

May 2017



# Advanced Intermediate Department

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## Religion

"Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said." Matthew 28: 5-6

Happy Easter! May the joy of the risen Christ fill your hearts with hope, courage, and the abundant love and mercy of God. During this 50 day Easter season, students will read and compare the gospel narratives about the resurrection, and reflect on them by writing and performing a news broadcast about the events which followed the discovery of Jesus' empty tomb.

During May, we will survey Old Testament Judges, Kings, Prophets, and Israelite people who were models of strong faith and leadership. Through prayer and reflection, we will consider our gifts/strengths and how we might use them to grow in faith and leadership within our own communities. Our year will culminate in connecting the Old Testament prophecies with the greatest love story of all time - the incarnation of Christ, Emmanuel - "God with us".

## Cindy McCoy - Language Arts

"Reading should not be presented to children as a chore, a duty. It should be offered as a gift." This is one of my favorite reading quotes from Kate DiCamillo, author of two Newbery Award winning books. With only a few weeks left in the school year, I hope the books we have read this year in Language Arts were considered more of a "gift" than a chore, and that students will continue to deepen their love and habit of daily reading. Thank you, parents, for making visits to the library and book stores part of your child's summer fun. Our final Writers' Workshop project is to write an opinion/argument essay. We have studied the structure of a 5 paragraph essay and how to craft a thesis statement. I continue to encourage students to reread, revise ideas, reread again, and edit conventions before sharing any piece of writing publicly. It has truly been a gift to work with the Cougars of St. Cyril, and I wish you all a summer filled with reading and writing joy.

## Ms. Maas - Math

The 5th graders are currently working in their Decimals on Grids and Number Lines unit. During this unit, students have reviewed the meaning of decimals and become proficient at reading, writing and interpreting decimals. They have an understanding of relationship between fractions, percents, and decimals. They have developed a variety of strategies to compare and order decimals. We are

## Important Dates

May 5	Ice Cream Social - Come One, Come All!
May 12	All library books due!
May 23	Musical Enrichment Performance (in class)
May 25	School Mass (instead of 5/24); Move-Up Day
May 26	Last Day of School

currently working on being able to add and subtract accurately with decimals. Following that we will be working on our *How Many People? How Many Teams?*. In the second unit on multiplication and division, students find and study equivalent expressions for multiplication and division problems (e.g.,  $112 \div 8 = 28 \div 2$ ). Students practice solving larger multiplication problems (3 digit x 2 digit) accurately and efficiently. Students gain fluency solving division problems with one-, two-, and three-digit divisors.

In 6th grade, students are currently finishing their Covering and Surrounding Unit. In this unit, students study several types of measurement, we have reviewed perimeter and area of rectangles. Then headed into developing formulas we could use for finding perimeter and area of triangles and parallelograms. In the final investigation of this unit, we will look at finding volume and surface area of 3 dimensional figures. Following that, we will plunge ourselves into Decimal Ops and becoming proficient with all operations with decimals in a multitude of problem-solving situations.

### **Brenda Ward - Social Studies**

5<sup>th</sup> Grade - We have completed our American Revolutionary Unit, and are now steaming towards the Civil War era. To date, we have been studying the causes and effects of the Civil War, economic concepts have been "connected" to the North or the South, we have drawn Civil War soldiers with paraphrased captions, and have completed a Civil War summative assessment. We will also be filming a video about this significant time in our history; there were lots of "thumbs up" when the upcoming film was announced! Kudos to Fifth Grade!!



Upcoming: Westward Expansion and Mini-Unit on Industrial Revolution

6<sup>th</sup> Grade - Hello! I hope that everyone is having a relaxing and blessed Easter season. We have been mummifying bananas. They were excited! This was part of a standard that stresses student comprehension of how ancient civilizations honored their ancestors. We have also completed our Ancient Greece unit, and are onto Rome and a mini-unit on the Middle Ages as well. We will be focusing on the standard of identifying the roles and contributions of individuals in the following ancient civilizations: Greece, Rome and the Middle Ages. Every minute counts! Way to go, Grade 6!



Upcoming: Details of the Living Museum will be emailed home.

### **Patricia Crable - Science**

The time has been going by very quickly and we have been very busy.

5th Grade also learned about atoms and the periodic chart. They learned the basics of an atom, 3 types of particles that make up an atom, and the two parts of an atom. They learned that everything is made of atoms and that an element is made of atoms of the same type. They also learned that all elements are listed on the periodic table. They now have taken this information and transferred it to what we are currently learning. We are now learning about forces, motion, work and energy. They have been completing weekly experiments that deal with these topics and they will complete the year by building a simple machine.

6th Grade has been learning about atoms, ions and isotopes. We have taken this information and transferred it into what we are currently learning about which is energy. In particular, the students are learning about kinetic and potential energy. We have been discussing the different types of kinetics and potential energy. The students are taking this information and building roller coasters in which they are showing potential and kinetic energy. We will then discuss wave lengths and complete the year by going over electricity and magnetics. We will build a small electrical circuit.