

Dear Parents,

January 10, 2012

I hope that everyone enjoyed their Christmas break and were able to enjoy quality time with your families. It is hard to believe that we will begin our third quarter of school next week! ***Please remember that this Friday is the end of the second quarter and that report cards will come home with students next Friday, January 20, 2012.***

The fifth grade has just started a new math unit. In unit 4, we will discuss many concepts that are new to the class. Our focus in math will be on factors, multiples and fractions for the next several weeks. Simple Solution lessons are due each Friday.

In Religion class, we are discussing the gifts of the Holy Spirit. We have started a new "Person of the Week" project. Take a moment to discuss this project with your child and allow them time to explain the purpose of the project to you! It is important that we recognize all individuals for their own special gifts and for what they have to offer!

We are beginning an exciting project in Science class today! The students are really looking forward to this activity. We are currently working on our Light and Sound Unit. The students will work in large groups and present part of the unit to the class. A paper was sent home today with each child that explains what the tasks and expectations of the project are. We are currently splitting our Science and Health times. On Mondays, a Xenia Police Officer, Officer Matheson, will be with us for one hour. He has already visited our classroom twice. Officer Matheson has ordered DARE shirts for each of the students. When the students receive their DARE shirt, they may wear it on DARE days with their uniform pants or over their uniform jumpers.

We continue to work on our Spelling, Vocabulary and Language Arts units each week. Spelling Tests are each Friday. We are discussing past, present and future tenses in Language Arts class. Look for upcoming information on the DARE essay students will be required to complete as well.

We will complete our Literature Units by next Friday. Our next reading activity will be a whole group novel, Number the Stars, by Lois Lowry. Students should continue to bring a book to class each day for silent reading. I have reminded the students that silent reading is required and that it is part of their reading grade.

The Fifth Graders received new textbook as we begin our second semester study of the Ancient World with an overview of geography. **There will be a test over Chapter 1 before the end of the month.** During this time of snow and cold it is important for students to keep up on any assignments scheduled before a snow day or delay. Work is expected to be completed with students return and regularly scheduled assessments are rarely moved. Projects will be posted online as we move through history. The Fifth Graders also have the opportunity to share books they have read during Wednesday Book Clubs during recess with the sixth grade if they choose. We had a number of participants last week and look forward to hearing about more new and exciting books!

Have a great week! Please let me know if you have any questions regarding your child.

In Christ,

Mrs. Russ and Mrs. Gromek