

February 2018



Advanced Intermediate Department

Ms. Maas Room 1 Mathematics annm@stcyril.com	Mrs. Tinley Room 12 Science pamelat@stcyril.com	Mrs. Hook Room 17 Language Arts jessicah@stcyril.com	Mrs. Ward Room 18 Social Studies brendaw@stcyril.com	Mrs. Sidi Reading sarahs@stcyril.com	Ms. Crable Religion patriciao@stcyril.com
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Mrs. Hook - Language Arts

As second trimester comes to an end, I am encouraging students to show me their best work in writing. The students have conducted interviews and have been learning the rules of written dialogue to use when they make record of a conversation. In addition, we just re-visited narrative writing, and we will be using an independent literacy log to write a book report in the near future. We will continue to work on sentence structure, and to use our English text to help support the development of those important editing skills. Spelling tests and words have become increasingly difficult. Please make sure that your child is practicing these words at home.

Mrs. Sidi - Reading

Fifth graders have eagerly jumped into our newest novel, *Helen Keller: Story of My Life*, an inspiring memoir of a fascinating historical figure. The students have been busy making text-to-text connections between Helen Keller and Cece Bell (from *El Deafo*) and while comparing and contrasting the authors' experience of hearing loss. We will continue to practice comprehension skills and strategies, focusing on making connections, compare and contrast, and synthesizing information. Students will also be engaging in weekly literacy centers, which includes an opportunity for me to listen to students read in small groups and focus my instruction on their individual needs. **Please see information below for Raz-Kids log-in information

Sixth graders are finishing the compelling book, *Brown Girl Dreaming*, a free-verse memoir detailing life growing up during the Civil Rights Movement. Students have really been moved by the free-verse format and the author's ability to use metaphorical writing to detail her memories. We will continue to practice comprehension skills and strategies, focusing on point of view, drawing conclusions, and summarization. Students have engaged in research of a civil rights historical figure; creating visual representations to accompany their speaking presentations. Students will also be engaging in weekly literacy centers, which includes an opportunity for me to listen to students read in small groups and focus my instruction on their individual needs. **Please see information below for Raz-Kids log-in information

Raz-Kids Log-In Information

Dr. Zeches has graciously gifted our classes with Raz-Kids accounts; an amazing online reading tool that students can also use at home. Students have been given a tour of the program and should know their usernames and passwords, however, please feel free to email me at sarahs@stcyril.com with any questions! You can access the program via website or download the app on any device...it's free!

Important Dates

February 14 th	Ash Wednesday Mass
February 21 st	Half Day – NO AFTER SCHOOL
February 22-25 th	Rodeo Break
February 28 th	Report Cards
March 12-15 th	Science Fair
March 29 th	Half Day
March 30-April 6	Easter Break

5A and 5B
teachname: ssidi0

6A
teachname: ssidi2

6B
teachname: ssidi1

Mrs. Ward – Social Studies

Grade 5 -

We have been busy in Social Studies learning about the American Revolutionary War period, which encompasses the following social studies standards: explaining the reasons (e.g., religious freedom, desire for land, economic opportunity, and a new life). The fifth graders recently finished a Revolutionary Battle Brochure, with researching “What, When, Where, Why and Who,” components, along with a hand drawn battle map and battle picture. They will also be presenting this information to their peers. As always, writing begins with a rough draft, with final draft being written in cursive. Going forward, we will be working on understanding and describing the contributions of geographic and economic conditions, religion, and colonial systems of government to the development of American democratic practices.

Way to Go, fifth graders!



Grade 6:

After completing our Ancient Egyptian unit, we are now immersed in Ancient China. Ask your young historians about the word “symbolism” and how that affected an Ancient society (think Ancient Chinese Dragons), or how the Han dynasty influenced development of an ancient culture. They are very engaged in this unit! Students will also be participating in an Ancient Chinese New Year’s simulation centered around philosophies of ancestor worship, customs (then and now) and comparing architectural feats (think “Great Wall”), to today’s wonders of the world. In March, we will be focusing on Ancient Greece, and exploring the significant inventions, medical advances, literature and philosophies that still shape our world today. **Kudos, sixth graders!**



Ms. Tinley - Hello from Science Central!

As we end the second trimester, the Advanced Intermediate students will finish their exploration of matter and energy. We can name the Top 20 elements of the periodic table. We can also explain how each atom is modeled with protons, neutrons, and electrons. The 6th grade will take that knowledge and apply it to the understanding of chemical versus physical changes in matter. The final trimester will highlight Life Science. Science Fair is just around the corner! Please save the date for **Science Night: 14 March 5:30-8:00 pm**. You will have the opportunity to view all the science fair projects as well as participate in many hands-on activities sponsored by our community: Truly Nolen, Brain Bus, Herp House, and TEP are but a few examples. The Food Trucks of Tucson will also be available during these dinner hours.

Thank you again for the blessings of leading your wonderful students through this science journey!

Ms. Maas – Math

In both 5th grade and 6th grade, students are working hard at becoming proficient with all calculations with fractions and decimals. They will need these important life skills in the future. All students should have a bookmark in their math book to refer to when making these calculations. If your child struggles with remembering the steps, please have them refer to these cards. They have both phrases to help with the steps and graphics.

Students in fifth grade will also be using these skills when studying geometric shapes and finding perimeter and area. We will also be diving into exponents, how to find their value, and how to write extremely large numbers in scientific notation.

6th graders are using their calculation skills in solving proportion and rate problems. They should be able to use these skills to help you determine your gas mileage and comparison shopping by finding the per unit price. In the coming month, we will also be looking at becoming competent with calculating with both positive and negative numbers.

If your child seems to struggle with a particular problem, please encourage them to use the lesson notation and go back and see if they can work through the problem themselves. Please feel free to contact me with any concerns. Together we can help your child find success.

Mrs. Crable – Religion

Fifth and sixth graders will be bringing in eggshells. We will be dyeing them, and then decorating them. Once dried, they will be placed on a branch as we study the 40 Days of Lent. They will symbolize Jesus dying on the cross for us.