

January 12, 2009

Dear 4B Parents,



This week:

Spelling: The spelling packet was passed out on Friday and is due this Friday. Also, this week and/or next we'll have the class spelling bee. Two of our students will be representing our class for the school wide bee during Catholic School's Week! Last Friday's graded spelling test is in your child's filer.

Writing: We'll begin our writing on Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Students have read small readers on his life, will watch the movie "My Friend Martin," and listen to a longer biography of his life that I have read aloud. They are taking notes and making a time line and will be combining this information into an organized and thoughtful biographical paper of his life. Much of our class time will be devoted to this project. Each student has received an unlined sheet of white paper on which he/she will be illustrating a picture of Martin Luther King using **crayon and/or colored pencil only. No markers please. The illustrations of him are due by this Friday** and we will hang the projects in the hallway in time for Catholic School's Week, which begins January 25th. Please ask your child about Martin Luther King Jr., as they have learned so much about him.

Math: Last Thursday's graded math test will be returned tomorrow in your child's filer. This week students will be: drawing lines of symmetry, making and reading a Venn diagram, multiplying two-digit numbers by one digit numbers, and using coordinates to find locations on a map. Students are working on the multiplication facts. Many of the lessons throughout the rest of year will depend on solid multiplication skills. If you would like additional multiplication sheets, please request that I send some home with your child. There are also some great fact practice sites listed on the class web site. I will be allowing extra time in class to complete the math homework, so students can spend more time working on their State In The Boxes.

Social Studies: Don't forget: the 50 State test will take place on January 22nd. Today all students received final study sheet. You can access a blank test on our website as well.

The **State-in-a-Box** social studies project was assigned last Monday. I went over the project in detail with both classes. The direction sheet should be in your child's binder. You can also access the direction sheet from my website along with a link to some good research sites for the states. We worked in class last Thursday and today, and we will also work during this Thursday's SS class time. After that, the remainder of the project will need to be completed at home. If you have any questions about the project or need any materials or ideas, please let me know. I am here to help.

All students were given a "**check off**" sheet for their project today. They should use

this sheet to make sure that have included all required elements. Students do not have to limit themselves to only the items on the list, those are just the basics that have to be included. I encourage the students to be creative and have fun with their designs. Mr. Barker and I will work in a few nights with no other homework to give students added time to work on their projects. Note:

Regarding the 2-4 minute oral tour: These presentations will not take place until the week of January 26-30th, so students will have a bit more time to prepare and practice for this portion of the project, but they should probably write a few notes about what they plan to share before they bring their boxes to school to display.

Science: This week students will be building a circuit tester and learning how to troubleshoot a defective circuit. They will also be learning about conductors and insulators. **There will be a test on Thursday covering Lessons 1-5.** Each student has a study sheet in his/her folder.

Religion: We will begin a study of the Sacraments in our religion classes. The next prayer the 4th grade students need to memorize is the Nicene Creed. We will be saying this prayer at school most days. I would like the students to say this prayer at home regularly with a family member as well for homework. They will quickly memorize the prayer with consistent practice. Students need to have this prayer memorized no later than March 6th. Students may recite the prayer to me individually, or for the class whenever they are ready by this date.

Reading: Most of our reading time will be used to work on the Martin Luther King, Jr. biographies. Students should have a chapter book available to read at school for when they are finished with their writing, or waiting for it to be edited.

Kate is Student of the Week and Natalie's birthday is today, the 12th!

A message from the Green Team: Green Tip Jan. 8, 2009

SPECIAL PRESENTATION!!!! Please join the Green Team on Thursday, Jan. 15, at 7 pm in the school hall for a very special GREEN PARENTING PRESENTATION. Join us for a fascinating presentation by Coolmoms (as in no global warming cool), a local group of concerned and very informed parents. All cool dads, moms, grandparents, teachers, parishioners and interested persons are welcome! Refreshments will be served. Check out the Coolmom website at Coolmom.org. If you have any questions or would like to help, please contact Tauna Evans at 933-7486.

Have a great week!

Spelling Words for the Week of:

January 12, 2009



Unit 15 Silent Consonants

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|------------|------------|-----------|------------|
| 1. often | 2. knot | 3. wring | 4. island |
| 5. lamb | 6. answer | 7. knee | 8. written |
| 9. though | 10. knock | 11. echo | 12. known |
| 13. comb | 14. wrong | 15. limb | 16. knife |
| 17. listen | 18. honest | 19. doubt | 20. calm |

Vocabulary Word: *DOGMATIC* (adj)

Stubbornly sticking to insufficiently proven beliefs; inflexible, rigid

Students are required to learn the **spelling, part of speech and definition** of the weekly vocabulary word. They **will also be asked to write their vocabulary word in a sentence** they have made up themselves. The sentence should be written so that it gives adequate detail to show the **meaning of the vocabulary word is clear. Correct spelling and punctuation is expected!!**

Challenge Words

- | | |
|---------------|----------------|
| 1. Sacraments | 2. initiation |
| 3. symmetry | 4. segregation |

Optional, unless otherwise specified.

