

March 4, 2010

Dear Parents,

As usual, the month has gone by very quickly! Our second trimester will be over tomorrow, and report cards will be sent home in the next couple of weeks. We celebrated our 100<sup>th</sup> day of school with various activities involving the number 100, and we also read Ready Set Freddy- The One Hundredth Day of School.

### **Religion**

We have been talking about Lent, and what this special time means to us. We began with our Ash Wednesday Mass. The second and third graders hosted the Stations of the Cross on Feb. 24<sup>th</sup>, and they did a wonderful job. We'll be doing a variety of Lenten activities to get ready for Easter. The fourth graders have invited us to watch their Shadow Stations, and we will be attending the Stations of the Cross at church on March 10, which the first and fourth grade will host.

### **Language Arts**

We have begun our *Incredible Stories* unit, which focuses on fantasy stories. The first story was Dogzilla by Dav Pilkey, which the children loved. Ask your child to tell you about it, if s/he hasn't yet. We also read Kat Kong, by the same author. We are writing our own stories, and will share them during Author's Chair. I can't wait to hear them, as these students have wonderful imaginations! We began a new book for our read aloud. It is a Boxcar Children book called The Washington D.C. Mystery.

### **Science**

The science fair is tomorrow! The students are very excited, as this is a new experience for them. We have been practicing for it all week, and I think the students will do a fine job. We have been discussing the solar system, and we did a fun project with the book Postcards From Pluto. We visited several interesting space websites, including The Powers of 10, which the children enjoyed. There is so much information on the Internet, as well as fun learning games. I encourage you to do a search on the solar system and explore some of these sites with your child. Some that you may want to try are:

<http://kidsastronomy.com/index.htm>

<http://spaceplace.nasa.gov/en/kids/>

<http://starchild.gsfc.nasa.gov/docs/StarChild/StarChild.html>

## **Math**

We are working on the concepts of whole numbers and decimals. Students will read, write, and compare large numbers and decimals. We have learned all of our multiplication facts, and will continue to practice them using flash cards and playing various games. The students will continue to take their one minute multiplication tests until they have passed them. Simply taking 5-10 minutes each night to review and practice your child's multiplication facts will help him/her memorize the facts and improve his/her accuracy.

*Notes from Mrs. Altman...*

During the month of February, biographies were read and videos were shown of Abraham Lincoln and George Washington. The students grew in their knowledge and awareness of the importance that these two outstanding presidents had to our country.

### **Upcoming Events/Important Dates:**

March 10	Book Orders Due
March 12	No School- Staff Day

I hope that you and your family have a wonderful and blessed Easter.

Sincerely,

Donna Lyon