

Dear Parents,

Thursday, January 7th

Happy New Year! With the new snow falling, so does the temperature! YIKES! Please remember to send warm outside apparel. Students are expected to go outside every day (unless the wind chill is below zero). Here are a few important dates and reminders as well as a peek into what we are doing in our classes.

Jan 14th - SCCS Spelling Bee (Social Hall @ 1:30)

Jan 18th – Martin Luther King Jr. Day – No Bus (Parents drive today both ways)

Jan 20th – MN Vikings Assembly on Healthy Habits

Jan. 24th – Catholic Schools Week Open House (Sunday) 8:30-12:30

Jan. 25th – No Bus- (Parents drive today both ways)

Jan. 25th- 29th – Catholic Schools Week Activities

- ❖ **Please save regular paper towel tubes for an upcoming Social Studies project.**
- ❖ **Thank you to all who helped with the 3M Wizard's Cryogenics class including our 3M wizard, Mr. Pedginski, and volunteers Mrs. Steveken, Mrs. Tinucci, & Mrs. Riehm.**

Spelling Bee: This week students participated in a homeroom spelling bee. From there 3 winners from each classroom were selected to participate in the grade level spelling bee which will take place tomorrow. Three winners from this bee will go on to represent 5th grade in the school spelling bee next Thursday, January 14th at 1:30 in the Social hall. We hope to see you there!

“Christmas Around the World” in Computer: Students researched and put together interesting facts about customs and traditions in the many different countries around the world and organized this information into a nicely decorated newsletter on the computer. These class booklets can be downloaded from our school website. They are beautiful! **Thank you, Mrs. Donlon for all of your help with this.**

Social Studies: During the next few weeks, we will explore some of the civilizations of Ancient America. These existed and thrived before European explorers even set foot in the Americas. We will study the Maya, Inca, Aztec, Anasazi and the Mound Builders using our textbook and “Kids Discover.” Students are working in class creating their own masks. These masks and the “sun calendars” will be on display during Catholic Schools Week. Come visit us! **Please save regular paper towel tubes for an upcoming Social Studies project.**

Reading: Next week we will begin, *How to Think Like a Scientist*, a selection of short stories designed to illuminate various principles of research and inquiry by scientists. Drawing conclusions, use of outlines, and important vs. unimportant information are the focus of skills for this reading selection. **READO is due on February 19th. Your child has _____ of the 5 required READO squares completed.**

Reading (Doeksen): We have just started a non-fiction book, *Teen's 911 Snowbound and Other True Survival Stories* by Deborah Morris. Judgments / Decisions and Important / Unimportant Information are some of the skills we are working on. Students are writing one expository writing piece each week. Expository writing is defined as writing that explains something by telling how it works. The Maud Hart Lovelace books will be voted on in the middle of February. Most of the students have read at least three of the ten by now.

Math (Rustin) (Lehman): The New Year brings us to a new chapter and dividing with 2 digit divisors. The Rocketship Math Facts we practiced so diligently for 6 to 8 weeks should really help students with this division, and later, fractions and algebra. Periodically, we will have 2 minute timings either in multiplication or division to help keep these skills fresh.

Math (Thomas): We continue our work with Statistics and Measurement in the Middle School Math Book. We are now into the various types of graphing and will soon deal with data values: mean, mode, range, and median. Our test on the chapter should be within the next two weeks.

Course 2 Math (Bates) - The students began the sixth chapter on integers this past Tuesday. Next week, there will be a quiz on the first three lessons (adding and subtracting integers) and they will continue with the lessons on multiplying and dividing integers.

Religion: We begin our New Year with an overview of the 7 Sacraments. Throughout the course of the rest of the school year, we will move on to look into each of the sacraments in more detail. Speakers, art work, class activities, and of course, our textbook, will be used to learn about these special blessings of the Church. For Catholic Schools Week, our service project will be to take part in a care bag collection for the residents of MN Veteran's Home. Please watch for more information as to what to bring in for this project.

Science: Solubility project reports have begun to come in. They are looking good. If your child has not yet finished this experiment, be advised that it is due tomorrow! As we continue to study matter and its properties, we will be using the text almost exclusively. The second quiz on chapter E.1 will be tomorrow. This covers information from pages E.12-E.19 in the text. The third lesson covers chemical changes. After the lesson 3 quiz, the chapter test will follow. The goal is to have this test by the end of the month. In addition, please expect to see a permission slip come home for our first trip to Warner Nature Center. We will need chaperones for this trip on Monday, February 8th.

Language: Cereal Boxes are due tomorrow! We will begin our next unit with Poetry. We start with a famous poem by Robert Frost; *Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening*. Students will read, interpret, copy in format, and illustrate this poem using charcoal to depict a snowy scene. We will then focus on Limericks and Cinquains.

Blessing to all in the New Year!

Mrs. Rustin, Mrs. Lehman, & Mrs. Thomas