

May, 2008

Dear Parents,

April was a busy month in the first grade, and May will be full as well, with only about three weeks of school left. Please note carefully the permission slips coming home, as the month will bring added activities.

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 lessons for the remainder of the year will further the use of the dictionary and 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. The first graders have also been learning to change nouns from singular to plural by adding 's', 'es', or 'ies'.

We have now learned six different types of syllables in VOWAC: (open, closed, vowel-consonant-silent 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 all the sight words on the Fry list your first grader has learned this year.

In science we have been exploring living things. We have been looking at the life cycles, body coverings, habitats, and movements of animals. Hopefully our butterflies will be ready to be released into the outdoors by the last week of school.

The first graders had a program on respect for the American flag. 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 Friday, May 16. 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

We will have a day soon when special times are set aside 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.

We will again be busing to River Bend Nature Center in Faribault for a field trip on pond life. This trip will be on Wednesday, May 14. See the permission slip for details.

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 (weather permitting) on Friday, May 23. We will walk down the bike trail, as Mr. Fuller lives around Loon Lake.

On Tuesday, May 27, the Waseca County dairy princesses will come into the first grade classrooms to show the students how to make butter. This should be an interesting experience!

Please return all permission 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!!!





