

February 2, 2014

Dear Parents,

The month of January certainly went by so quickly, especially given all the snow days! I appreciate the time you spend with your child on the homework assignments. They are very proud to return the completed assignments and give themselves the various rewards. I know how busy families are, yet making time for a few minutes of homework helps the children to make school a priority. On the nights that there is no assigned homework, please review with your child. Some examples: print first and last name, give a word and ask your child to tell you rhyming words, print the rhyming words and circle the letters that are alike, say words for your child and ask them to tell you the beginning and ending sound, review the color words, reread the "take home readables", read a story together and discuss "first, next, last", print numbers to 50, give a number from 1-20 and ask "what number comes before and after." Those are just a few ideas. Many of these can be done driving in the car! As you read on, you will see that we have been very busy these first days of 2014.

Religion We have discussed that we can care for God's world even though we are little people. The children shared ways that they help at home and in school to make our world a better place. It was interesting to hear all that their "little hands" can do to help others both at home and school. They have become very aware of their feelings and how to reach out to one another if the need is there. We continue to talk often about kindness, manners and helping everyone to feel special as we celebrate the uniqueness of one another. During our Religion class, it is the perfect situation to remind children about saying kind words to one another. All of us need to be reminded of this at times.

Reading/Language Arts We continue to read for enjoyment and comprehension. We discuss what happened "first, next and last" as we read together. As new letters are introduced, we practice the sound of the letter at the beginning and end of words. We review the basic sight words (Star Words) each day. We continue to "kiss our brains" as we rhyme words and sound out new words. The children have been introduced to nouns and verbs! We worked with partners demonstrating "action words" and we had to guess the verb. They are working very hard to print first and last name in UPPER and lower case letters. I encourage you to read with your child every night. All of the children are able to read many sight words and try really hard to sound the words out if they do not know them. I am beginning Book in a Bag with the children. Detailed information is being sent home.

Math The children have recently been learning how to count, write, identify and represent numbers 11 to 20. They are practicing how to represent a "bundle of ten"

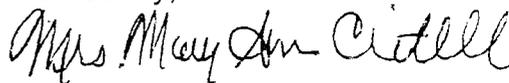
and ones "left over" by using a grid. The children are also learning how to compare these numbers by using the words "most and fewer." Currently, we are learning how to put numbers to 20 in order, as well as skip counting by twos. Please encourage your child to practice printing numbers to 50 and beyond. I am so proud to see their abilities shining through each day. We place a number on the board and they need to identify the number of tens and ones. This is an excellent activity to do with your child driving to and from school. Also, they write the "missing number" in a group of three numbers. Some children need the "hands on" of counting 10 and bundling them in a group of ten. This can be done with straws or toothpicks.

Science/Social Studies The children learned about Martin Luther King, Jr. and his message that all are equal and need to work for peace. We created a class book to culminate our unit on Martin Luther King, Jr.. We learned about the Groundhog and we were very anxious to see if he will see his shadow on February 2nd. This is a fun way to practice "predicting" an important skill. It was fun to predict who would win the Super Bowl. Half the class was happy!

We look forward to our 100 Day Celebration, more news to follow. The children will be asked to dress up as if they were 100 years old. This has proven to be a really fun day for the children. We are asking the children to bring in 100 pennies to do activities with that day, so start saving. The class will donate their pennies to the children in the Ursuline Sisters AIDS Ministry.

As you can see we have been very busy in Kindergarten. You will be receiving your child's report card and the AIMSweb report. I look forward to meeting with you at conferences and sharing the many successes with you! Thank you for your commitment to Catholic Schools and choosing UPSK for your Kindergarten child. Your child will reap the benefits in the years to come.

Sincerely,



Mrs. Mary Ann Critell

"How far you go in life depends on your being tender with the young, compassionate with the aged, sympathetic with the striving and tolerant of the weak and strong. Because someday in your life you will have been all of these." George Washington Carver

Reminder that our Valentine Party is on Thursday, February 13th. Please do not put names on the outside of the envelopes. They are to sign their name inside the card. Also, they will need a container to collect their mail. It is your choice what you want your child to create to gather their valentines. Thank you for being so generous with the sign up sheets. We are blessed because of YOU!