

**All the News from the Second Grade Shining Stars
January 2018**

Dear Families:

Happy New Year! Happy Epiphany! Best wishes to all of you for a peaceful and joyful beginning of 2018. We had an enjoyable break, however it always passes quickly. It is good to be back with the children and into a routine.

In language arts, we will resume our Daily 5 reading work. We will do more with VoWac and spelling skills. We will learn how to apply them in our daily writing. The children are growing well in these areas. Please guide your child as he or she practices for spelling tests. The many language art skills we do each day help your child to be a more successful reader.

*****HELP WANTED: PARENTS/GRANDPARENTS TO CUT FELT PIECES THAT WILL BE USED TO MAKE OUR FIRST EUCHARIST BANNERS!** If you are a quilter, crafter, or a family member with sharp scissors for cutting felt, and are willing to help cut out felt pieces please contact Mrs. Fischer as soon as possible. We could use your help. We will have patterns and the felt available to send home with your child. Thank you so much.

We will explore the world of LIFE SCIENCE the next several weeks. We have learned the differences between living, non-living, and once-living. We have compared and contrasted the various animal groups. We will be learning about a variety of habitats around the state of Minnesota. With all of what has been studied so far the children are organizing and writing individual reports about an animal that can be found in Minnesota. We think you will be informed and amazed at our findings. Watch for our reports this month.

We are well into our 5th math unit called "3-D and 2-D Shapes." The children are learning about points and line segments, parallel line segments, geometrical shapes, attributes, and symmetry. This unit "parallels" our physical science and engineering units for science as well. Unit 6 is about whole-number operations and number stories. In this unit the children will be introduced to array models. They will review strategies for solving addition and subtraction problems, and they will develop procedures for multiplication/division problems. We have been working daily on double digit addition with or without carrying. This has been a good challenge! *Please encourage your child to practice his/her subtraction and addition flash cards for homework. Thank you.*

Our religion lessons revolved around the celebration of Epiphany. We learned about the three wise men who traveled far following the star to Jesus. We will begin a missions unit later this month. We will learn who missionaries are and how they share their stewardship with people who are in most need. Lastly, we will focus on the virtue of ***GRATITUDE: Seeing everything as a gift and being thankful.***

We will become familiar with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and his mission this month. We will learn about his dream of a better world for all, and the children will share their dreams for a better world. The children will be writing and drawing pictures of something they dream of in their life. We will talk about equality and acceptance of others as caring individuals, and then share what we can do to celebrate our differences. This national holiday is on Monday, January 15.

During the next months, we will be focusing more heavily on academic and personal goals. We reviewed our class rules and goals this week. The students will be challenging themselves toward quality work and self-discipline skills to help meet the goals we set earlier in the school year.

Mid-winter conferences will be held this month. We look forward to meeting with each of our families to visit about your child's growth.

Catholic Schools Week begins on Sunday, January 28. There will be many new and exciting activities during this week, including our Missions unit. Look for more information to come home at a later date.

Best wishes for a peaceful and healthy new year!
Mrs. Fischer

Conversation Starters for the Month:

- 1) What is your dream for a better world?
- 2) What are some things you can do to plan for a healthier lifestyle?
- 3) What are the gifts that the Three Kings brought to Baby Jesus? (gold, frankincense, and myrrh)
- 4) What are the names of the Three Kings? (Melchior, Balthazar, Caspar)

