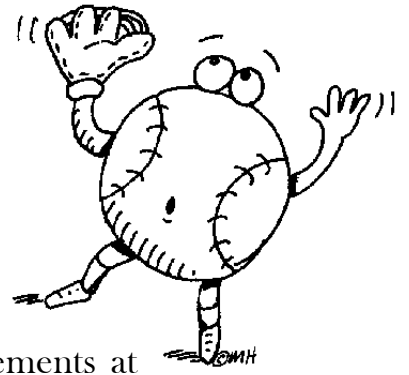


February 23, 2009

Hi 4B Parents,



Lent begins this Wednesday - Ash Wednesday. Mass begins at 8:45 and 4B will be heading over soon after morning announcements at 8:30. Please join us for mass if you can. The Rice Bowls were included with the church bulletin on Sunday, but each child has been given one that they will take home. Each Sunday of Lent please bring in your coins to deposit in the large Rice Bowl at church. Some other ways your child and family can join Holy Rosary for a good Lent: fast from desserts on Wednesdays, lunches with an item for St. Martin de Porres on Friday (this Friday bring a lunch with socks for the Shelter), and \$1.00 on the first of March and April for the Ugandan children.

Religion: Early this week we will be preparing for Lent and discussing what keeping a good Lent means. We'll also begin learning about the Works of Mercy. I will begin looking for volunteers who can recite the Nicene Creed this week. Everyone should have it memorized by Friday, March 6th. It would be a great way to practice reading fluency this week as well.

Spelling: Ms. Simpson and I are trying something new with spelling. We're experimenting with it for the next few weeks to work out the details. It will give students the opportunity to learn more challenging spelling words. On either Wednesday or Thursday of each week, I will be giving a spelling preview "test" of the following week's words. Students who score a 100% or 95% will be given the option of doing a more challenging spelling packet and spelling test the following Friday. Students who score less than 95% will complete and do the normal spelling packet and test. I will be passing out both spelling packets on Friday, so students will still have a week to complete them. I will keep you updated as we work out the details. Please email me if you have questions or concerns.

Reading: This week students will be learning about good test-taking strategies. They will be reading short stories and learning how to effectively complete short-answer and essay-type questions.

Biographies: Due next Wednesday is the biography bibliography sheet given out today. Students need to have at least three resources for their oral biographies. Any resources that they have used should be included on this bibliography sheet. This includes pictures or facts they have gotten off the Internet (note the Internet address), information used from encyclopedias, magazines, and/or books. The

biography sheet should be completed neatly. Correct spelling, grammar, and punctuation is expected. This portion of the biography is included in the "Turned in assignments on time" oral biography grading rubric, so it's important that it is turned in on Friday. Biography presentation times will be chosen this Wednesday. In order to be fair, I use the following method: dates and times for presentations will be listed on the overhead. I will randomly choose students' names from a cup, and the student will give me his/her preferred time. Parents are invited to watch the presentations, therefore if you are able to come only at a certain time/day, please email me ASAP with your request and I will do my best to fulfill it. Presentations will begin in four weeks - March 23rd - 27th. Posters are not required, however many students like to make and use them because it gives their audience a visual into their person's life.

Math: Students have received last week's graded math test. Overall the test scores were good! This week we'll be identifying missing addends, naming shapes, and identifying perpendicular and parallel line segments.

Science: Students will have a science test on Friday. They received a study sheet for Lessons 6-10 today. I'm sorry for the confusion on when the test was to be given. It will be given this Friday for both classes. This week they will be making switches and flashlights.

Social Studies: This Thursday the students will take their Washington Region test. All students should have their yellow study booklets and a map study sheet. In class this week we will look more closely at our state's physical features, weather patterns and resources.

Have a wonderful week!

Challenge Words: Shrove Tuesday, boomerang, Mardi Gras, almsgiving

Vocabulary Word: vacillate