



Grade Four News



January 13, 2012

Winter is truly here. We finally received a blanket of white. Everything has taken on a fresh and renewed look. We now live in a winter wonderland, which is full of opportunities for family fun and memory building.

We have also entered back in to ordinary time in our church year. The priest is wearing green and the Christmas decorations are gone. The weekly readings tell us it is time for Jesus to gather his followers and begin his ministry.

Each of us is called to be a follower of Christ. We are to join in the ministry of Christ. We are to serve others and show them the face of Jesus through our words and deeds.

The ministry of Jesus is being carried on today. The care and concern the students show for one another warms our hearts. The face of Jesus shines in the face of your child. Jesus' work and words are evident here at St. Margaret Mary School.

Keep encouraging your child to serve Jesus by serving and caring for others.

Religion

Your child has learned about the *justice* of God. Ask them to tell you the story, we read, about the Laborers in the Vineyard (Matthew 20: 1-16.) Ask them how the landowner showed *justice* to his workers.

We discovered that God always welcomes us into His service. We are His workers here on Earth and he will reward (pay) us with the Kingdom (heaven.) God gives all of us a chance to earn the same reward, no matter when we join Him as one of His laborers.

This justice was something we discussed as being quite different from what our society sees as being justice or fair.

Our God truly is an "Awesome God!"

Social Studies

Thank You!

Your students were so very well prepared for the final testing, we did on Friday, 1/13, regarding the Northeast Region of the United States. Their preparation was evident in all the fabulous grades they have. They are thrilled with their accomplishments, as they should be. *(I am, too! –Mrs. King)*

Thanks so very much for helping them prepare. Tests will be sent home to sign, gloat about, and return to Mrs. King. Thanks for your help with getting them returned. Critter Slips are involved, you know!

We will now venture on to the Southeast Region and learn many fun and interesting facts about the twelve states in this region.

FYI: The January News Bowl will be here soon. Keep discussing current events, you feel are appropriate, with your child and help them to feel in touch with their world.

Math

We can tell you are helping your child to be successful with the facts. There has been much improvement by many students. Keep practicing in any way possible. This can only help your child to feel more confident when solving problems and taking timed tests.

Math is all around us! Students are constantly using their math skills. Don't be afraid to point this out to your child.

Geometrical shapes are everywhere, as Mrs. Zeinert's students have noticed. Our God is very good at Geometry! He has created shapes and patterns and given them to us as a mathematical gift in nature. See if you can help your child discover some of these shapes and angles.

Fourth graders love to measure, estimate, round, compare, and solve life problems. Ask them to help you out when cooking, building, cleaning, shopping, or in any other life circumstance involving math.

Math isn't just a subject you take in school. It is a life skill everyone, no matter what career you chose, needs.!

Check this out: How many times does your heart beat: in a minute, in an hour, in a day, in a year? This is a fun and amazing math activity (calculators are allowed.) Now try one of your own.

Language Arts (LA)

Grammar/Writing

Nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, pronouns, and prepositions are bouncing around in our heads. We are learning how and where to use these parts of speech. Our writing is improving as we explore other words we can use to make our creations more colorful and descriptive. Ask your child if they can tell you five synonyms and antonyms for the word **bad**.

We have a wonderful English language and now we are learning how to use and apply it in our daily writing.

Literature/Reading

Vocabulary, comprehension, literature/word skills, and a lot of fun and interesting reading is involved in your child's literature component. Ask your student what story or book they are reading at this time. Who is the main character and what type of literature is it (genre?) You might be surprised by their answers.

MAP Testing

MAP testing is taking place the weeks of January 16-20 and 23-27. Please try to make appointments around these dates. We will be testing all fourth graders in various areas. This will give us another picture of their learning, to date.

MAP testing results can help us fine tune their learning program, and help us, as teachers, provide them with reinforcement, development and challenge/growth.

Please, help by having your child get a good night's sleep and having some type of breakfast to keep their brain power and energy level high.

Catholic Schools' Week

We are celebrating Catholic Schools' Week (January 29-Feb. 3rd.) Please watch the school newsletter for details. Many events have been planned. (You received a permission slip to complete and send back regarding two such events. Please sign and return this slip ASAP.)

End of the Quarter

Friday, January 20th marks the end of our 2nd. Quarter. There is an early dismissal at 11:30, on that day. Grading reports will be coming home on Wednesday, January 25th.

WOW! We are half way through the school year already. Time flies!



Mrs. Zeinert

Ms. Kulinski

Mrs. King

