

May 1, 2013

Dear Parents,

I hope you have been enjoying these spring days with your family. It is so hard to believe that May is here and our time together is quickly ending. Thank you for supporting our Art Show. The children loved creating their original oil painting and dressing their person. We know that both of these will find a special place in your home.

**Religion** We read special prayers and readings from the bible as we shared bread with one another. The children were introduced to the various symbols used in church. We talked about the waters of Baptism and the blessings received on that special day. The children enjoyed sharing stories of when they were a baby and the various celebrations they remembered. We discussed that Jesus brings us a special kind of joy during these Easter days. It is important to share that joy with all those we meet. We talked about how special we all are, even though we all look different and have different talents. We begin each day with remembering special people and needs of others in our prayer. Be assured you are ALWAYS first on the list.

**Phonics** We have been busy reviewing the sounds of the letters as we sound out new words. We continue to work on "word families" where we change the beginning letter to create rhyming words. They enjoy sounding out "nonsense words" and asking their table friends to sound out the words. Please help them to sound words they do not know out: "what is beginning sound, then middle sound, final sound...now put the word together."

**Reading** I am so proud of their reading ability. We continue to identify first, next and last after hearing a story. Every child in the room is able to read and they are proud of their success. The Star Readers have really encouraged the children to "read read and read" each night. Please stop in and see our galaxy, the stars truly twinkle! I am proud to share the good news that **our class has read 1,900 books since February 1st**. I am so proud of them and Mrs. Clyde, who tabulates and hangs the stars! The children continue to identify "nouns" and "verbs" in sentences. We talk about the setting and we continue to write and illustrate classroom books. The children are becoming so proficient with writing sentences.

**Math** During the month of April the children concentrated on addition, subtraction, money, and telling time. Please continue to review the names of the coins and the amount of each. We do continue to review and practice counting the amount of various coins together. A suggestion is to encourage your child to count different items and "take so many away" changing the numbers. The hands on activity is very effective at this level.

**Social Studies & Science** The children continue to enjoy their special newspapers as they learn about current events. The 7 continents were introduced and the four oceans. They are able to find water on the globe and map.

This last month of school will be busy as we enjoy many special days with the children. Please pray for us these next few weeks as we begin to let go and get ready to send your children on. *"In the moments when you are touched by the soul of a child...you suddenly realize the significance of these precious years."* Shirley Dobson  
Mrs. Clyde and I have been touched by your child's soul this year and our lives have been blest. We thank you for sharing your child and part of their childhood with us!

Sincerely,

  
Mrs. Mary Ann Critell

#### **Reminders**

**Graduation Pictures** are on Wednesday, May 8th. Please send your form, money and pressed graduation gown with your child. They will bring home the gown after pictures for you to keep until graduation.

**Wagon Trails** is scheduled for Friday, May 24th so please pray for a sunny day! We have gone in the rain, as we are under cover in the wagon. Again, the bus leaves at 9:15 so don't be late. Information will be sent home.

**Kindergarten Pool Party/Picnic** is Friday, May 31st. The information and permission slip will be sent home soon. Parents will be meeting to plan this fun day. The day begins at 10:00 and ends at 2:00 (After Care if needed).

**Graduation** is Thursday, June 6th 7:00 in the Ursuline Center with a reception to follow. The children will be dismissed at 12:00 on this day.

**Camp** begins on Monday, June 10th and ends on Friday, June 14th. It is filling up quickly. If you are interested, please send your form in.