

# Dr. Seuss

# March 2

Dear Parents,

March 4, 2010

The end of the second trimester is here! I appreciate the support and encouragement you give your first grader. The growth I've seen in your child since September is amazing.

We all welcome Katie Staloch as she teaches first grade in Mrs. O'Brien's classroom for the rest of the school year. It should be a smooth and happy transition!

It was great to see so many of you at Faith Sharing Centers Monday. We hope it was a meaningful experience for you and your child.

There is no school for students on Friday March 12 as we will have a staff day.

During Lent the first graders have been doing special art activities and listening to stories about Jesus' life on earth. The SH student body has been taking part in the Stations of the Cross during the Lenten season. The fourth graders will be presenting the Shadow Stations the Monday of Holy Week.

Thank you for your help with spelling words that accompany the stories in our reading series and VoWac lessons. Daily oral reading of library books will also help to strengthen your first grader's reading skills.

In math, we are focusing on addition and subtraction facts. We suggest that you help your child master just one group of facts at a time. We begin with facts through six, and then go on with facts through ten, twelve, and finally eighteen. The same process can be used for subtraction. If you present these facts at your own child's pace, he/she will feel confident and eager for the next challenge. Please also allow your

first grader to count a variety of coins whenever possible. At this time, students should be able to make transitions in counting coin combinations—quarters to dimes to nickels to pennies.

We have just completed a Science unit on air and its properties. We had fun exploring with straws, air pillows, balloons, pinwheels, bubbles and “land boats”. We culminated this unit with an experiment to see how much air we each had as we launched our boats with sails we designed ourselves. You can see our results at the science fair tomorrow!

We are grateful for your fantastic support of our ‘hundred day’ celebration. The projects your students made were clever and meaningful to them. They enjoyed showing them off as we paraded through the school.

Happy St. Patrick's Day to all!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Mathern