

Fifth Grade Parent Newsletter # 1
August 26 - September 9, 2010

Dear Parents,

This will be our first newsletter from the fifth grade teachers. We hope this will help you to know what is being taught and assigned in each class, and when tests/projects are due. If your child is a “**school messenger**,” please return the envelope back to school the **NEXT** day. It will help teachers to keep better track of the envelopes.

- Our school theme for the year is “Mary, Seat of Wisdom.”
- Please save empty baby food jars (glass) for a fifth grade Christmas project!

Please have enough school supplies readily available at home so students will not have to carry pencil bags home each night. It is difficult to work at home without the “essentials” necessary to do homework. (pencils, pen, ruler, crayons, Bible, dictionary, loose leaf, etc.)

- Fifth grade homework assignments are posted on the following website:
<http://www.classjump.com>
- All homework, notes, and helpful websites for every subject will be posted under Mrs. Schneider’s name. Follow the directions to sign up for the site.

Important Dates to Remember:

Wed., Sept 1- Back to School Night (7:00pm) in the Church
Mon., Sept. 6- Labor Day—No School

Listed below is a general outline of the work the fifth grade students will be doing for the next two weeks (Aug. 26 – Sept. 10). **Please** check the **student’s daily assignment notebook** for specific information and **remind** your child that it is to be filled in each day. This is an excellent means for you, as a parent, to know what your child has to complete/study.

Religion: Fifth graders will be using the religion text, *We Believe*. Each lesson is built upon: **word of God, worship and prayer, and call to service**. The Bible will also be used as a main resource. Students have been reviewing formal prayers: Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory Be to the Father. Please check to see that your child knows these prayers.

Social Studies: *The United States: Making a New Nation* is the text used for fifth graders. Students will study about the early times and events of early America, some of the people who took part in the events, and the places where each happened. A test is usually given after each chapter. These tests may be an open book, work with partners, or a self test.

Writing: Students are working on personal poems, acrostic poetry, and writing good paragraphs. Summer reading provides our **ideas** (the first trait of the *6-Trait* writing format), and students provide the specifics and details to support their thoughts. Notes are being written in Language Arts spirals, another reminder that your child will **need to have and use** a Language Arts spiral. Spelling & vocabulary texts will be issued next week. Students will have a **weekly** spelling test each Friday, with the word list going home on Monday. (Continues on next page...)

Reading: Students have read *The Hundred Dresses* and we will continue exploring theme, with a look at universal themes in literature and specific themes in our books. Activities accompanying our class novel included the personal poem, vocabulary context and usage work, reflections on the story and its lessons, and a character acrostic. Students have received their individual reading logs with a reading goal for this quarter. Points earned through independent reading are applied toward that goal, and a percent grade is included as a test score to average quarter grades. Each student is responsible for his/her own reading log. It should be kept in your child's **Homework Folder**, or in the Language Arts classroom **if** the student is apt to lose or forget the folder. You should ask to see that reading log from time to time, and you can initial any AR tests taken. There are **no AR print-out sheets** this year. **The reading log is the only record of independent reading.**

Math: Students have begun the year in math class with Unit 2, which deals with place value and working with big numbers. Students have completed an assessment of addition, subtraction and multiplication facts. It is the expectation of the school that these facts have been mastered before entering fifth grade. Students who are not yet fluent in these facts will need to work at home to master them. Students will also be practicing these facts during some Explore periods during the school day. A list of helpful math websites will be posted on the class website.

Science: Chapter 1 in the science text deals with cells and classification of organisms. Classes have completed work on cell structure. They will move on to classification and will be working to classify many organisms in the animal kingdom.

Sincerely,

Charlotte Jett (English, Spelling, Reading)

Rosemarie Schneider (Math, Science)

Sister Kathleen Marie (Religion, Social Studies)