



Grade Four News



November 4, 2011

Wow! What awesome experiences we have had this week at school. All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day offered us a good chance to remember and to celebrate. We had a week of "Remembrance!" The students investigated and wrote about a chosen saint; found out more about their relatives and friends who have passed to eternal life with God; created memory masks, which we used in our Dia' de los Muertos procession on Wednesday; decorated a sugar skull to place on or near the altar (This is located in the back lobby. Check it out!); made posters in memory of their loved ones; and created a "Rainbow of Remembrance" by wearing colors and clothing associated with our "Dearly Departed." A special thanks to our room parents for providing Pan de Muerto a sweet bread offering.

Ask your child about all the reflecting and celebrating they were involved in this week.

Religion

We have completed our first Unit about God the Father. The "Our Father" is taking on new meaning for us. We are relating the words from it, to the first three commandments. We are going through it sentence by sentence and discussing what Jesus was telling his twelve Apostles, and us, through the prayer he taught them. We even have sign language (pictures in our religion textbook) to help us say this prayer in another way. Wow! We didn't know a prayer, we have been saying by memory for years, could have so much meaning.

We memorized the first three commandments and discussed how to apply them in our daily lives. How does your family honor and show reverence for God's name? Help your child keep the third commandment by attending mass weekly. It will also help them to prepare for the new missal changes coming in a few short weeks

Math

October Fact Calendars have been handed in and the November Fact Calendars have been sent home. Remember, as parents, you are to initial each day that your child practices their facts. Studying and practicing the facts, **especially multiplication and division**, can really help your child feel confident and successful in mathematics. We are presently working on basic multiplication and division, and will be working with: more than two factors, remainders in division, estimating, larger and longer multiplication and division, as well as algebraic reasoning. Our textbook contains many helpful strategies for learning these facts. We can group, make arrays, skip count, use a number line,

memorize doubles and square numbers or even use related fact families to help us. Keep reviewing the Properties of Multiplication and Rules for Division.

Please, help make math a part of your child's daily life—playing games (checker/chess/cards), cooking (measuring/combining/time and temperature), building and designing (measuring/cutting/visual creating), shopping (money/change/estimating), etc.

Social Studies

State Booklets are completed, presentations have been made and we are going to visit and learn more about the various regions we can find in the U.S.A. We are learning why our country is a "land of immigrants." We talked about Native Americans, Europeans, and African slaves who immigrated here and made our country a land of many cultures.

Next week, students will bring home a list of eleven states and capitals to study. These states can be found in the Northeast Region of our great country. They are to learn the states and their capitals, which they will be quizzed on, starting Friday, November 11th. We are off to see and learn about the "Nifty, Fifty United States."

In Junior Achievement class students analyzed and discussed how businesses are interdependent, producing products for us as consumers. Then, considering the business students want to start, they looked at the resources available to decide which state would be best. Many entrepreneurs decided to relocate.

Science

We wrapped up the quarter with a Jeopardy style review game, extra study sessions and a well done test on Fri. Our combined class **mean** or average score was 81% a C+, our **median** or middle score was 81% and our **mode** or most frequent score was 88% a B! As our corrected tests come back these scores will rise. As I explained to the students a C is an average and satisfactory score, B means they did better than average and A is above average. A typical bell curve accurately represents our test results with 15 students scoring between 80-90%, 9 students scored below 80%, and 10 students scored 90% or better. As I mentioned at parent night our science curriculum combines both 4th and 5th grade vocabulary and concepts as we are targeting 3 main content areas for the year. Please acknowledge their effort and hard work on some challenging material.

End of the 1st Quarter

It is amazing to think we are already at the end of the first quarter. "Time does fly, when you are having fun and keeping busy."

Report cards are being prepared and will be coming home next week, Wednesday. Your child's progress will be reflected on the skill sheets for: Language Arts (LA), Math, and Religion, as well as the formal card which has grades for Science and Social Studies. Please look over the grading and comments in regard to your child's effort, work habits, and social development.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact any of us and discuss your child's education and behaviors. We are here, to partner with you, as your student journeys through Fourth Grade.

Reminders/Events Grab your calendar and a pen, you don't want to miss these dates!

- Nov. 7th Second Quarter begins**
- Nov. 9th Report Cards/Skill Reports are sent home**
Grade 4 "Band Day"
- Nov. 10th Library Day**
- Nov. 11th Veteran's Day**
- Nov. 17th Seton Buddy Day**
- Nov. 18th Library Day**
- Nov. 23-27 Thanksgiving Vacation**
- Nov. 27th Advent begins**
Updated Roman Missal (new responses for mass)
- Dec. 1st Library Day**
- Dec. 2nd First School Mass with changes in the Roman Missal**
Barnes and Noble Day/Night for SMM
- Dec. 8th Immaculate Conception Mass (Grade 4)**
- Dec. 9th Heritage Hill Fieldtrip (TCCES Grade 4)**
- Dec. 15th SMM Christmas Concert**
(afternoon dress rehearsal and evening performance)
- Dec. 23rd**
- Jan 2nd Christmas Vacation**
- Jan 2nd Teacher In-Service Day**
- Jan 3rd Back to School (2012)**



Mrs. Zeinert

Ms. Kulinski

Mrs. King

