March News from First Grade

Dear Parents,

 March is here, and spring is in the air in first grade! We have been observing some eagles in Iowa the last couple of weeks. There is a website which hosts a live web feed from Decorah, Iowa. We have been watching a pair of eagles prepare their nest for egg laying. So far 3 eggs have been laid! We will continue observing them until the eggs hatch. You can visit this site from home too. Simply “Google” Decorah Eagles 2019 and you can watch from home. Very fun! Unfortunately, we predict that eggs 1 and 2 will hatch during our Spring Break. I’ll keep you posted if that happens.

Shortly, we will begin our school wide service project. We are asking all students to complete small chores/jobs or to help around the house to earn some change or dollars to donate to feed our hungry neighbors in DuPage County. We will have a jar in our classroom for collecting. More details are coming soon. Also, we have another service project we are starting with second and third grades. All 3 grades are collecting small comfort items for our Veterans living in Hines Hospital. (A memo went home is last week’s brown envelopes detailing the small items we are trying to collect for them.) Please help your first grader participate in some way if possible. We have a box in our room for collecting these items. We have been talking about being extra prayerful and generous (Almsgiving) during the Lenten season.

 In reading we continue working with long vowel patters. We have also been discussing “Y” as a vowel and long vowel “trickers”. Our Superkids series is also moving into some more complex parts of grammar. We are learning about contractions, idioms, homophones and compound words. We continue to work on reading for fluency and reading for meaning. We are also working very hard on the 5-step writing process. Last month we submitted another Diocesan writing sample for the year. We wrote about what season was the best. This was an opinion piece. Next week we will start our last Diocesan Assessment sample which will be an informational piece, “All About Me”. We follow the process of brainstorming, writing a first draft, revising with a teacher, editing and publishing a final copy. Your students are fantastic writers!!!! Their samples were outstanding! We also continue to utilize the “6 Traits” of good writer’s program. We are working on… 1. coming up with **Good Ideas**, 2. **Organization** (of a writing piece), 3. **Voice** (perspective/point of view), 4. **Word Choice** (using interesting/exciting words), 5. **Sentence Fluency** (using complete thoughts), 6. **Sentence Conventions** (capitals/punctuation).

 In math we are working on gathering data and graphing. Coming soon…counting coins and time! We will also work on measuring, fractions and probability and geometric shapes this semester. Today we graphed (and ate) Lucky Charms cereal by shape. Please continue to support your first grader at home by helping them study their basic math facts. Timed tests will continue every Wednesday for the remainder of the year.

 In science, we just started our plant unit today. We are discussing how adult plants are like, but not exactly like their offspring. We will also focus on structure and function of plants and how these parts help them survive and grow in a habitat. In a few weeks we will start working with the St. Isidore Organic Gardening Ministry once again this year. We will help start broccoli and cabbage plants for the garden in our room. We will take care of the plants and observe how they grow until it is time to plant them in the garden. We will also have a guest speaker come in and talk to us about helpful worms!

 In social studies, we are continuing our discussions that focus on needs, wants and different types of work. Our Junior Achievement program fits in nicely with this chapter. A special thanks to Mrs. Carrasco who is facilitating our Junior Achievement class. Your students are having a great time learning from her.

 In Religion we are starting to prepare for our first mass of the year! Our first, 1st grade mass is Wednesday March 20th. Please join us if you can. I surveyed everyone last week to see what type of part they would like in this first mass. I will pass mass parts to everyone this Wednesday the 13th. Please look in your student’s green folder for this information. If they have a speaking or singing part, please help them practice at home. We will practice at school too.

 Coming soon with the warmer weather…. Our last field trip of the year and raising butterflies!!!!

Have a wonderful week!

Mrs. Debbi Ryan