

**5<sup>th</sup> Grade News**  
**December 1, 2011**

**Dear Parents,**

**Welcome back from Thanksgiving break! We hope everyone had plenty of food to eat and family with whom to share it. Our Thanksgiving Feast was a wonderful way to begin the holiday. Thank you to all the parents who helped with the food and preparations!**

**UPCOMING EVENTS:**

- December 2<sup>nd</sup> – End of First Trimester
- December 9<sup>th</sup> – Nutcracker Fieldtrip form is due.
- December 8<sup>th</sup> – School Mass (9:15 - K-5)
- December 13<sup>th</sup> - 6:30 Advent Program
- December 15<sup>th</sup> – Nutcracker Field Trip
  - Students will need to pack a sandwich and water for this fieldtrip, (see field trip letter for more information).

**REMINDER:**

Snacks are moving toward the junk food side of the food pyramid – please try to send healthy snacks if you can.

**A QUICK LOOK AT OUR CLASSES:**

**Science:** Though the unit on metrics is over, we will continue to use this system of measurement throughout the school year in science related activities. The projects were wonderful. What a talented bunch we have this year. Projects have been graded and may go home at any time. We will miss seeing them in the hall. We now move on to Unit E of our textbook – The Building Blocks of Matter. In conjunction with this we will work with the processes of problem solving using the Scientific Method. On Monday, Dec. 19, Mr. Jim Pedginski, a 3M Visiting Wizard, will do a very cool (pun intended) Cryogenics program.. The program - both sessions, will be in Mrs. Thomas' classroom, Room 302. Mrs. Lilja's class will go first at 10:30 to 11:30, followed by Mrs. Thomas' class at 11:40 to 12:40. A volunteer from each homeroom is needed to help with this. Please contact Mrs. Thomas if you can help out. [cthomas@stccs.com](mailto:cthomas@stccs.com) or 439-5581 Ext. 332.

**Social Studies:** Timelines, Personal and Regional History, The Ancient Americans; these are the topics we will be studying for the next trimester.

We will use both texts. Northern Lights; Stories of Minnesota's Past, and United States History – Early Years.

We will be doing a few art projects during this time.

**Math CT:** We have started Chapter 6 – Geometry. We have learned about angles, circles, triangles, and polygons and taken our first Checkpoint quiz. Another comes next week. We should finish the chapter late next week with the chapter test early the following week. Parents, please watch planners for news of impending tests.

**Math BL:** Students have successfully completed the Chapter 5 unit and will be learning all about *Geometry* as we begin Chapter 6. We will be learning about angles, circles, triangles and polygons. Students will be expected to keep a set of index cards as we accumulate vocabulary for this unit. Students will have a quiz at the end of this week. A cumulative test is tentatively scheduled for the week of **December 12<sup>th</sup>**.

**Religion:** Advent has started! This is a very busy time of year, and many things are planned as we go through this wonderful season. Please try to keep things on the quiet side as much as possible. Most of our time in class will be spent on the Jesse Tree and the meaning of the symbols surrounding this blessed time. Prayers, songs, and artwork will add zest.

**Language Arts:** Students have been learning all about *verbs*. This week we will be practicing present tense, and the use of helping/linking verbs. Expect a test on verbs the week of **December 12<sup>th</sup>**. Students have been learning the process of building discussions in our Literature Circle groups. We are working on the 3<sup>rd</sup> packet for "Out of the Dust" which accompanies the 3<sup>rd</sup> reading assignment (pages 99-149). Students will be assigned two more reading packets before we finish the book, which is tentatively scheduled for the week of **December 19<sup>th</sup>**. Upon completing this book there will be a test that assesses the students' comprehension and vocabulary knowledge of the story. Students will also receive an opportunity to express their knowledge of the story by completing project of their choice. Expect more information on the project choices and criteria in the next two weeks. Finally, students have successfully completed their informative essays and will begin their new writing project, which is an *Opinion Piece* this week.