

Second Grade Newsletter
January 19-February 2, 2011

Dear Families,

It's hard to believe that January is just about over! The second grade girls and boys have been working very hard. Here is a brief summary of what they will be working on the next few weeks.

Religion: The students continue to study the different parts of the Mass. They are now focusing on the second part of the Mass, the Liturgy of the Eucharist. They are learning that it is important to offer the gift of themselves, along with the gifts of bread and wine, during Mass. The students will also be active participants in the upcoming Masses. Mrs. Burton's class will be preparing the Mass on January 26th and Mrs. Fitz-Alt/Grant's class will be preparing the Mass for February 2nd.

Reading: The children will be participating in a variety of book studies over these next few weeks. They will read fiction and non-fiction books that focus on Asia and China. They will also read several stories in their reading books while making sure they can identify the main story elements. The boys and girls continue to write and share creative stories during Writer's Workshop. Please be sure your student is reading every evening.

Math: In this unit, our students explore various addition and subtraction problem-solving methods. They apply their own subtraction strategies and have the opportunity to try new ones. Our goal is for your child to be able to solve problems in a variety of situations. It is important that he or she understands that the traditional approach for solving problems is just one of many acceptable methods of finding the answer. Other problem-solving strategies your child will explore include estimating, drawing pictures, and using tools such as base-ten pieces and calculators. As we continue to develop subtraction strategies in our classroom, you can provide additional support at home.

•**Discuss Strategies.** Encourage your child to state each new problem in his or her own words before trying to solve it. Then, after the problem is solved, ask him or her to talk about the strategies that led to the answer. I hope you enjoy listening to the creative and insightful strategies your child is learning.

•**Math Facts.** This unit begins the systematic study of the subtraction facts. Students will work with small groups of subtraction facts in each unit throughout the remainder of the year. Help your child practice the facts using the *Triangle Flash Cards: Group A Subtraction Facts*.

Thank you for continuing to work with your child on mathematics concepts at home.

SS/Science: We also will begin our Favorite American Unit. This is a long-range unit with multiple deadlines. Please review the separate sheet (also posted) with your child, so that you are both aware of the upcoming due dates.

Michele, Leslie, and Cathy