

*Dear Parents,*

*May, 2011*

*April was a busy month in the first grade, and May will be full as well, with only about three weeks of school left. We got the month off to a fun start with two outings this week. Hopefully, your first grader has told you all about them!*

*The first graders' reading skills are soaring! Any extra reading time you can give your first grader at home this summer will greatly impact confidence for second grade. The students have really been enjoying reading 'free time' this trimester!*

*Writing during May will further the development of sentences through the correct use of naming words, action words, and describing words. We are recognizing important people, places and things by their capital letters. We now know six different types of syllables in VOWAC: (open, closed, V-E, vowel team, r-controlled and consonant-le.) The students learn rules for use of these syllables so that they can apply these rules when reading. Instead of telling your first grader a word that he/she may not know, it would be more helpful to ask, "What kind of a syllable is this?" That way, your child can reinforce a rule already learned and feel success with word attack. The final May spelling test will include the sight words on the Fry list that we've studied this year!*

*In science, students have been exploring living things. They have been looking at the life cycles, body coverings, habitats, and movements of animals. They will wear butterfly wings and antennae to release painted lady butterflies into the outdoors after they emerge from their chrysalides!*

*The first graders had a program on respect for the American flag last week. We are grateful to Boyd Fuller and Ron Purcell who represent the VFW for making this presentation and for the flags they provided.*

*Library books from the Sacred Heart library should come back to school by Monday, May 23. We will have our regular library time but will not be checking out books after that date. Our librarian needs to do her year end organization and inventory. Please make an extra effort to locate any*

*missing books. Thanks.*

*The parent lunch and Sacred Heart Art Show will be Friday, May 13. The students' art will be shown all weekend along with a Scholastic Book Sale. We hope you will all be able to take part!*

*Friday, May 20 will be the day for parents to bring their first graders' pets to school for a pet show. If weather permits, we will hold this event on the convent lawn. This will be a time not only for first graders to show off their pets, but to tell their classmates how they take care of them. Further information about this day will be coming home soon.*

*The first grade classes will also attend an environmental day sponsored by the Soil and Water Conservation District. This will take place in Boyd Fuller's backyard (around Coon Lake) on Friday, May 27. This is our last day of school, so we will need to be back in plenty of time for closing Mass and graduation after lunch. We will walk down the bike trail and around Coon Lake. Details will be included in the permission slip coming home soon. Please sign and return all slips for these activities as soon as possible. Thanks!*

*I hope you all enjoy the rest of our beautiful spring! I certainly will, as I wrap up these last few weeks with your children. Your first graders have grown in so many ways this year, and I will really miss each one of them!*

*THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR SUPPORT THIS YEAR!!!*