

MARCH 2010



Dear Parents,

February was another busy month! Our second trimester ends on March 5 so report cards will be sent home the week of March 15. Please take time to review your child's report card with him/her.

We spent extra time on reading during the month of February since February is "I Love to Read" month. Each student had the opportunity to read a picture book of his/her choice to the class. It was fun to share our favorite books with one another, and the students did a fantastic job of reading aloud to the class! We spent 15-20 minutes of "buddy reading" each week with our second grade reading partners from Mrs. Adelman's room. It was fun to see their enthusiasm for reading and how they were sharing their favorite reading stories with one another!

Religion: The third graders did a very nice job of leading the **Ash Wednesday Mass** on February 17. I was very proud of them! The second and third grade classes lead the **Stations of the Cross** on Wednesday, February 24. They did a wonderful job of reading the stations and prayers, as we received a lot of positive comments from those that attended. We have been focusing on the Lenten season by doing a variety of Lenten activities and spending more time in prayer. We have an **Operation Rice Bowl** in our classroom. I have encouraged each student to pray about this (almsgiving), and if they are willing to bring in part of their allowance or earnings from doing chores around the house to donate to our rice bowl, that would be greatly appreciated. Each student has written down a "promise" of something that he/she plans to do during Lent on a purple cross that is displayed on our classroom door. We talked about taking a bad habit and turning it into a good habit during Lent. We have been discussing how to become better followers of Jesus by making better choices and having positive attitudes. I hope you will be seeing "random acts of kindness" being done at home. When I see a student doing a kind act at school, he/she adds a jelly bean to our jelly bean jar. We are very proud of all of the jelly beans we have earned so far! We colored stained glass crosses that are on display on the students' lockers, as a reminder to pray, fast, and do more loving things for others.

Math: We finished our place value unit where we worked with whole numbers and decimals. We have also taken all of our one-minute timed tests on our multiplication facts. Students will now have a chance to retake the tests when they feel prepared, as the goal is to complete all 20 problems correctly in one-minute. Please continue to practice multiplication and division facts with your child at home. It is extremely important for these facts to be memorized. Our next unit of study in math will be geometry.

Language Arts: The students did a great job on their first book reports! Comments were made on their grading sheet as to what they can improve upon for their next book report. We have begun our new theme: *Incredible Stories*. Our first story, *Dogzilla*, by Dav Pilkey was a very cute and humorous story that the students really enjoyed! Dav Pilkey also wrote the book, *Kat Kong*, so I read that realistic fiction story aloud to the class, and many laughs were heard! We have begun discussing the elements to a good story: an interesting beginning, well developed characters, descriptive words and details, a problem, a solution, and an

ending. Students will be writing their own stories using these elements, and then we will share them during Author's Chair.

Social Studies: 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.

Science (Mrs. Lyon): 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>

HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY!

