2019 February News from First Grade

Dear Parents,

I hope you are having a safe and warm week. Even though it seems we have plenty more winter ahead of us, in first grade we have been planning lots of fun activities that will lead us into spring.  (Let’s see what the ground hog says this weekend!)

Service projects…this week during CSW we made Valentine’s Day cards for Veterans. Our next service project will start in February. We will “play” on the Free Rice web site for a few minutes at the beginning of math each day. This site lets us earn grains of rice with each correct math problem we answer. The grains of rice will go to feed the hungry in the world. We are also planning a Lenten service project with second and third grades that will help veterans in local hospitals. More details will be coming home soon.

In science we have finished discussing sound and light and are ready to begin studying living and non-living things. This will lead us into our unit dealing with animal and plant adaptations/ external parts. We will be focusing on animals and plants for our big STREAM Night projects. I’ll be sure to send lots of information about that as the date gets closer.

Our Jr. Achievement program will start on February 12th. Mrs. Carrasco is our JA instructor. (Thank you!) First Grade JA curriculum deals with families, jobs, needs and wants and is aligned with our Social Studies curriculum.

In math, we are continuing our work with Place Value. Next week, we will begin working with 2-digit addition and subtraction. Coming soon…counting money and telling time!!! Our 100th day is technically late next week due to the snow and cold days. However, we will celebrate it as planned this Monday February 4th!!! We will celebrate by working on “100” themed learning activities and lessons ALL day. We will of course also celebrate with some cake and treats too!!!

In religion class, we are continuing in our text with chapter 7 “Jesus Heals”. We will start our unit on Sacraments soon. We have also been working on mass items and behavior. Every week we spend some time discussing the Sunday Gospel reading and enhancing our understanding of it by reading and enjoying our Promise magazine. Our first “First Grade” school mass is scheduled for Wednesday March 13th. Please join us if you can. Our third quarter prayer all first graders will need to know is the Hail Mary.

In reading and language arts we are working with long vowel patterns. We are also working on sequencing events in a story. This is one of many facts of comprehension we use to help us understand a story better. We are also still talking about and finding text evidence and using inferences. We continue to focus on ideas, organization, voice, conventions and good word choice in our writing. We will also continue to work on the 5-step writing process during our creative writing time.

Last week we worked on our second of three Diocesan writing assessments. We wrote a persuasive sample about why winter is the best or worst season. Your students did a FANTASTIC job!!! In the next few weeks we will write an informative sample about George Washington.

This week was so busy with all our fun Catholic Schools Week events and snow/cold days. We will also discuss Ground Hog Day. Besides our 100th day coming soon, we will begin discussing President’s Day and Valentine’s Day this week. Tuesday February 5th we will learn about Chinese New Year. Very soon we will begin observing some eagles on the Decorah Eagle site. It is the time of year that the eagles lay eggs. You can visit the official site at home to observe anytime. There is a live streaming option on the site.

We will have a small classroom Valentine’s Day party on Thursday February 14th. We will make Valentine card bags next week. If your child wants, they may bring in Valentine cards/treats for their classmates. I ask that if they bring in cards, they bring one for EVERY child in the room. Valentines should have only their name in the “From: \_\_\_” section. (I will send a hard copy flier detailing this next week. Thanks, in advance for your help with that!  Thank you also to the parents who signed up to send in cookies and juice for our party. I’ll send out reminders about that next week too.

Coming soon; Lenten activities, a field trip to the Garfield Park Conservatory, Dr. Seuss week, butterflies, SI Organic Garden cold weather crop planting…. and much more first grade fun!

Have a wonderful (and WARM) week!

Mrs. Debbi Ryan