

Dear Parents,

February 25, 2010

We hope that during the season of Lent you are able to find peace and simplicity in your everyday lives. Along with the Lenten activities in Religion class, students will have the opportunity to act out the Stations of the Cross during Holy Week. This is a great activity to follow the events that happened on the way to Calvary and a way for us to reflect on the great love Jesus showed in suffering his passion and death for us. Please watch our next newsletter for an exact day and time. We hope you can attend this wonderful performance by our 5<sup>th</sup> graders!

#### Upcoming Dates and Reminders

- 2/26 Stations of the Cross at 9:15
- 3/3 No Am Buses- Parents Drive
- 3/4 D.A.R.E. begins with Officer Lemoine
- 3/5 Stations of the Cross at 9:15

#### A Peek at our Classes

**READING:** Next week we will be reading *Breaker's Bridge*, a story of an emperor who commands a bridge builder to build a bridge across a treacherous river. We continue work on making inferences, compare/contrast, and reading for story comprehension. Some students have been participating in Readers' Theatre in class. Readers' Theatre emphasizes oral reading and expression in a simple, risk-free way to allow all children to participate and enjoy reading. **Trimester 3 READO guidelines will be coming home today as well.**

**READING: (Doeksen)** We have just finished reading *The 911 True Stories* book. We will begin working on rap and verse this week. Next week the Iditarod Race begins. We'll read Gary Paulsen's diary of the race, day by day. Students are writing compare and contrast pieces each week. They are becoming better and better writers.

**LANGUAGE:** We will conclude our unit on poetry with a look at the popular poet, Shel Silverstein. We found out some fun facts about Mr. Silverstein, and will spend time reading and doing activities centered around three of his books; *Where the Sidewalk Ends*, *Falling Up*, and *A Light in the Attic*. In grammar we have started Unit 5 on Capitalization and Punctuation in writing. We will begin working on developing and writing a 5 paragraph essay following our poetry unit.

**SCIENCE:** Following a spirited investigation (lab) on Monday called "Grouping Elements" we continue in this second lesson of Unit E, a brief introduction on the Periodic Table of the Elements. There will be a quiz on this material Monday. A full chapter test is anticipated before Spring Break. Look for an explanation of the upcoming Science Experiment Project. It will come home as well as appear on the school website within the next two weeks.

**SOCIAL STUDIES:** Chapter 4 finds us studying Native Americans in the 1500's. We are making "personal totem poles" based on those found in the Pacific Northwest. After we take a look at the Indians in the Southwest, we will study the Plains Indians and write a 5 paragraph essay about the Sioux as a combined Language and Social Studies project. Look for an instruction sheet to come home next week for a small group project about how North American Indians carried, stored, organized and secured various things.

**MATH: (Rustin & Lehman)** We move from collecting data, averages and probability to learning about geometry. The focus in Chapter 6 is on geometric concepts pertaining to plane figures. Lines, angles, polygons, and circles are identified and analyzed. The concepts of congruence, similarity, and symmetry are also included.

**MATH: (Thomas)** We continue to learn about multiplication of decimals. As we are moving quickly through the chapter, it is imperative that all work be done on time. Quizzes come up quickly and material not understood shows up quite tellingly. Most school nights there will be homework. Please encourage organization and conscientious work habits. Consult planners for upcoming quizzes and test.

**MATH- Course II (Bates)** Students are continuing their study on equations, inequalities and functions. Please watch the planner for an upcoming test date.

**RELIGION:** During Lent we focus our efforts on becoming closer to Jesus through our actions. An emphasis on the Sacrament of Holy Eucharist will tie into our learning more of the Last Supper and subsequent Passion of our Lord. We will take part in weekly Mass as well as Stations of the Cross on Fridays. Much of our classroom art will have to do with Lent as well.

**SPANISH:** The fifth graders began the fifth section of the house vocabulary. The theme is the bedroom. Writing sentences will help develop the vocabulary and students will draw pictures and label items in their bedrooms.

**Blessings to you all during this Lenten Season!**  
**Mrs. Rustin, Mrs. Lehman & Mrs. Thomas**