

All the News from Second Grade Shining Stars
November 2018

Dear Families:

Happy November! We are thankful to have beautiful weather, and a challenging month ahead of us. We are grateful for and celebrate the many blessings in our daily lives.

Generally, one of the more frequently mentioned comments during conferences regards homework in second grade. The children may not have written (worksheet) homework every day, but there are many things your child can do at home that would be considered "home-work." Also, when there is homework, it is very important that the assignment be completed and turned in on time. Your child should read at least 20 minutes per day either independently or with someone. Your child should study the spelling words for the week, practice math facts, and enjoy playing outdoors while the weather is still nice.

In Religion, we are learning prayers. The children are also learning about the Holy Trinity. The children have begun preparing for First Reconciliation. **Reconciliation learning centers are Wednesday, November 7.** Remember to attend. We will continue to guide your child on his or her way to our **First Reconciliation celebration on Sunday, December 5.** Please reflect on and review the lessons that come home with your child each week. It is important that we all nurture the faith of our children.

In Language Arts this month, we are firmly engaged in Daily 5 routines. The children are doing well with reading, VoWac and spelling skills. The phonics emphasis is on Vowel-Consonant-Silent e patterns with o, u, and e (rope, cute, these). Please practice the Fry's Word Lists at home often for reading success.

We are beginning physical science this month. The students will learn about matter and energy by exploring how matter is classified according to its properties, how matter changes, and how it looks when magnified. Children will learn that sound is a form of energy that is made by vibrating energy. Lastly, children will investigate how sound travels and how sound can be changed and controlled.

In Social Studies we will be learning about working together. This includes how to work with other people cooperatively and how the many parts of a community work together. We will also begin a unit on our country and will learn about voting.

In the third math unit your child will read, write, and compare numbers 0 to 999. We will also work on place value. The fourth math unit will focus on change-to-more number stories. In a change number story, there is a starting quantity. The quantity increases or decreases to be more than or less than the starting quantity. We also practice addition and subtraction facts often. These topics will be brought up repeatedly in

review exercises. We are teaching them some new counting strategies for both addition and subtraction fact quizzes that will also help in daily work.

Now that we are entering late fall and early winter weather, please remember to have your child dress warmly for morning and noon recess. A warmer jacket, hat, and gloves or mittens would be appropriate to wear or bring to school each day. A second pair of mittens/gloves, a hat or pants would be good for back-up in case your child gets wet from the snow. Thanks.

We have a special at-home assignment for each of our families this month: Take your child/family out for a star-walk. When you can, go out of town a distance, sit down with a comfy blanket, a thermos of cocoa, and look up into the wonder of it all. Make a wish on the first star you see and say "Starlight. Star-bright. First star that I see tonight: I wish I may, I wish I might, have the wish I wish tonight." Can you find the Big Dipper? Do you see the Milky Way? Where is Polaris? How did you find the North Star?

We hope that each of you has a safe and blessed Thanksgiving holiday together. Make some happy memories with one another.

Truly,
Mrs. Marijo Fischer and Miss Kelsey Deason

Conversation Starters for the Month:

- 1) Do you know what kind of habitats there are in Minnesota? Name at least 4 of them (river, woodland, prairie, lake, bluffs).
- 2) Who and what are you thankful for in your life? Share your thoughts with someone.
- 3) **Do you know the Act of Contrition prayer by heart? Make this a goal while you prepare for your First Reconciliation on December 5.**
- 4) What is your favorite Thanksgiving food? If you can guess what your teacher's favorite food is, write it down on a slip of paper and bring it to your teacher for a Thanksgiving treat by November 20 (Thanksgiving is Nov. 22).
- 5) What would be a good, healthy snack for late fall? (Pumpkin seeds, fresh apples, trail mix, crackers, fruit, $\frac{1}{2}$ a sandwich, carrots and dip, cheese and crackers...)



