



Dear Parents,

I enjoyed having an opportunity to meet with all of you during conferences. It is amazing just how far into the school year we are. As we work our way through our third quarter we will continue to be moving quickly throughout all subject areas. I can not stress enough how important it is that each student continues to develop their basic learning skills (SLE 2b) through activities such as reading 30 minutes each night, practice of multiplication and division facts, as well as practice reading aloud.

Have a Happy Valentine's Day!

Kimberly Murray

Upcoming Curriculum. . .

Language Arts:

In Language Arts we are continuing to review and learn various grammar rules and applications through our Workshop Way phonics lessons. (SLE 2b) This month we will be reviewing the differences between plural "s" and possessive "s" as well as the various types of sentences (declarative, imperative, etc.). We will continue to read the stories out of our textbook, Imagine It! The stories we will be reading this month include, "A Covered Wagon Girl: The Diary of Sallie Hester, 1849-1850", "The Earth Dragon Awakes" and "The Scientific Method". We are also reading and analyzing a chapter book, Who Stole the Wizard of Oz, as a whole class. (SLE 2a) The students have started to get very involved in various whole class discussions about this story. As we continue to develop our basic writing skills we will focus on creative writing and allow it to lead us into our unit on poetry. (SLE 5a)

Religion:

We have been working hard as a class to be consciously aware of living our lives as Active Christians who have a foundation in Catholic teaching (SLE 1a), by praying the Rosary at least once a month. It is truly amazing to see the students' thoughtfulness and reflection during these times. In our textbook, We Believe, we are beginning to delve into the Ten Commandments and how they pertain to our personal covenant, or promise, to God. For the month of February, our topic in our Life Perspectives curriculum will be focusing on the lesson "We learn to make good choices, deciding not to allow our feelings to direct us".

Mathematics:

We have finished our unit on long division. Throughout this unit of study the students worked very hard to understand the various aspects related to long division. They are very proud of the tremendous learning they have accomplished (SLE 2f). Chapter 6 of Progress in Mathematics is focused on measurement. We will be exploring various units of measurement such as inches, gallons, and meters. Exposing your student to as many "everyday" examples of these measurements, such as 2 liter soda bottles or a cup of flour, will help them to conceptualize and truly understand their measurement as well as conversion!

Social Studies:

As always, within this area of study the students are continuing to make various connections to our state's history and the area we live in. We are excited to begin the mission presentations next week and finally be able to see all of the hard work that the students have done. (*SLE 3b*) In our text, we are entering into the Mexican War and its lasting impact on the state we live in today.

Science:

We have started this quarter with a new and very interesting science unit. We are moving into Chapter 5 of our science text and beginning to explore the world of rocks and minerals. We are learning about such things as the rock cycle, the three main types of rocks, what makes up gems and crystals and the various tests/methods we can use to identify various rocks and minerals. (*SLE 1e*) It is sure to be a very fun and hands-on unit in science. Ask your student to teach you about the main types of rocks by singing a song to the tune of "Row, Row, Row Your Boat"!

Websites

www.factmonster.com

www.schooltimegames.com

Recommended Reading

The Great Brain by John D. Fitzgerald (2004)

James and the Giant Peach by Roald Dahl (2007)

Day of Tears: A Novel in Dialogue by Julius Lester (2006)