

6th Grade Newsletter
August 27-September 9, 2010

Mrs. Patti Dearth—Language Arts

Reading—Welcome to the new school year! While our major emphasis during these first days of school has been on learning procedures, discussing class expectations, and managing the logistics of having a locker ☺, we have also been busy with academics. Students have taken some informal reading assessments, perused their beautiful new *Literature* anthologies and set their AR goals for the quarter. We will be reading two to three novels this year and studying literature selections from their textbooks. I will be introducing the first unit this week which focuses on the literary elements of plot, conflict and setting.

The first quarter deadline for AR tests and pre-approved projects is Wednesday, October 13. Students wrote this date in their planners on the first day of school, and it is posted in the classroom. Their AR score is the equivalent of one test score toward their reading grade.

English—Students completed a scavenger hunt using their *Voyages in English* textbook, and have been trying their hand at poetry after reviewing the figurative language devices of alliteration and onomatopoeia. Sixth grade poets used the question “What shall I put in the box marked summer?” as the basis for their poem. Mechanics are reviewed daily in our opening board work.

We are strongly encouraging students to consistently use their planners to record daily assignments and upcoming events. I will be checking students’ planners as they leave class each day to see that they have at least my assignments written down. Students in my homeroom must have theirs filled out in order to get out the door at the end of the day. ☺

Please email me at pdearth@stpeterskc.org or call me at 523-4899 ex. 323 if you have ANY questions or concerns. I will do my absolute best to get back to you within 24 hours. I am enjoying getting to know your child and look forward to an exciting year in sixth grade. I hope to see you at our Back to School Night on Wednesday, September 1st. Thank you!

Ms. Dorothy Starnes—Math

The sixth graders have a Chapter 1 and vocabulary test on Friday, Aug. 27. A good way to review for this test would be for your sixth grader to do the problems on pages 48 and 49 in the book. The answers to the odd numbered problems are in the back of the book. The students have learned where they are. The week of Aug. 30th we will be reviewing measurement, graphing, perimeter, and area. The following week students will be working with mean, median, and mode and taking the Chapter 2 test. The review for that chapter is on pages 100 and 101.

Mr. Tabory—Religion

In sixth grade religion class students focus mainly on stories of salvation history in the Old Testament portion of the Bible. They all now have hardcover editions of the *Catholic Youth Bible* which is the Bible that they'll use in all future religion classes at SPS. It is a treasure chest of information in kid friendly form that adds background and reflection material by the boatload to help them understand the Bible better. Those of us who are cradle Catholics know the lack of daily exposure to the Bible in our childhood. So we try to change that for your children in elementary school. If you have a Bible at home, please make sure that your sixth grader knows where it is. If not, he/she can take his/her school copy home at any time.

So far, students have worked in small groups to make Venn Diagrams of both creation stories found in the book of Genesis. We will read the first five books of the Bible (the Pentateuch) over time. They are like the beginning of a movie. If you miss it, you're forever trying to catch up on the rest of the story. In the next two weeks, students will be making laminated drawings of the books of the Bible that will be placed in school hallways so that visitors can take a walking tour of the scriptures.

(Continues on next page...)

During the week of September 6th, students will take their first chapter test covering pages 19 - 29. I will do my best to share the family resources that come with our textbooks, but you can also see what your child will be studying by browsing www.webelieveweb.com. There will also be class service opportunities throughout the year in which you and your child can participate. Some possibilities are making and serving a meal at the Ronald McDonald Houses in KC, Food for the Poor, Soles 4 Souls, preparing the church for Advent and Lent, and buying gifts for a needy family through St. Peter's Social Service Program. As for me as a religion teacher I hold a Masters in Theological Studies and stay current on faith and religion issues and writings. While we obviously focus on the Catholic faith and practices, students will also receive basic knowledge of Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, and Buddhism. There are copies of the scriptures of world religions available in the classroom if your child is interested. Please feel free to contact me with any questions, compliments, concerns or complaints at wtabory@stpeterskc.org or 816-523-4899 ext.325.

Laura Hall—Social Studies and Science

<http://sites.google.com/site/mrshallsps6/>