

Intermediate Department

February 2018



UPCOMING DATES:

Mass—Ash Wednesday
14 Feb 18

Half Day – No After School
21 Feb 18

Rodeo Break – No School
22-23 Feb 18

Half Day
29 Mar 18

Easter Break – No School
30 Mar- 6 Apr 18

GRADING AND CORRECTION REMINDER AS WE MOVE INTO THE THIRD TRIMESTER:

In the first trimester, students were permitted to make corrections and receive full credit. In the second trimester, students were permitted to make corrections and receive half credit. In the third trimester, students WILL NOT be permitted to make corrections for credit, only on math tests.

APEX FUN RUN

On Thursday, February 1st, our department alone ran about 3000 laps. It was apparent we have some future track and field superstars in this department! All that energy and determination raised around \$450 to support our school, amazing! This program not only got the kids moving their bodies, but focused on a consistent message: UNITED (U: unique, N: No Excuses I: Inspire Others T: Teachable E: Empathize D: Do Your Best) - Together we are more! Many thanks to all our families for your support and generous donations!

WINTER MAP TESTING:

Our kiddos did well on this last round of MAP testing! That being said, there is still work to be done as we head into the third trimester. In the back of your child's agenda is a sticker containing your child's current MAP score in the areas of Math, Language Usage, and Reading. We've discussed the results with the students and would like you to do the same as you work with your child to set an attainable goal for the Spring Map Testing session. Be sure to ask your child what specific steps he/she will take to reach the goal.

RELIGION:

This trimester students have learned about how we are each called by God to serve others. God the creator sent his son Jesus to earth to live among us. Jesus let the followers know that when he leaves, the Holy Spirit will be ever present. We have one God in three forms; the Trinity. We will be focusing on the Stations of the Cross as we enter the season of Lent. This will help us know the journey of Jesus's life and think about how we can apply the lessons of the Stations of the Cross to our own struggles.

LANGUAGE ARTS:

Students are delving into verbs; learning that there are action verbs, being verbs, and helping verbs. The tense of the verb can give readers a clue to the time of the action in the sentence or passage. Verbs can be singular or plural just like nouns, but they must agree. While we are focusing on verbs, students continue to become familiar with different parts of speech and use this knowledge to diagram sentences. We will finish the year focusing on adjective, adverbs, and pronouns.

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It is a tradition for the Intermediate students to write letters of appreciation to the faculty and staff for Catholic Schools Week. Students have been busy observing, questioning, and investigating to gather information to personalize these letters. The letters are hand delivered on Faculty Appreciation Day. The letters touch the hearts of the readers. Students will apply what they have learned in reading about facts and opinions to share their opinions in writing by formulating strong sentences to convey their thoughts. Looking toward the last trimester students will be writing a five paragraph essay using the Bing, Bang, Bongo format. This format is magic, the paper almost writes itself.

MATH:

As we head into February and March, we will be learning bigger math concepts across third and fourth grade. One element that will help your child find success with the bigger concepts is being able to recall multiplication facts, quickly and accurately. We have daily practice in class, during our "Power Up" time. I would recommend asking your child which facts are tricky for them and helping reinforce those facts at home.

Another fun way we will be learning and practicing math facts is our annual March Madness Tournament. A friendly competition coming to Room 13 in March!

To all the third and fourth graders, keep working hard on your homework and SHOW YOUR WORK, you have done around 1600 math problems this year and your recent MAP scores are proof that hard work, works! I would love to see a renewed focus for the end of the second trimester and finish strong in the third trimester. Go, Intermediate Cougars!

SOCIAL STUDIES:

Students finished learning about the three branches of government and Veterans Day. While learning about Veterans Day, students practiced their reading fluency by working with a Read Theater script. After several students worked together in their small groups reading their parts, they presented in front of their classmates. Within the next few weeks the fourth graders will begin learning about Arizona history, and the third graders will begin a unit on explorers.

SCIENCE:

Hello from Science Central!

As we end the second trimester, the Intermediate students will finish their exploration of matter and energy. We know about electricity, circuits, and currents as well as how the many types of energy are either transformed or transferred. 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. 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. Tinley

READING & SOCIAL STUDIES:

Third Grade:

Students learned to distinguish between fact and opinion in both fiction and non-fiction texts to help them learn what is true about a topic. A fact was defined as something that can be proven. An opinion is a person's thoughts or feelings about something. An opinion often has signal words such as *I think* or *I believe*. To decide if a statement is a fact or an opinion, students were told to ask: "Can this be proved?" "Is this what someone feels but cannot prove?" We

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noticed authors of nonfiction often state an opinion and include facts to support the opinion. Authors of fiction often have the characters state opinions in dialogue.

Students also learned how European explorers (Christopher Columbus, Hernando Cortez, Francisco Pizarro, Samuel Champlain, Henry Hudson, John Cabot, Jacques Cartier, and Ponce de Leon) influenced the development of the New World as we read a variety of non-fiction texts which required using information gained from maps, timelines, and the words in the text to understand where, when, why, and how key events occurred. Students also learned to refer to the text implicitly and explicitly as the basis for ask and answer questions.

Fourth Grade:

While enjoying fiction stories, students learned to recognize the conflict and resolution in a plot to help them better understand a story. The plot of a story contains a conflict, or problem, that the characters must solve. The resolution of the plot shows the conflict is solved. Students were encouraged to look for the problem the main character faces. Then they learned how to look for the steps the character took to solve the problem.

Conflict - the problem the character faces , usually introduced at the beginning of the story
Plot Events - the events in the story that usually lead to the resolution of the conflict
Resolution - how the problem is solved, usually occurs at the end of the story

Students also learned how Arizona became the 48th state as we read through a variety of non-fiction texts which required interpreting information, explaining how the information contributed to an understanding of the text, and referring to details and examples in a text to draw inferences.