



**St. Martin of Tours Academy**  
**Second Grade Newsletter**  
**January 2012**

*Dear Parents,*

*Happy New Year and welcome back. After all the decorations come down and the furniture is back in place, you can take a deep breath and relax. I know the real relaxing comes when school starts (for you)!*

*As January begins, Second Grade will be hard at work. Our second conference is in a few weeks. I am sure you have seen a lot of growth this last quarter. Growth and maturity come at different rates for different people. It is just like watching that garden grow - some plants bloom early and some take their time. What is important to know is that they will all bloom in their own time!*

*We are continuing with the reading of The Secret Garden. At the conclusion, we will watch two film versions to compare how close the film follows the book. The children love to point out the differences between the two. They are also amazed at what the filmmakers do when making their own version of the book. This is also something you can do with your children as well.*

*I have also taught the students how to write a script from any book with conversation. It is all very exciting for them to understand who writes what people say in plays, films, and television.*

*Mrs. Mazzara*

### **Upcoming Curriculum...**

#### **Religion:**

Jesus Calls Us to Penance and Reconciliation

In Chapter 5 the children learned about the sacrament of Confirmation. In this chapter the children will learn about the Bible. ([www.webelieve.com](http://www.webelieve.com)) SLEs: 1a, 1d

- The Old Testament is the first part of the Bible.
- The New Testament is the second part of the Bible.
- Jesus wants us to listen to his teachings.

#### Whole Life Curriculum

- God uniquely made each one of us.
- We each love God in a way no one else can.

SLEs: 1b

**Reading:**

Unit 3- Around Town

This unit focuses on various places in the community and will allow the students to deepen their understanding of the functions of places in their own community. Students will begin a unit investigation of the places in their community and will continue this investigation through the stories for the next six weeks. *SLEs: 2b, 2c, 4a*

Students will also learn about the following:

- Author's point of view
- Adjectives
- Classification and categorization
- Singular and plural nouns

**Additional Reading Selections:**

Our California by Pam Munoz Ryan

Trashy Town by David Clemesha

Fighting Fires by Seymour Simon

**Math:**

Data

The students will learn the following:

- To compare data from two different sources using the same survey
- To read and interpret data in circle graphs, line plots and Venn diagrams
- To use information from a graph to solve a problem
- To add ones and tens without regrouping
- To add tens and ones, regrouping ones

([www.sadlier-oxford.com](http://www.sadlier-oxford.com))

*SLEs: 2b, 2d, 3c, 4a*

**Science:**

Animal Life Cycles

The students will:

- identify ways in which baby animals can differ from their parents
- identify traits that animals inherit from their parents
- identify ways in which animals of the same kind differ

([www.eduplace.com/cascp](http://www.eduplace.com/cascp))

*SLEs: 2a, 2e, 5a*

**Social Studies:**

Exploring Our Earth

The children will learn about different places on Earth including locations of people, places, and environments. They will learn to distinguish the proximity of absolute locations to determine relative locations on maps.

([www.macmillanmh.com/ss/ca](http://www.macmillanmh.com/ss/ca))

*SLEs: 1a, 2f, 4c, 5d*

**Reminders . . .**

- √ Set aside a night for board games which provide skills for reading and math.
- √ Early bedtimes produce a more alert and energized student.