

All the News from the Second Grade Shining Stars
May 2017

Dear Families:

Warmer temperatures and busy schedules have turned spring into a very exciting time of the year. Signs of growth are all around us in nature, and in the classroom. Students are polishing their reading, writing, and math skills in anticipation of third grade. **Every day is an important opportunity to learn.** Staying focused on learning can be a challenge as we begin the last month of this school year. We will focus on *persistence* during these days. Your support will be very important in encouraging our best work.

During May our religion studies will focus on our devotion to Mary and the Rosary, as well as celebrating our life with Jesus. We will learn about Jesus' apostles. We will learn how Jesus is with our community in homes, school, and parish. Remember to make attendance at a weekend Mass an occasion to look forward to each week. Our children are anxious to receive Jesus' body and blood in the Eucharist often.

We will revisit the "Circle of Grace" curriculum this month. We believe that the "Circle of Grace" program helps to educate us and empowers the children and young people to actively participate in a safe environment for themselves and others. Thank you for participating at home.

Congratulations to all of our students at Sacred Heart for their creative work that will be showcased at the annual art show this month. Our students truly show their artistic flair and ability. We are very proud of our budding young artists.

In math units 11 and 12 we will study decimals and place value. We will also revisit whole-number operations. The children will be introduced to and practice the trade-first subtraction algorithm. The rest of the unit focuses on extending multiplication and division operations. Counting money and writing the amounts is a great way to practice decimals. ***Please continue to stress mastery of addition and subtraction facts now and during the summer months.***

Reading, English skills, and Spelling are very much a part of each day's study. We are continuing to work on stamina and writing skills. Other important skills include reading and following directions, alphabetizing, and using the dictionary.

Our present unit in Social Studies is called "Our Country Today." This unit introduces children to the concept of government-local, state, and federal. It also explores the history of "the land of freedom."

Our Physical Science lessons will be about matter and energy, and motion and forces. Children will explore how matter is classified according to its properties, how matter changes, and how matter looks when it is magnified. Children will learn that sound is a form of energy that is made by vibrating matter. We will learn how forces cause motion and affects objects in motion. Through simple engineering children find out how simple machines can facilitate the movement of objects. These are fun and very active units.

Our end of the year Mass will be on Friday, May 26, at 1:30 PM. The students are excited to celebrate with their schoolmates, and especially our 4th grade students who will graduate from Sacred Heart School. Please plan on attending to celebrate our year together.

You can be proud of the progress your child has made academically and in personal development this year. **I appreciate your support and cooperation throughout this busy year. Thank you.**

Enjoy the beauty and splendor of God's creation in springtime!

God's blessings to you all,

Mrs. Marijo Fischer

Conversation starters for May:

- 1. Who is our present Pope? Where does he come from? (Pope Francis is from Argentina-a country in South America)**
- 2. Can you name Jesus's twelve apostles? Tell your family about at least 3 of them.**
- 3. May is Arbor Month. Where could you plant a tree or trees to help make the Earth more colorful and healthy?**
- 4. What kind of habitats do we have in Minnesota? (prairies, woodlands, rivers/streams, lakes, and bluffs)**
- 5. May 16 is "Wear Purple for Peace Day." What are some ways you can be a peacemaker?**
- 6. In the month of May we celebrate "Children's Book Week." Are you reading a good book? Share what you are reading with a friend, your parents, or your teacher.**
- 7. How can you hear music through a wall?**