

## **Second Grade Happenings September 2017**

### **Welcome Back!**

Second graders are back at school and off to a great start. This group of kids will be the very first class to START second grade in the new school building. That is a very exciting thing. Thank you to everyone who came to the Dedication Mass with the bishop on Monday evening. It helped to start the year off right.

### **Technology**

Second graders are moving up in the world of technology. Thanks to your generosity, each second grader now has his/her own chrome book which is kept in the classroom. These chrome books will be used mostly for our spelling program but I am sure as I get more comfortable with them, I will find new ways to use them. We also have a brand new Promethean Board in our second grade classroom and that is thanks to the generosity of Larry and Barb McKinney. It will be used in many ways but especially with our Shurley English. Again thank you so very much!

### **Thank You!**

This goes out to our Partners in Education (PIE) sponsors. At this time, I only have a partial listing but as soon as I have a completed list, I will name them individually. We are very fortunate to have these generous people who help us to obtain materials and do things that will enrich our curriculum. If you are interested in becoming a PIE sponsor, please contact Mrs. Roberston for the forms.

### **Creative Arts**

Second graders, as well as third graders, are studying Illinois. During this unit, we will be looking at some of the history and cultures of Illinois, as well as learning about some of our state symbols. If you watched the news, we have some new symbols as of a couple weeks ago!!

### **Parent Orientation Meeting**

Because of our Mass with the bishop, we moved our Parent Orientation Meeting to Tuesday, September 5 beginning at 6:00. You will have an opportunity to spend about 15 minutes in your child's classroom. During this time, I will go over some of the frequently asked questions about our routine and schedules. Bring any questions you have in general about second grade and I will try to answer them.

### **Florinda's Night**

Florinda's Night is Wednesday, September 6. Just mention St. Mary's and she will donate a percentage of the sales to the school. I hope to see you there.

### **Mary's Birthday**

We will be celebrating St. Mary's birthday on Friday, September 8. In honor of Mary, we will be asking you to make a donation of a canned good that will be given to our local food pantry. Please be generous if you can.

#### **\*\*\*\*\*Communion Service\*\*\*\*\***

Mark your calendars for Friday, September 22. It will be the first time this year that the second graders will be the leaders of the Children's 9:00 Mass. **Please note this date is on a Friday not on Thursday. Because no priest is available, it will be a Communion Service and not a Mass.** Second graders will still be the leaders so please join us if you can.

#### **All School Sing**

We will have our first All School Sing at the 11:00 Mass on Sunday, September 24. Please have your child join us in the choir loft if you can.

#### **Relay for Life Raffle**

We will be having a Relay for Life Raffle on Friday, September 29. Chances can be purchased starting Monday, September 25 and will be 50 cents a piece for as many as you want. Your generous donations will help to sponsor our St. Mary's Relay for Life Team and will go to the American Cancer Society to help in the fight against cancer.

#### **Picture Day**

School pictures will be taken on Monday, October 2. Mrs. Robertson will be sending out more information at a later date.

#### **Schedules**

September 4—No School, Labor Day

September 15—11:30 Dismissal, Faculty Retreat, Fiesta

#### **School Subjects**

*Religion:* We will be concentrating on two very important sacraments this year, Reconciliation and Eucharist. Those students who will be celebrating these sacraments will be helping to create an altar cloth that will be used at both sacraments and the parent meetings. This is just a reminder that if your child has not been baptized and you want your child to receive these sacraments, you must get in touch with Msgr. Lantz or Carole Harrison as soon as possible.

*Reading:* We will continue to use the Wonders program to teach reading. We will be finishing up our second story called Big Red Lollipop. I encourage you to listen to your child read every night. This will help them to get some much needed practice with their fluency as well as their comprehension.

*English:* We will continue to use the Shurley Method to teach English. The children will have many opportunities to use our new Promethean board to do the Question and Answer Flow portion of the lessons.

*Phonics:* I will be using The Intensive Phonics like I have used in the past. Most of the work will be completed on the whiteboard. You will see some phonics pages from our new reading series, as well. There will not be any phonics homework this year.

*Math:* We are using the Saxon program again this year. There will be math homework most nights so please see that these assignments get completed, checked and returned by the next day.

*Spelling:* Even though we are using Spelling City on our new chrome books this year and not workbooks, our spelling will remain fairly routine. First day, we write our words and these pages go home to be studied for the test. On the second day, we write ten sentences. On the third and fourth days, we complete Spelling City activities in class. On the fifth or last day of the week, we have our spelling test. There will be **No Spelling City homework** like in the older grades.

*Science:* We have begun our science class by studying plants. We will be watching four plants very carefully to see what happens when they do not get everything that they need. There may be a few homework assignments in Science throughout the year so watch the homework folders. We will also be having Science tests this year. This is something new for your child. I will send home the packet of workbook pages a couple of days before the test so please use them to help your child study for the test.