

Dear Parents,

Thursday, April 22nd

Happy Earth Day! Today we are reminded that God has given us this beautiful Earth and it is up to each of us to do what we can to protect ALL of His wonderful creation!

NCEA CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS: Please see the attached article, “Fading the Prompt”, by Dr. Steve Kahn, Ph.D, L.P. This is a fabulous article from one of the breakout sessions we attended during the NCEA convention last week. We hope you find this to be a useful article, as we, (parents and teachers) prepare to send our students on to Middle School.

MCA/NWEA TESTS: Students took the MCA Reading and Math test this week in class. Next week, NWEA Spring testing begins. Students will complete a Math, Reading and Language test in the computer lab.

IMPORTANT DATES:

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| April 23 rd | Grandparent’s/Special Friends Day will begin at 11:30am. Mass at 1:45pm |
| April 26-30 | NWEA Testing Week |
| May 3 rd | Warner Nature Center Fieldtrip |
| May 16 th | Church of St. Michael’s Fun Fest |
| May 18 th | Patrollers to Mall of America (Nickelodeon Universe) |
| May 19 th | Patrollers to Stillwater Dome |
| May 21 st | Grade 5 Rock-N-Roll Concert – Social Hall 2:00pm |
| May 25 th | DARE Graduation - St. Mary’s Social Hall –Time (TBD) |
| May 29 th | SCCS Carnival/ Plant Sale |

A PEEK AT OUR CLASSES

RELIGION: We continue with our study of the Mass, as well as the Sacraments of Healing, Reconciliation and Anointing of the Sick. **In addition, we will be starting our Family Life Program within the next two weeks. Please see the Family Life Letter coming home today with your child. We ask that you sign and return it as soon as possible to your child’s homeroom teacher.**

SCIENCE: Three things will command our attention in the coming weeks: 1. Presentation of the science projects. 2. Time for the Family Life Program in partnership with our Religion studies. 3. Our study of the natural world - the Ag Mag/ the school garden, and planning for the upcoming plant sale. Expect to see more information on all of these. Mrs. Thomas will be in the garden on 4/24 from 9:30 – 12:00. Please consider helping. After school gardening has already begun. Please return the accompanying permission slip for Warner Nature Center ASAP. Chaperones will be needed for this trip. See more information on any of the above on our school web site. **Please see the attached note from Mrs. Thomas regarding a chance for our school to WIN up to \$2500 for the school garden/science program.**

SOCIAL STUDIES: Please sign and return the Chapter 4 test as soon as possible. Next, we will study "Life in the Eastern Hemisphere," traveling to China, Africa, and then Europe, setting us up to study about exploration and the “East Meets West” in Chapter 6. We will work on the explorers' presentations during Chapter 6.

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LANGUAGE: The Unit 5 Test will be tomorrow, Friday, April 23rd. The review assigned on Monday is also due tomorrow. We will begin the editing process of our Sioux Nation essays next. Students will begin writing their final drafts in class early next week. Please watch the planner for the due date on this paper. Students will receive a grade in both Language and Social Studies for this assignment. We will begin the storybook project next.

MATH (RUSTIN): Students are identifying fractions that are in simplest form, finding the simplest form and comparing and ordering fractions and mixed numbers. Please watch the planner for the Chapter 7 test date.

MATH (LEHMAN): We are finishing up the "Fraction Concepts" chapter, so students will take the chapter test early next week. Please watch the planner for the Chapter 7 test date. Next, we will study "Fraction Operations" by adding and subtracting, then multiplying and dividing fractions and mixed numbers.

MATH (THOMAS): Once we have reviewed and tested on $+$, $-$, \times , and \div of fractions we will work on geometry. Watch planners for assignments. Please stay informed with PowerSchool.

MATH (BATES): The fifth graders will be completing chapter nine this week; the chapter test is on 4/27/10. Chapter ten explores angles, triangles, and polygons. Students investigate congruent and similar polygons. Also, they will study three types of transformations: translations, reflections, and rotations.

READING: All classes have begun reading novels. We are, for the most part, reading the chapters together as a class. However, there will be some reading assigned outside of class. It is very important that students stay caught up with the assigned reading as the discussion on this is many times the focus of the following class period. Students will be assigned vocabulary, skill practice, and higher level thinking questions. There will be a test at the end of the novel.

READING (DOEKSEN): We are continuing to read Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry. Since the novel is written in Black dialect, we read the most famous Black dialect story: Uncle Remus' The Tar Baby. The characters in the novel are quite observant of their surroundings. The students did a little observation on their way to school one morning. We are also exploring the story setting a bit by looking at the southern state it is set in. We are writing stories for our weekly writing assignment. Some students are writing a new story each week and some are writing a continuing story with a chapter per week.

SPANISH: - After Easter, the students began a mini-unit on activities. While extending their Spanish vocabulary, they also are composing complex sentences as we focus on the four skill areas of speaking, listening, reading, and writing. The fifth graders will have an activity translation assessment on Tuesday, 4/27. The final unit for this year is "food" - a topic many students enjoy learning in Spanish.

Enjoy all the gifts of the Earth!

Mrs. Rustin, Mrs. Lehman & Mrs. Thomas