turns giving the clue.

SLEs: 2b, e; 3a; 4b www.progressinmathematics.com

Social Studies:

Our next unit is “Americans Celebrate”. The children will learn that families often celebrate special days. They will also learn about American holidays such as Presidents’ Day, Independence Day, and Martin Luther King, Jr. Day and how we celebrate as a country. *SLEs: 2e; 3a, d*

Reading:

We have begun the fifth unit of our *Imagine It Reading Program*. Our next big book is “What’s the Weather?” Everybody talks about weather. Why? Weather plays an important part in our daily lives. Weather helps us decide what to wear to school, but it also determines whether farmers will have good crops. Weather is always changing and always interesting.

Throughout Unit 5, the children will engage in activities that will satisfy the following learning goals:

- develop vocabulary by becoming fluent with multiple meaning words, synonyms, antonyms and homophones
- decode words with all the long vowel spellings
- recognize words that show action (verbs)
- develop comprehension skills such as comparing, contrasting, and making connections
- continue to identify kinds of sentences and end punctuation marks

SLEs: 2b; 3a, b; 4a, c

Reminders for 2012

- ✓ Your child needs to put all communication for the office or me in the wooden box first thing in the morning.
- ✓ Names need to be on all personal items.
- ✓ Limit the amount of items brought for soccer practices – we have limited room and bags are often too heavy.
- ✓ Check the snack list for approved items.
- ✓ Be sure to send a note when your child is going home with a friend after school. I want to be sure he/she is going home with the right person.