Dear Parents,

 Happy New Year! I hope you enjoyed a restful and joyous Christmas holiday. I’m so happy to go back to school to see all the first grade smiling faces. January is a very busy month in first grade. Please see some of our plans and events below…

 Next week we will discuss Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and all his contributions. We are also discussing rights and responsibilities in Social Studies. After that, we will begin discussing U.S. symbols. This will lead us into our studies of our country’s leaders and our presidents/President’s Day.

 Later in the month we will have fun reading and completing some

Gingerbread stories and activities. We will read many different versions of the classic story and discuss how they are similar and different. We plan on decorating our room with gingerbread people and might even sample some gingerbread cookies and make a graph during math time.

 We are starting to take our first-grade Diocesan assessments in all subject areas. We have been practicing taking math tests and will have our first “real” Diocesan test this month. Also, next week will be our Diocesan Social Studies assessment. This is tied in to our discussions about Dr. Martin Luther King and how we can treat others fairly. Last, we will continue to work on Diocesan writing samples for the remainder of the year. Our next sample will be a writing project that must do with persuading others that winter is the best or worst season of the year- depending on our own point of view.

In Math, we started working with Place Value. We are working with different ways to represent a two-digit number. Decomposing these numbers is a great way to help us memorize our facts! We will eventually start working on two-digit addition problems at the end of the chapter. Math Fluency tests are going to start very soon. You will find a hard copy note detailing the specifics of Fact Fluency testing in this week’s brown envelopes. We will continue taking these tests throughout the end of the year. We also continue to count to the 100th day of school. We are up to day 82. Our 100th day will be Feb. 4th barring no “snow” days! We will celebrate our 100th day with “100” themed activities and projects in EVERY subject during the day. We’ll also share a 100th DAY cake! More details to follow.

In Superkids we continue working with long vowels. We are currently working on Unit 9. Our next spelling test will be Tuesday January 15th. Once we finish Unit 10, we will move on to “More Adventures of the Superkids”- the next edition in first grade. Wow! Time flies!!!

In Religion, first grade just finished Chapter 5 in their Religion books.

Students were also tested on the 2nd quarter prayer, “Our Father”. Looking ahead,

the children will be spending a lot on time discussing the Sacraments. We will also be talking about Lent and will do some fun Lenten activities. First grade mass participation and behavior has been wonderful! I have seen many first graders try to sing along and join in prayers during our school mass.

Here are some other upcoming events and topics we will be talking about in first grade….

 Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent

Ground Hog Day February 2nd.

Chinese New Year February 5th

Our next Service Project

A visit from DuPage Co. Agriculture

President’s Day February 18th

Valentine’s Day- (in classroom party on the 14th) First graders may bring in cards/treats to pass to every student- more details coming soon.

And many more……

I hope you have a warm and peaceful week! Thanks for taking the time to read through my message.

Mrs. Debbi Ryan