

Notes from Mrs. Russ – Math

The sixth grade class is working on new mathematical concepts in class. We recently began our next unit where we will be learning about integers which are positive and negative whole numbers. Over the next several weeks, the sixth grade will be learning how to add, subtract, multiply and divide integers.

Notes from Mrs. Donohue – Social Studies

The students are working hard on the European chapter. We will continue to work on European geography throughout this week and next. In small group the students are working on the comparison of two European regions – the North European Plain and the Alps. The students will take a geography quiz every Friday. This week the quiz is on Western Europe.

Notes from Mr. Silverwood – Science

The students are well on their way for science fair. Beginning this Friday I will be giving at least one day per week for the students to work on their science fair project papers. Last week I took a few minutes to discuss where the students should be in terms of their projects. It is very important that the students come prepared for each work day. At this point in time the students can plan on each Friday being a work day and I will increase the days per week as we get closer to the fair itself. I will answer questions for the students as they arise.

Please check the St. Brigid website for the important dates concerning the science fair. A rubric for the project paper is on the St. Brigid website as well.

In other notes we are in the part of the year when the students begin to become lax in their study habits. Please remind the students that even though homework may not be assigned for that night, the students should still spend ten to fifteen minutes a night reviewing the chapter that they are in. That might be re-reading the information in the chapter or reviewing their notes. This will help at test time and during class discussion. Thank you for all of your support with science fair and in all the classes in general.

Notes from Mrs. Gromek – Religion, Language Arts, and Reading

The Sixth Grade should pride themselves on their hard work on their Science Fair papers and I look forward to seeing their completed experiments. Students did a wonderful job on their papers and their reflection pieces show they have learned much about the research process. Thank you for your help and support during this project! **We have begun discussing what makes a persuasive writing piece and will be creating advertisements for Catholic Schools Week as an assessment piece for this unit.** We will finish a unit on verbs and begin studying adjectives next quarter. **Individualized spelling tests are still given every Wednesday.**

In Reading, students have had lively debates over the criteria for a mystery and are reading self-selected independent mystery novels. **This project culminates in the completion of a “confidential file” due January 26 that will be on display during our school Open House.** We have begun reading Christopher Paul Curtis’ *Bud, Not Buddy*, the tale of an orphan boy out to find his family during the Great Depression. Students will be exploring this time period and jazz culture while working on chapter summaries. Eventually,

students will each select a chapter to make into a movie with Mrs. Hartz in technology class. This unit ends with a press conference featuring the author and characters from the book. **Vocabulary tests will continue almost every Thursday and students are encouraged to make use of online resources to study.**

In Religion, the Sixth Grade has been discussing the call to serve during Vocation Week and reading Paul's epistles. **There will be a test over Chapter 6 next week. Father John** will come in to visit this Thursday. Students have participated in monthly First Friday Expositions and Adorations of the Blessed Sacrament. The Fifth, Sixth, and Seventh Grades celebrated the feast day of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, foundress of the Sisters of Charity, by watching a movie about her life last week.

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. Students should dress to go outside every day. **Second quarter report cards come out next Friday.** I look forward to seeing you during our Catholic Schools Week Open House. It is a gift to work with your children and please feel free to contact me with any questions.