

Name _____ # _____

5th Grade News

September 15, 2011

Dear Parents,

Hello from 5th Grade!

We have certainly "hit the ground running" in our first week back to school, and we are excited to be working with you and your child throughout this coming school year. Hopefully you have had a chance to look over the packet from Back-to-School Night last Thursday, and as promised you are now looking at the first of our bi-monthly newsletters. Please ask to see this newsletter about every other week. It will have important news and updates on your child's classes and activities.

Important Things to Remember:

- Have you returned your Grade 5 Activity Fee (\$50)? If not, please send it in as soon as possible to your child's homeroom teacher. If you need another envelope and information, contact us right away.
- Do you have your password and have set up your PowerSchool account? If you have not and need help with this, please contact Diane Polley in the school office. We ask that you check PowerSchool regularly for current information on your child.
- The school FYI comes out weekly. Please be sure to read it each week. It contains many important announcements that pertain to all grade levels.

Blessings,

Mrs. Thomas and Mrs. Lilja

A Brief Look At Our Classes:

Religion: Our year begins with a review of the Holy Trinity. We will be discussing and doing activities on who we are as a unique creation and as an image of God. We are presently on the first unit, "God the Father" in our textbook, Our Mission of Love.

5th graders will be the leaders for next week's Mass. Parents are always invited to attend any school Masses. Yesterday we were the "loft singers" and lead the singing with much enthusiasm and marvelous melodies.

Math CT: Following a placement test, we have begun to move swiftly through our review of last year's materials. We will cover the first three chapters of the text as quickly as possible, covering 3 or 4 lessons of review each day. Checkpoints and chapter tests will come quickly. A cumulative test on the first three chapters will tentatively take place before the end of this month. Students will need to be independent and quite serious about getting work in on time to maintain the solid "B" average (and above) that is expected in this class.

Math BL: In addition to reviewing last year's materials, students will be learning operations pertaining to decimals. This is a key topic that will help them later in the year. Students will continue to learn more key topics that are covered in chapters 1-3 of their textbook. They will participate in a cumulative review game, which will prepare them for the Ch. 1-3 test, which will be given within the next two weeks. Students will be expected to do their best work on daily assignments and may receive assessments back if they need to try them again.

Science: Working with seeds has been an introduction to our study of Life Cycles – parts of units A and B in the textbook. In conjunction with the Social Studies curriculum on Minnesota studies, we will explore the soils and geography of our state. The Crop Art projects are due next Wednesday, 9/21. We will also do some introductory work with the Metric System.

Social Studies: Our study of Minnesota begins with "where we are". We will be using a series of Minnesota maps from "Hands-On Geography". These write-on maps allow a closer study of our state's geographical features.

Reading/Language Arts: We will be reading the second story in our curriculum titled "The Voyage of the Dawn Treader". Students will learn to identify *story elements* and *cause and effect* while reading from this selection. There will be a test on this story at the end of the week. Students will also write a "Friendly Letter" that pertains to the selected story. Students will begin working on unit one of their spelling workbooks this week. Typically spelling units will be due on Fridays. Throughout the week the grammar focus will be on subjects and predicates, students will practice these concepts in their English workbooks. Students should expect a similar work week in Language Arts for the next story, "Wilma Unlimited".