

All the News from Second Grade Shining Stars
March 2010

Dear Families,

March began lion-like, with snowy and chilly weather. However, we have new goals for our academics and life skills, and we have begun our Lenten promises to excite us for spring.

In Language Arts this month, we will begin our unit in our second reading book called "Amazing Animals." We will also begin the unit called "Family Time." The focus on this unit is learning about biographies. Through these stories we will discover that people in a family learn from and help one another. A great goal for your child is to read for at least 15 minutes each night. The more your child reads, the better the speller and writer he or she will become.

We have moved onto Earth Science with the theme, "Rocks, Soils, and Fossils." Our new unit is called "Weather Patterns." The children will become "Junior Meteorologists" as they learn about changes in weather patterns over time, water cycles, weather conditions that include precipitation and wind, and the seasons. We will also learn about how people and other living things adjust to seasonal changes in weather.

In Social Studies we are studying a unit designed to help children better understand the economic world we live in. We have been practicing new vocabulary words by making flash cards that can be used later in a unit review. We will learn about the basic choices people make concerning earning, spending, and saving money. Students will be introduced to national and international trade while continuing to learn map and globe skills.

We will begin our fifth Math unit in March. This unit is called "3-D and 2-D Shapes." During this unit, the children will learn about points and line segments, parallel lines, quadrangles, 3-dimensional shapes, and symmetry. We will set up a "Shapes Museum" in the classrooms as well. Continue practicing those math facts! Quick recall is important for continued success.

Our Religion lessons will revolve around Lent. We will also begin our First Eucharist preparation. During Lent, we will focus on the promises we will try to keep whether it is something we "give up" (sacrifice), or something we choose to do to help ourselves and others. Lent is also a good time to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Check your parish bulletin or church calendar for an upcoming communal penance service. The children will begin their preparation for First Eucharist, and will do many activities over the next weeks to become familiar with and learn about their next sacrament.

Sacred Heart School will help with almsgiving during Lent by donating to Operation Rice Bowl. You can send loose change or paper money with your child at any time for our collection box, and we will bring it to church before Easter break. Thank you for your support.

We are participating in the "Minnesota Twins Father of the Year Essay Contest." The children will complete the essays in school, and we will send them in the mail next week. Good luck to our second grade writers.

We will continue to learn and work more with VoWac and spelling skills. It is also very important that the children apply their spelling skills in their daily writing. Everyday use and reading for enjoyment are also good ways to work on these skills outside of classroom time.

Have a happy month! Spring is just around the corner!

Truly,

Mrs. Marijo Fischer and Mrs. JoAnn Adelmann

Conversation Starters for March:

1. Tell your family about your Lenten Promise. How can you help each other on your journey?
2. Can you do your math facts quickly and correctly? Practice them.
3. I have noticed many spring signs already. What have you noticed?
4. When can you see through rocks? Ask your family. (As rock goes through the weathering process, it turns into sand. Glass is partially made from sand, so this is how you are able to "see" through rock.)