

**All the News from the Second Grade Shining Stars
January 2019**

Dear Families:

Happy New Year! Happy Epiphany! Best wishes to all of you for a peaceful and joyful beginning of 2019. 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. Our goal for each student is to read for at least 20 minutes per night.

We will explore the world of ENERGY and the next several weeks. We will learn about sound, pitch, energy, vibration and volume. We will also explore matter in motion and magnets.

We will begin our 5th math unit called "3-D and 2-D Shapes" in January. The children will be 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 ***FIDELITY: Being faithful to promises and commitments.***

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 21.

During the next months, we will be focusing more heavily on academic and life skill 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.

Catholic Schools Week begins on Sunday, January 27. 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 and Miss Deason

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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)

