

All the News from Second Grade
October 2017

Dear Families:

Happy October! We are thankful to have a great autumn season ahead of us. We are looking forward to a special activity about our community, autumn conferences, and several other great happenings this month.

In language arts, we are working hard in Daily 5. The children know about the 5 ways to become a better reader: read to self, read to someone, work on writing, word work, and listen to reading. We are practicing and reinforcing the Fry's high frequency words in class. Our goal is to become more fluent and confident readers this year. Please make the time to practice reading aloud or independently at home each night.

During September we accomplished the unit "My Pyramid for Kids." I teaching about healthy lifestyles, how to cover our coughs and sneezes, and we have set healthy eating goals. We studied "Little D's Nutrition Expedition" to support this unit. We will begin our Harcourt Science series during October. The life science chapters include units about living and nonliving things (plants and animals), and environments. We will also begin learning about conservation, and how to take care of the Earth. Most of our curricular areas will be integrated as we study conservation and God's Creation.

We have studied bus safety in social studies, and we have been exploring our textbook. Our first unit involves learning about environments, habitats, conservation, natural resources, and landforms. The children are learning the concept of caring for the Earth's natural resources: land, water, air, animals, and plants. We will explore different ways children can conserve and protect them. We will also learn about consumers and producers. We will "meet" and learn about Cesar Chavez and Rachel Carson who were influential in conservation. During October we will review Fire Safety. Do you know your family fire escape plan?

We are strongly into our second math unit this month. The unit is called "Addition and Subtraction Facts." The children will use their knowledge of the basic addition and subtraction facts to solve number stories involving real-life situations. At the beginning of our school year, the children are refreshed on what they learned last year in mathematics. We are establishing daily routines that will be used all year to promote an active and cooperative learning environment. Be alert to the "Home Link" pages that are being sent home for lesson support. The Home Links need to be completed at home, and returned to school the following day since these are graded assignments. Thank you.

Our religion lessons are revolving around the theme "Revelation" from our text book titled Call to Faith. During this time, we are learning about God's Creation, God's Promise, and God's Word. We are also learning and strengthening our prayers each day. Please practice and pray with your child each day. Prayer is a special time you can share with each other as an opportunity for either one-on-one time or family time.

In art we have been learning about line, primary and secondary colors, and color mixing. We have made a few crafts to decorate our classrooms as well. Our art lessons come from the program called "Arts Attack."

We are learning and working each day with VoWac and spelling skills. We will learn how to apply them to our daily writing. A note concerning both of these subjects has been sent home to keep you informed of our studies and also to help you reinforce what your child is learning at school.

This is a reminder that conferences are just around the corner. I am looking forward to visiting with you. We will do goal-setting, and will look at how school has been going up to this point. I am looking forward to working with you and your child.

Attached to this month's letter is a copy of the daily schedule from Mrs. Fischer. It is followed quite closely, but there is always flexibility depending upon the school activities in which we are involved. The schedule is for you to post at home to help in planning appointments or other family related happenings.

The volunteer sign-up sheet for our classrooms has been sent home. We will put together a schedule of helpers each month. Remember that Virtus training is required for all volunteers. Thank you.

Thanks to those of you who donated books to our classroom from the Book Fair. We are truly enjoying each one as we read and use them. I appreciate your kindness.

Enjoy the wonderful autumn happenings with your family.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Marijo Fischer

Conversation Starters for the Month:

- 1) Tell someone at home about odd and even numerals. Count up to 50 first using odd numerals. Try it using even numerals.
- 2) What are some ways you can balance your diet using the five food groups "Little D the Dragon" taught you about?
- 3) Tell someone about how we can care for our environment in God's wonderful creation.
- 4) What are some ways you can be a good friend to someone? Share these ideas with your family.
- 5) What are some ways you can be a good citizen at school, home or in the community?

