



## **Newsletter February 17-21, 2014**

February may be the shortest month but it is super long on learning: Groundhog's Day, PCRS Grandparents Day, Valentine's Day, Presidents' Day, the Olympics and more!

In First Grade students will be learning about the story elements in depth: title, author, illustrator, setting, characters, plot, problem, solution. In addition, students will summarize, identify details, make predictions, sequence events and share the beginning, middle and end of their stories.

Please check their notebooks for the username and password information for Scholastic Reading Counts. Just follow the prompts on the school website and enter the information. Students should refrain from taking tests from their blue and pink books. These are reserved for in-school quizzes only. However, they may use books from home, school and local libraries.

Books should be JUST RIGHT. Give it the five finger test (if your child goes to the middle of the book and misses 5 words,

chances are this is not a just right book. This program is designed to help students grow in their independent reading. Little assistance should be given by you particularly in responding to questions. Our goals are to assist students in growing in independent reading and test taking skills. If you are having to sit with your child and lead him/her to answer choices, then the book is not right for your child. Focus on success and independence please. At this point, there are numerous just right texts available for First Grade students. Please continue to log in titles on your child's reading log, date and initial. Don't forget to utilize the comprehension prompts provided for Reading Logs September through December 2013. Students should read, analyze and respond to texts with greater accuracy and depth if this type of questioning accompanies readings. In PE students will prepare for the mock Olympics. In Spanish, the students' knowledge of colors and numbers will be assessed through games. In Health, students will investigate the correlation between physical fitness and nutrition. They will investigate the health triangle which includes mental health, physical health and emotional health. In PE, First

Graders will play tag and jump rope games to enhance their cardiovascular health. In Music students are working on Syllables and beats. In Religion and Social Studies, students continue to learn and live about love and peace. They are working hard to host a Peace Prayer Service in March. In Writing, students continue to grow in word choices as they include details and descriptive words. Challenge them to do the same in their reading and conversations.

In Math, First Grade will be finishing up Chapter Five with Even and Odd practice, as well as ten more and ten less. We will be having the Chapter Five Test on Friday, February 21 before the basketball game. Please help review Chapter Five skills on IXL and with the study guide.

In Science, we will be studying the soil and different layers of soil. We will also review uses and conservation of water.

**School will be held on Presidents Day.**

**Students have a free Tag Day. The Talent Show will be at 1:30 p.m.** Please be sure students have what they need if they are participating solo or in a group and were pre-registered before the snow days. First Grade will perform a song together.

**Wednesday, is Faculty, Staff, Pastor, Parish**

**Staff Appreciation Day. First Grade has been invited to remain after school for 15 minutes to perform our song for the guests.** Please consider allowing your child to remain. You may come to the gym with us, view the show and then take them straight home from the gym instead of the parking lot. After Care students will be returned to the Extended Care area immediately following the song. Please sign and return the permission slip being sent home on Monday. Also, students may teach lessons on this day. You may complete and return that form as well. We are trying our best to give the children all of the exciting events they were expecting during Catholic Schools Week.

**Friday is Spirit Day - Blue and White Tag Day**  
The 8th Grade vs. Faculty Game will be at 2:00 p.m. Come and cheer all PCRS Pirates on!