

August 25-29, 2014



The first week of school was the beginning of an amazing year! Students went to all resource classes, which include Spanish, Art, Music, PE and Technology. We celebrated Mass together with Fr. Rossi. We read to Abbey, the CHKD certified therapy dog. She will be visiting frequently to listen to us read. Sometimes her master, Mr. Mark Hoggard, Formation Director at St. Therese, will read to us as well. We are off to an awesome start.

Families, thank you as well for your support. This has been the best class ever for attendance and punctuality. We are able to start class promptly at 8:00 with prayer. In addition, you have been super in returning paperwork upon request. We appreciate everything you do.

First Graders are learning important lessons and study habits which include following directions, managing time, and sticking to the rules. These life lessons are often the hardest. Please be aware of behaviors and habits at home that may make these life skills challenging. How many times do you ask your child to complete a task? In FIRST grade we aim to follow directions the first time they are given with the certainty that they completely understand what is being asked of them. We learn there are

special times such as a time to work solo, independently and quietly, a buddy time to work cooperatively, a time to eat, a time to play, a time to pray, etc. Each time requires us to listen and do. We also have time constraints as the day is filled with Religion, Language Arts, Reading, Writing, Social Studies, Math and Science. Each lesson is planned with a reasonable time table for completion. However, students must devote focus and attention to the task at hand and follow directions for completion. Together we will learn, grow, and be the best we can be. Your encouragement, reinforcement and attention to these matters at home make school much easier.

Let's keep homework happy. Please note that any homework listed on the homework announcement should be completed by the next day. For instance, if mystery bags were assigned on Wednesday, they should be turned in on Thursday for credit. The bag items were so interesting with very thoughtful clues. What variety! We had everything from a Darth Vader rolly toy to a diaper (clean of course). You really stumped us all often times.

This week we will implement DEAR (Drop Everything And Read) in class for 10 minutes. Students will sustaining their independent reading for this amount of time and then stop when the timer signals the end. Please continue this habit at home with oral reading daily. Choose when it is best to read with your child....when he/she gets home, after dinner, before bed, etc. At school we are learning to color a chart after every 10 minute session. This practice chart will show a line of watermelons for the month of August. The chart has been altered to reflect tracking of reading at home and school just for this week. Next month you will be given an apple chart to color an apple a day for a ten minute reading session at home. If your child wishes to read more, please go for it. The research is there to support

the best way to grow in reading proficiency is to read. Read to lead and succeed!

Also this week students will learn the Daily5 for Reading: Read to self; read to a friend; listen to a story; write; complete word work. Students will be assessed on reading levels and developmental spelling stages. Work will be assigned according to student needs. We will work together and with the teacher in large group, small groups, partners, and independently. In Religion, students will learn about the wonders of God's creations. We pray in thanksgiving for these gifts, especially for the gift of one another and YOU! Students will learn how to take their first paper pencil Religion test. They will also have an assessment in which they make 3 things God created using playdoh. Testing can be fun. It informs the teacher and student where we are in our learning and what we need to do to achieve mastery. In Technology, we will review the use of the computer, basic keyboarding with monkey paws, and complete a webquest on the Solar System. Also, in Reading we will read about hats and look to Social Studies for information on the uses of hats here and around the world. We will begin to learn about the 6+1 Traits of Writing beginning with conventions. All sentences should begin with capitals and end with a punctuation mark. In Word Study we will sort and spell words based on patterns and on what we hear and we see. Our resource teachers are planning exciting activities for the week. In PE, students will participate in skill assessment activities and engage in tasks for the Presidents Physical Fitness Testing. In Music students will explore rhythmic patterns using classmates' names. They will also learn songs for Mass. Please join us Wednesday at 10:00 a.m. for Mass with Fr. Brian, our Chaplain. It is the Feast of St. Monica. Students will wear church uniforms on this day.

