

## Fourth Grade Focus

January 12, 2012

Dear Parents,

We hope that you all enjoyed a relaxing and fun-filled Christmas/New Year's break.

### **Reminders:**

† Catholic Schools Week (CSW) Open House is Sunday morning, January 29<sup>th</sup>. Join us for a pancake breakfast, and then visit our classrooms and the Scholastic Book Fair. Don't forget to join us for the CSW's Faith Rally on Friday.

† During CSW, we'll read and make "Stone Soup," learning about kindness and sharing what we have with others. Students will bring home a form letting you know what they're to bring for the soup.

† 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Mass is next Wednesday. You're welcome to join us as our 4<sup>th</sup> graders help celebrate God's gift of the Eucharist.

† Assignments are due the next day unless told otherwise. Please check PowerSchool for late or missing work, as well as grades.

† Many students are forgetting to bring in their "No Uniform" passes. Please check that your child has one to turn in when s/he is not in uniform.

† Please call the office to leave messages about any end of the day changes in your plans. We may not get to your voicemail until after students have left for the day.

**READING/BOOK REPORT:** This week we read "Pat Cummings: My Story," an autobiography explaining how children's illustrator Pat Cummings first started drawing as a child. This week's new skill was learning to distinguish between fact and opinion. Students should continue to record their minutes read each day on the January Reading Log. Today, your child received the first draft material for the "Sandwich Book Report." When you help with proofreading, please make sure that your child is looking as hard as you are for any corrections that need to be made, or improvements in wording. The "sloppy copy" form is due February 6<sup>th</sup>. The final copy of the "Sandwich Book Report" is due Monday, February 13<sup>th</sup>.

### **MATH:**

Mrs. Rustin's class is learning about Line Plots, Bar and Line Graphs so they can read, interpret and create them using their own data.

Mrs. Lehman's class is finishing the chapter on graphing. Expect the Chapter 4 Test on Thursday or Friday of next week. Each student needs to complete one Accelerated Math packet per week or a minimum of 10 packets this trimester. Of these, 5 of the packets' scores must be at 80% or greater. The Accelerated Math grade counts as a Quiz.

**RELIGION:** This week we begin Unit 2, "God Always Loves Us." There are 2 lessons, one on Original Sins and the other about God's Merciful Love. Students wrote about their "Wishes for 2012," explaining their personal, spiritual, family and school goals for 2012.

**SCIENCE:** We finished our Ocean Unit by creating still-life drawings inspired by various seashells. Please check out your children's creativity displayed in our 4<sup>th</sup> grade hallway! This week we began our unit on Motion-Forces at Work. Students will learn about motion and its effect on objects, as well as recognize the relationship between gravity and weight. Our 4<sup>th</sup> grade "engineers" are building and racing Puff Mobiles in an effort to generate a design that works best to make things travel with speed. Look for our Puff Mobiles to be on display in the 4<sup>th</sup> grade hallway next week.

**LANGUAGE:** Students are learning about the different types of verbs, how to identify and use them correctly. Students also started Daily Oral language (D.O.L.) last week at the beginning of each school day. The premise for this in-class daily journal activity is to practice sentence editing, including punctuation, capitalization, spelling and grammar, as well as to practice a variety of language and reading skills. Please look for our "Wintry" paragraph writing activity to be displayed in the hall soon.

**SOCIAL STUDIES:** The Chapter 3 Test will be returned Friday after all students have completed the test. This week we are reading, creating posters, and presenting information to the class on Chapter 4, "Living in the East." A quiz will follow their presentations. Chapter 5 introduces us to the South, its geography and history, as well as its economy, resources and people. Our Social Studies book is online, in case your child is ill or forgets to bring the book home. Go to < <http://www.eduplace.com/eservices>>. The username is sccs4ss and the password is fourth.

Your Fourth Grade Teachers,

Ms. Lehman and Mrs. Rustin