

QUARTERLY CURRICULUM NEWS UPDATE

1ST GRADE

Second Quarter 2009

LANGUAGE ARTS – Mrs. Ewert

We have finished reviewing the consonant sounds and will begin reviewing the short vowel sounds. The mystery bag will be changing from consonant to vowel sounds. We will also begin learning some long vowel rules.

Students will continue utilizing their handwriting books perfecting writing skills and letter recognition. Please encourage your child to use lower case letters in writing. Homework should be completed in pencil, unless there are special instructions.

Spelling homework is due every Tuesday morning. New spelling words will be sent in the Wednesday envelope and should stay at home. We will not have spelling words the week of November 23rd and over Christmas break.

Please continue practicing the word flashcards and reading with your child daily even through the busy holiday season. Bookmarks should be completed every time your child reads to you. Your child should be reading almost every night for at least ten minutes. If the story is difficult for your child, please have her/him re-read the story. This helps your child to become a fluent reader and it improves comprehension.

I am looking forward to seeing you at parent conferences. Have a wonderful holiday season.

MATH – Mrs. Zaszczurynski

We will continue working on number writing, number recognition, using number lines and number grids, graphing, and estimation. We will also practice counting by 2's, 5's, and 10's and looking for patterns.

The students have begun individual math work folders, where they are working on skills at their level. These skills include filling in missing numbers, addition and subtraction facts, and counting using tens and ones. Please integrate a daily math study time into your schedule for your child to practice math facts.

SCIENCE – Mrs. Anderson

The first grade has completed a unit on life cycles of plants and animals. We began working with magnets and are experimenting with objects that are attracted to magnets and how magnets can repel other magnets. We are learning how like poles of a magnet repel and opposites attract.

SOCIAL STUDIES – Mrs. Zaszczurynski

The first grade students will continue to study their families. They will focus on traditions and comparing and contrasting family traditions. They will be looking at explorers and travelers including Columbus, the Pilgrims, Squanto, Native Americans, and Plymouth Plantation. In the winter we will look at holidays including Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, and Christmas.

COMPUTER – Mrs. Zaszczurynski

During the second quarter the students will use the Paint program to create and practice many different skills. They will be introduced to Microsoft Word and PowerPoint.

SPANISH – Mrs. Machniak

The first grade students will continue to practice and expand their vocabulary with colors, holiday words, and with facial and body parts. They will be introduced to different holiday customs.

RELIGION – Sr. Pat Magee, OP

Due to the season of Christmas approaching during Second Quarter the First Grade will study Jesus and the children, to give thanks, and lessons on Advent. The preparation and then the experience of Christmas will lead the children to search for God's presence in our lives. This will be expressed in lessons on sharing, praying and forgiveness.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION – Mrs. Anderson

Classes have been working on games and activities using cooperation and teamwork. We have played several games that have been giving us a great cardiovascular workout. Students are continuing to work on staying in their own personal space as we move and are trying to be aware of what and who are near as we move.

ART – Mrs. Machniak

The first grade students will be working on textures and making holiday oriented crafts as we continue to develop our fine motor skills.

MUSIC – Mrs. Collings

Our composers of the month will be Sousa, Tchaikovsky and Joplin. We will work on music for our masses, especially our Christmas Mass!

We will learn the concepts of long and short notes and continue to learn to read rhythms using tas and tees. We will start a unit on call and response songs like "Down By The Bay". We will learn what wood blocks and triangles are and practice using them, and we will continue to work on producing a steady beat using our bodies.

QUARTERLY CURRICULUM NEWS UPDATE

2ND GRADE

Second Quarter 2009

LANGUAGE ARTS – Mrs. Ewert

I am pleased with the students' riddles that have accompanied the mystery bag. Students are writing daily, practicing sentence structure, grammar, and phonetic rules. We will begin focusing on how to write in paragraph style.

Spelling homework is due every Tuesday morning. We will not have spelling words the week of November 23rd and over Christmas break.

Please continue practicing the word flashcards and reading with your child daily even through the busy holiday season. Bookmarks should be completed every time your child reads to you. Your child should be reading almost every night for at least fifteen minutes. If the story is difficult for your child, please have her/him re-read the story. This helps your child to become a fluent reader and it improves comprehension.

I am looking forward to seeing you at parent conferences. Have a wonderful holiday season.

MATH – Mrs. Zaszczurynski

We will continue working on addition and subtraction facts, telling time, counting money, and solving story problems. We will introduce the concept of perimeter and speed problem tests.

The students have also begun individual math work folders, where they are working on skills at their level. These skills include filling in addition and subtraction facts and counting using tens and ones. Please integrate a daily math study time into your schedule for your child to practice math facts.

SCIENCE – Mrs. Anderson

The 2nd grade has completed a unit on life cycles. Both plant and animals have life cycles that are very different. We are working on the organization of living things in order to develop an understanding that plants and animals can be classified by observable traits and physical characteristics.

SOCIAL STUDIES – Mrs. Zaszczurynski

The second grade students continue to study our community as well as explorers and travelers. This includes the Statue of Liberty as an American symbol of freedom and immigration.

Second grade students will be learning about the Polar Regions. This includes identifying the north and south poles, hemispheres, explorers, and animals.

COMPUTER – Mrs. Zaszczurynski

During the second quarter the students will use the Paint program to create and practice skills. They will learn how to create an "Animal ABC" in PowerPoint, how to add slides, insert clipart, and choose transitions between slides.

SPANISH – Mrs. Machniak

The second grade students continue to practice and expand their vocabulary. They will be using sight words in Spanish, counting by 10's, months of the year, and holiday words and customs.

RELIGION – Sr. Pat Magee, OP

During the Second Quarter learning time the following topics will be covered. The Liturgical Calendar, the Advent themes of the Jesse Tree and the Old Testament Prophets in conjunction with the birth of the Messiah. Following these lessons, studying God's life with us will lead to the theme of celebration. We will celebrate life, God's love and the sacraments (the signs of our encounters with God).

PHYSICAL EDUCATION – Mrs. Anderson

Classes have been working on games and activities using cooperation and teamwork. We have played several games that have been giving us a great cardiovascular workout. Students are working on staying in their own personal space as we move and are trying to be aware of what and who are near as we move.

ART – Mrs. Machniak

The second grade students will be working with visual textures through November and making holiday oriented crafts as we continue to develop our fine motor skills and training our eyes to see special features in art.

MUSIC – Mrs. Collings

Our composers of the month will be Sousa, Tchaikovsky and Joplin. We continue to work on music for our masses, especially our Christmas Mass!

We will learn the treble clef lines and spaces and the concept of musical dynamics- how loud and soft music can get. We will practice our accurate singing with some singing games. We will learn how to read rhythms with our daily rhythm challenge. We will add boomwhackers to a standard Christmas carol- "We Three Kings" and have fun learning movements to new songs. We will make use of our new music learning software called "Music Ace."

QUARTERLY CURRICULUM NEWS UPDATE

3RD GRADE

Second Quarter 2009

LANGUAGE ARTS – Mrs. Ledergerber

The first quarter flew by very quickly. The children have been busy at work and are well established in our routines. They are making progress with their learning.

In reading we continue to work independently and in small groups to practice reading skills. This quarter we will be working with lots of nonfiction text and learning how nonfiction text is different than fiction. I will be asking the children to read four to five books this quarter with two of them being nonfiction texts. When your child reads nonfiction have him/her tell you about all the things they are learning from the topics of the books they have chosen. Continue to encourage your child to do their required weekly reading, even during the holidays. In class we continue to enjoy reading aloud picture books, poetry, and novels.

Spelling is going well. Many of the children thought the beginning list of words were too easy. They will get more challenging. Some of the children are choosing some of the easier words for their test words. I told them I would probably help them with their selections if they are not challenging themselves. Remember spelling tests and all spelling assignments are due on Tuesdays. I am going to be teaching a strategy called Divide and Conquer. It is a strategy used to help decode unfamiliar words. We will also learn the six types of syllables.

We began the lowercase cursive alphabet and I can say the children are excited. I encourage the children to practice any letters that we've learned in class; however I do not want them to write in cursive until we have learned all the lowercase letters.

Our poetry anthologies are expanding as we add our favorite poems and some that are assigned to practice our handwriting.

In grammar we have been at work in our Simple Solutions workbooks practicing grammar and writing skills. The children work in the books Monday through Thursday and then take a quiz on the skills practice. When writing I am encouraging the children to try and have at least seven or more words in their sentences.

As you know by now we have a class pet. His name is Cosmo and he is a dwarf hamster. If any of you are interested in Cosmo coming for a weekend or holiday visit, please let me know. Cosmo will enjoy going on vacation with his classmates. The children have not had a chance to hold him because he is too wiggly, so they pet him in his cage.

I look forward to meeting with you at Parent-Teacher-Student Conferences. Please remember that your child needs to attend this conference with you.

I hope the coming holidays are wonderful for you and your family. Thank you for all of your support!!

MATH – Mrs. Zaszczurynski

In third grade, we begin everyday with Simple Solutions lessons allowing the students to switch to math mode. On Friday students complete a quiz which is a review from the previous week's problems.

With the *Everyday Math* program the students are continuing to work on problem solving strategies using addition and subtraction in story problems and computational strategies including partial-sums addition and trade-first subtraction strategies. Students should have basic addition and subtraction facts memorized through 20. Please integrate a daily math study time into your schedule for your child to practice math facts as multiplication will be beginning

soon.

SOCIAL STUDIES – Mrs. Ledergerber

Last quarter we studied the units on “The Government of Michigan” and “Meet Michigan.” This quarter our unit of studies will be on “Michigan’s First People” and “Visitors from Far Away.” We will continue to work on map skills.

COMPUTER – Mrs. Zaszczurynski

During the second quarter the third graders will practice using Paint to create and practice skills. They will use Microsoft Word and Excel to create charts and practice typing skills. We will continue using Jumpstart typing at the beginning of every class.

RELIGION – Sr. Pat Magee, OP

The Liturgical Calendar will provide the opportunity to see how Christmas must be preceded by Advent. Lessons on “waiting” which prepare us for Christmas, also prepare us for the second coming of Jesus. The follow-up in natural progression will be lessons on loving and forgiving which lead us to God’s love.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION – Mrs. Anderson

Classes have been working on games and activities using cooperation and teamwork. We have played several games that have been giving us a great cardiovascular workout. Students are continuing to work on staying in their own personal space as we move and are trying to be aware of what and who are near as we move.

ART – Mrs. Machniak

The third grade students will be working with visual and physical textures during November and making holiday oriented crafts as we continue to develop our fine motor skills and training our eyes to see special features in art.

SPANISH – Mrs. Machniak

The third grade students will continue to practice and expand their vocabulary and conversational skills. They will continue to learn more sight words in Spanish, along with holiday words and customs.

MUSIC – Mrs. Collings

Our composers of the month will be Sousa, Tchaikovsky and Joplin. We continue to work on music for our masses, especially our Christmas Mass!

We will practice reading the treble clef in preparation for learning the recorder next year. We will review the concepts of tempo (fast and slow) and dynamic (loud and soft) and the Italian words that go with them. We will learn about how measure can be divided into three or four beats. We will start learning how to sing in rounds. We will continue to learn how to read rhythms with our daily rhythm challenge. We will make use of our new music learning software called “Music Ace.”

QUARTERLY CURRICULUM NEWS UPDATE

4TH GRADE

Second Quarter 2009

LANGUAGE ARTS – Mrs. Ledergerber

I can't believe how fast this first quarter has gone by. The children have been busy at work and have settled into their routines. They are making progress with their work.

In reading we continue to work independently and in small groups to further develop our reading skills. We will be reading lots of text from basal readers, novels, and magazines. This quarter I am asking the children to read more nonfiction text as a choice for their readers. They will need to read at least two selections of nonfiction. I will be showing the children how to do Reading Response Journals. Once they have had more instruction and practice with me they will be required to complete a full written page in the Reading Response Journals to be turned in once a week. I will respond back in their journals and give them back the next day. Whenever the children write in their response journals they can record that time spent on their bookmarks. Continue to encourage your child to do their required weekly reading, even during the coming holidays.

In spelling the children are doing well. Some of the children think their list is too easy and I explained that the words in the beginning usually are, but they should get more challenging. I have also noticed that when the children are selecting words for their test list they often are choosing the easy ones. I told them that I would be helping them with their selection of words if I did not see that they were challenging themselves. Remember that all spelling tests and assignments are due on Tuesdays.

In grammar we are reviewing nouns and then moving on to verbs. We are studying prefixes and suffixes, and will be working on the Nifty Thrifty Fifty which are 50 words containing the most common prefixes and/or suffixes. Each month 7-8 words are introduced and practiced. Sentence building has also been a focus. The children need to be writing sentences with ten or more words. I would like to see them using more adjectives and prepositional phrases. Correct use of quotation marks and commas will also be practiced.

Our poetry books will be expanding as we add our favorite poems and some that are assigned to practice our handwriting. We are a little rusty on some of our cursive letters, so we are reviewing them. I'm a little disappointed in our cursive writing because I'm not seeing the effort that they were displaying last year. Yes, I do require that they write in cursive; however there are some exceptions when they can print.

I look forward to meeting with you at Parent-Teacher-Student Conferences. Please remember that your child needs to attend this conference with you.

I hope the coming holidays are wonderful for you and your family! Thank you for all of your support.

SOCIAL STUDIES – Mrs. Ledergerber

This quarter we will continue to work on map skills and take a look at the Regions.

SCIENCE – Mrs. Anderson

The fourth grade has completed a unit on matter and their states. We are now working on energy and its many forms. We have studied hydroelectricity and solar energy, and will continue with many different forms of energy.

MATH – Mrs. Zaszczurynski

In fourth grade, we begin everyday with Simple Solutions lessons allowing the students to switch to math mode. On Friday students complete a quiz which is a review from the previous week's problems.

With the *Everyday Math* program the students are continuing to work on the base-ten place value system, and different ways for adding and subtracting multi-digit numbers to help prepare them for multiplying and dividing multi-digit numbers. Students will be introduced to line plots which will be used to introduce the concepts of maximum, minimum, median, mode, and range. Students should have their basic multiplication facts memorized through the 12's. This will help prepare them for division. Please integrate a daily math study time into your schedule for your child to practice multiplication facts as division will be beginning soon. Students should be practicing their multiplication facts 5-10 minutes every night.

COMPUTER – Mrs. Zaszczurynski

During the second quarter, the fourth graders will practice using Paint to create and practice skills. They will use Microsoft Excel to create charts and diagrams to graph different activities. We will continue using Jumpstart typing at the beginning of every class.

SPANISH – Mrs. Machniak

The fourth grade students will continue to practice and expand their vocabulary and conversational skills. They will continue to learn more sight words in Spanish, along with holiday words and customs.

RELIGION – Sr. Pat Magee, OP

Advent is the main liturgical church season during the 2nd Quarter learning period. The 4th Grade will begin with a study of the 'People of God' and 'Signs of God's Love'. There will follow 4 weeks of lessons on Advent (waiting for Jesus' birth). Study of the meaning of Christmas and sharing in Christ's life and work will unfold from this.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION – Mrs. Anderson

Classes have been working on games and activities using cooperation and teamwork. We have also played several games that have been giving us a great cardiovascular workout. Students are continuing to work on staying in the own personal space as we move and are trying to be aware of what and who are near as we move.

ART – Mrs. Machniak

The fourth grade students will be working with visual and physical textures during November and making holiday oriented crafts as we continue to develop our fine motor skills and training our eyes to see special features in art.

MUSIC – Mrs. Collings

Our composers of the month will be Sousa, Tchaikovsky and Joplin. We will continue to work on music for our masses, especially our Christmas Mass!

We will start working on our Do Re Mi's and the hand signs that go with them. Our main focus will continue to be on recorders and hopefully attaining our Recorder Karate Belts. We will learn the musical concepts of tempo, legato and staccato. We will continue to learn how to read rhythms with our daily rhythm challenge.

QUARTERLY CURRICULUM NEWS UPDATE

5TH GRADE

Second Quarter 2009

LANGUAGE ARTS – Mrs. Knape

We are transitioning into daily routines nicely. Remember each student is required to read 30 minutes daily and this is to be recorded in the planner.

Using our Simple Solutions books as a guide, we are working on nouns, verbs, subjects and predicates, and various other parts of speech. Our journal entries give us opportunities to practice using correct grammar in our writing.

In using the Zaner-Bloser spelling program, students are to complete their packets by Tuesday, which is also the usual day for testing. Turning in assignments late reduces student spelling points for each day the assignment is late.

Reading is a favorite. Our Book Shares introduce students to new book choices and also provide opportunities for students to practice speaking in front of others. Stories, poems, novels- all are sources for increasing our reading abilities and comprehension skills.

November novel theme is Fantasy/Sci-Fi. December novel theme will be student choice.

MATH – Mrs. Knape

Geometry explorations include triangles, polygons, and angle measurements. Division and multiplication of two and three digit numbers are skills we are learning. Story problems continue to be a challenge. Simple Solutions continues to provide opportunities to reinforce math skills that have not yet been internalized. Practice makes perfect.

SCIENCE – Mrs. Anderson

The 5th grade recently completed a unit on forces and motion and interactions of forces between objects such as friction and air resistance. We have studied about bats and their importance in nature. Our next unit is on ecosystems and the interaction of organisms. We will look at the populations and communities within an ecosystem, relationships (predator/prey), food webs and energy pyramids.

SOCIAL STUDIES – Mrs. Machniak

The fifth and sixth grade students will continue to learn about the convergence of the three cultures as we continue with the European explorers and Africa this quarter. We will end the 2nd quarter and begin the next with the settlement of Colonial North America.

COMPUTER – Mrs. Wathen

Students will continue learning about software applications. We will create podcasts using Audacity and learn about computer programming with the Scratch programming language (scratch.mit.edu).

SPANISH – Mrs. Machniak

The fifth grade will be focusing on conjugation of verbs in the present tense, strengthening their existing vocabulary, expanding their sight word base and sentence structure. They will also continue to have a new vocabulary list of 10 words on Mondays with activities using them due on Fridays. They take a short quiz on Wednesdays with the words of the week before (this gives them 9 days to practice them).

RELIGION – Mrs. Machniak

The fifth grade students will be learning about Jesus' public ministry, making moral decisions, attributes of God, personal safety with the Called to Protect program, and celebrations of the season, Advent and Christmas.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION – Mrs. Anderson

We have just begun a unit on hockey and are learning the skills involved in play. Students will be playing several lead up games using those skills.

ART – Mrs. Machniak

The fifth grade students will be working with texture in a variety of mediums throughout November and December.

MUSIC – Mrs. Collings

Our composers of the month will be Sousa, Tchaikovsky and Joplin. We will continue to work on music for our masses, especially our Christmas Mass!

We are starting to work on learning the bass clef notes and will continue to practice reading our musical "road maps" like repeat signs and DS al Coda. We learned the concepts of singing in two and three part rounds this week- I was so excited because they were unable to do this last year! So now we will learn how to sing in two parts. We will continue to learn how to read rhythms with our daily rhythm challenge. We will get back to our Peanut Butter Jam music- adding pitched, non pitched instruments and singing to songs from other countries.

QUARTERLY CURRICULUM NEWS UPDATE

6TH GRADE

Second Quarter 2009

LANGUAGE ARTS – Mrs. Knape

Using the Simple Solutions philosophy, students are working on achieving mastery and comfort of grammar, spelling, and writing skills through review and consistent practice. Students complete 48 items each week. Review quizzes include only 12 of these items. Daily journal writings provide opportunities to use correct grammar, spelling, and writing skills.

Spelling units are given out on Wednesdays. The packets and the Spelling tests occur the following Tuesday. Turning work in late reduces the points for the assignment, although late is better than not at all.

Reading is a favorite. Our Book Shares introduce students to new book choices and also provide opportunities for students to practice speaking in front of others. Stories, poems, novels- all are sources for increasing our reading abilities and comprehension skills.

November novel theme is Fantasy/Sci-Fi. December novel theme will be student choice.

MATH – Mrs. Knape

Every Day Math will revisit operations with whole numbers and decimals as well as extending previously developed skills. Strategies practiced will include estimation, mental methods, algorithms, and decimal point positioning in answers. Exponential, scientific, and number-and-word notation skills will be used to represent very large and very small numbers.

Division and multiplication of two and three digit numbers are skills we are learning. Story problems continue to be a challenge. Simple Solutions continues to provide opportunities to reinforce math skills that have not yet been internalized. Practice makes perfect.

SCIENCE – Mrs. Anderson

The 6th grade recently completed a unit on forces and motion and interactions of forces between objects such as friction and air resistance. We have studied about bats and their importance in nature. Our next unit is on ecosystems and the interaction of organisms within. We will look at the populations and communities within an ecosystem, relationships (predator/prey), food webs and energy pyramids.

SPANISH – Mrs. Machniak

The sixth grade will be focusing on conjugation of verbs in the present tense, strengthening their existing vocabulary, expanding their sight word base and sentence structure. They continue to have a new vocabulary list of 10 words on Mondays with activities using them due on Fridays. They take a short quiz on Wednesdays with the words of the week (this gives them 9 days to practice them).

SOCIAL STUDIES – Mrs. Machniak

The sixth grade students will continue to learn about the convergence of the three cultures as we continue with the European explorers and Africa this quarter. We will end the 2nd quarter and begin the next with the settlement of Colonial North America.

COMPUTER – Mrs. Wathen

Students will continue learning about software applications. We will create podcasts using Audacity and learn about computer programming with the Scratch programming language (scratch.mit.edu).

RELIGION – Mrs. Machniak

The sixth grade students will be learning about Jesus' public ministry, making moral decisions, attributes of God, personal safety with the Called to Protect program, and celebrations of the season, Advent and Christmas.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION – Mrs. Anderson

We have just begun a unit on hockey and are learning the skills involved in play. Students will be playing several lead up games using those skills.

ART – Mrs. Machniak

The sixth grade students will be working with texture in a variety of mediums throughout November and December.

MUSIC – Mrs. Collings

Our composers of the month will be Sousa, Tchaikovsky and Joplin. We will continue to work on music for our masses, especially our Christmas Mass!

We are starting to work on learning the bass clef notes and will continue to practice reading our musical "road maps" like repeat signs and DS al Coda. We learned the concepts of singing in two and three part rounds this week- I was so excited because they were unable to do this last year! So now we will learn how to sing in two parts. We will continue to learn how to read rhythms with our daily rhythm challenge. We will get back to our Peanut Butter Jam music- adding pitched, non pitched instruments and singing to songs from other countries.

QUARTERLY CURRICULUM NEWS UPDATE

7TH GRADE

Second Quarter 2009

LANGUAGE ARTS – Mrs. Knape

Using the Simple Solutions philosophy, students are working on achieving mastery and comfort of grammar, spelling, and writing skills through review and consistent practice. Students complete 48 items each week. Review quizzes include only 12 of these items. Daily journal writings provide opportunities to use correct grammar, spelling, and writing skills.

Spelling units are given out on Wednesdays. The packets and the Spelling tests occur the following Tuesday. Turning work in late reduces the points for the assignment, although late is better than not at all.

Reading is a favorite. Our Book Shares introduce students to new book choices and also provide opportunities for students to practice speaking in front of others. Stories, poems, novels- all are sources for increasing our reading abilities and comprehension skills.

November novel theme is Fantasy/Sci-Fi. December novel theme will be student choice.

MATH – Mrs. Knape

A unit on expressions and equations will strengthen the students' foundation in simplifying and evaluating algebraic expressions and solving equations successfully. Students will solve problems that can be represented by equations, define and study angles and triangles.

Simple Solutions continues to provide opportunities to reinforce math skills that have not yet been internalized. Practice makes perfect.

SCIENCE – Mrs. Anderson

The class has just completed a unit on Rocks and the Rock Cycle. Students will find this information very useful in May as we visit the Field Museum in Chicago. Next, the class will be using the information that we have learned previously about cells and apply our knowledge to how they relate with organ systems and growth and development.

SOCIAL STUDIES – Mrs. Machniak

The seventh grade students will continue with the Military empires, Africa and the Americas, the Greeks and the Romans.

COMPUTER – Mrs. Wathen

Students will continue to explore software applications through projects. Guest speakers will show us how software is used in various fields. In January we will study hardware by building a computer from a kit.

SPANISH – Mrs. Machniak

The eighth grade will be reviewing conjugation of verbs in the present tense, strengthening their existing vocabulary, expanding their sight word base and sentence structure. They continue to have a new vocabulary list of 10 words on Mondays with activities using them due on Fridays. They take a short quiz on Wednesdays with the words of the week

(this gives them 9 days to practice them). Students are going to be working on reading and speaking aloud in Spanish using books, tapes and computer.

RELIGION – Mrs. Machniak

The seventh grade students will continue to learn about the Gospels, the Philippians, Colossians, and James. We will address personal safety with the Called to Protect program, and celebrations of the season, Advent and Christmas.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION – Mrs. Anderson

We have just begun a unit on hockey and are learning the skills involved in play. Students will be playing several lead up games using those skills.

ART – Mrs. Machniak

The seventh grade students will be working with texture in a variety of mediums throughout November and December.

MUSIC – Mrs. Collings

During second quarter students will begin a unit on music theory. By the end of this unit we will add an exciting twist as we use some new computer programs with music theory. They will practice music listening skills such as “What instruments do you hear?” and describe the melody and harmony. Students are welcome to submit a piece of contemporary music for the class to study, however, I will approve both the lyrics and music before a piece can be studied by the class. We continue practicing the music for school masses, especially for the Christmas mass on Thursday, December 17 at 7 pm in Lumen Ecclesiae Chapel.

QUARTERLY CURRICULUM NEWS UPDATE

8TH GRADE

Second Quarter 2009

LANGUAGE ARTS – Mrs. Knape

Using the Simple Solutions philosophy, students are working on achieving mastery and comfort of grammar, spelling, and writing skills through review and consistent practice. Students complete 48 items each week. Review quizzes include only 12 of these items. Daily journal writings provide opportunities to use correct grammar, spelling, and writing skills.

Spelling units are given out on Wednesdays. The packets and the Spelling tests occur the following Tuesday. Turning work in late reduces the points for the assignment, although late is better than not at all.

Reading is a favorite. Our Book Shares introduce students to new book choices and also provide opportunities for students to practice speaking in front of others. Stories, poems, novels- all are sources for increasing our reading abilities and comprehension skills.

November novel theme is Fantasy/Sci-Fi. December novel theme will be student choice.

MATH – Mrs. Knape

Simple Solutions is a mix of review skills and new skills. Because the skills are mixed, students have to think critically about each problem and decide how to solve it.

A continuation of Algebraic and Geometric concepts will be explored.

SCIENCE – Mrs. Anderson

The class has just completed a unit on Rocks and the Rock Cycle. Students will find this information very useful in May as we visit the Field Museum in Chicago. Next, the class will be using the information that we have learned previously about cells and apply our knowledge to how they relate with organ systems and growth and development.

COMPUTER – Mrs. Wathen

Students will continue to explore software applications through projects. Guest speakers will show us how software is used in various fields. In January we will study hardware by building a computer from a kit.

SOCIAL STUDIES – Mrs. Machniak

The eighth grade students will continue with the Military empires, Africa and the Americas, the Greeks and the Romans.

SPANISH – Mrs. Machniak

The eighth grade will be reviewing conjugation of verbs in the present tense, strengthening their existing vocabulary, expanding their sight word base and sentence structure. They will also continue to have a new vocabulary list of 10 words on Mondays with activities using them due on Fridays. They take a short quiz on Wednesdays with the words of the week (this gives them 9 days to practice them). Students are going to be working on reading and speaking aloud in Spanish using books, tapes and computer.

RELIGION – Mrs. Machniak

The eighth grade students will continue to learn about the Gospels, the Philippians, Colossians, and James. We will address personal safety with the Called to Protect program, and celebrations of the season, Advent and Christmas.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION – Mrs. Anderson

We have just begun a unit on hockey and are learning the skills involved in play. Students will be playing several lead up games using those skills.

ART – Mrs. Machniak

The eighth grade students will be working with texture in a variety of mediums throughout November and December.

MUSIC – Mrs. Collings

During second quarter students will begin a unit on music theory. By the end of this unit we will add an exciting twist as we use some new computer programs with music theory. They will practice music listening skills such as “What instruments do you hear?” and describe the melody and harmony. Students are welcome to submit a piece of contemporary music for the class to study, however, I will approve both the lyrics and music before a piece can be studied by the class. We continue practicing the music for school masses, especially for the Christmas mass on Thursday, December 17 at 7 pm in Lumen Ecclesiae Chapel.