

Dear Families,

As we begin the third quarter, I'd like to look back at some of the things the second graders have worked on in religion, reading and writing, math, science, and social studies and tell you some of what they will be working on during the third quarter.

Prayer has become a very important part of our classroom. Each week, we go to the Shrine for Mass, and the second graders have lead the Mass several times. They take time each day to pray for their friends and families, as well as members of their community. Frs. Al and Mike visit our class each week. During the Novena to St. Jude, the second graders made special prayers of intercession. On All Saints' Day and Dia de Los Muertos (Day of the Dead), they prayed for those saints, family members, and friends that have died. They also pray during religion classes. In their religion classes, they are learning about God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit. They have been learning about belonging to a Catholic Church and parish, and they have been learning about the Bible. During the third quarter, they will be preparing for First Reconciliation. As they prepare to receive this Sacrament, they will be learning the Act of Contrition and Ten Commandments.

Students continue to make progress in reading and writing, using the *Superkids* and *SuccessMaker* reading programs. In fact, as a class, they have made over one grade-level gain in reading! They have been working on reading, spelling, and writing 220 of the most frequently used words, along with memory, pattern, and daily vocabulary words. They continue to learn about sound and letter combinations, as well as learning additional strategies to decode unfamiliar words. They read both fiction and non-fiction as a whole class, in small groups, with partners, and independently. In addition, they have been learning to write sentences that include nouns, verbs, and adjectives, while using correct capitalization, punctuation, and spelling.

In math, students continue to memorize addition and subtraction facts and practice adding and subtracting numbers to/from 100. They have also been learning about measuring, counting money, telling time, and identifying fractions. In addition, students have begun learning to multiply and divide. During the third quarter, students will begin to subtract, with regrouping, round numbers to the nearest 10, estimate sums, and identify information on graphs.

In science, students learned about plants and their parts and where plants live. Also, they learned about the water cycle, weather changes, and taking care of water. In addition, they learned about Earth's past and life on Earth, long ago. They recently completed a chapter on heat and they are currently learning about light and sound. During the third quarter, they will learn about forces, machines, and magnets.

In social studies, students learned about families. Also, students used calendars, landform maps, and globes to learn about the Earth. In addition, they learned about a working world and how goods get from farms and factories to markets and communities. Recently, they began learning about the government of the United States. During the third quarter, students will learn about our nation's past.

As you can see, the second graders have been working hard! I look forward to a successful third quarter, and I would like to thank you for all you do at home to support and encourage learning!

Sincerely,

Mr. Santoro