

October 2017



UPCOMING DATES:

October 9th and 10th
Camp Cooper

October 12th:
Early Dismissal—Parent
Teacher Conferences

October 13th
No School (Parent
Teacher Conferences)

October 16th:
No School—Fall Break

October 20th-21st:
Fall Block Party

October 27th:
Halloween Parade

November 1st:
All Saints Day Mass

November 8th
Early Dismissal—Parent
Teacher Conferences

November 9th
No School (Parent
Teacher Conferences)

November 10th
No School—Veteran's
Day

Intermediate Department

DEPARTMENTAL NEWS:

Parent/Teacher conferences are scheduled for October 12th and 13th. The first round of conferences are for third grade and students new to St. Cyril.

Intermediate students are looking forward to hands-on learning about the Sonoran Desert environment in the outdoor classroom of Camp Cooper. Thank you to all those making this experience possible!

RELIGION:

Students will be researching a saint and prepare a presentation for the Living Saint Museum scheduled for November 1st after Mass. More information to follow. Intermediate students will be readers and gift bearers for school Masses in the month of November.

Students are learning every moment of our lives is an opportunity to respond to God's calling and He calls us in many different ways, even in the most ordinary situations. We've also spent some time learning about the Beatitudes where Jesus gives us a description of the way to live as His disciples.

- *Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*
- *Blessed are they who mourn, for they will be comforted.*
- *Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the land.*
- *Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied.*
- *Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.*
- *Blessed are the clean of heart, for they will see God.*
- *Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.*
- *Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

(Matthew 5:3-10)

LANGUAGE ARTS:

We have been working on sentences! What is a sentence? A sentence is a group of words that conveys a message using a subject and a predicate with a capital letter at the beginning and end punctuation. Other groups of words may be run-on sentences or fragments. There are 4 types of sentences and each has a specific end punctuation mark.

We have covered complete and simple subjects and predicates., compound subjects, predicates, and sentences. The light-bulbs are starting to come on when they can explain which is which and how they know. Fourth graders have also worked to identify direct objects and subject complements.

We will be moving onto parts of speech beginning with nouns, pronouns, and their modifiers, adjectives. Students will be using their sentence skills to write some narrative paragraphs.

Some students benefit from using varied ways to remember spelling patterns. Sometimes movement with practice is the key. Some students respond to color. If you need ideas, let me know. Most students are more successful storing the word patterns from the spelling unit if they practice for 3-5 minutes each day. This also enables them to internalize the word patterns and transfer the skill to help make writing more fluent. Each student is different. Practice makes permanent.



MATH:

Cougars have been working hard in and out of the classroom adapting to our new program. To help ensure your child's success here are the:

'Top Ten Math Tips.'

1. Practice Facts - automaticity is so important with all facts.
2. Focus on working through each problem- working through problems builds confidence in math
3. Solve word problems one step at a time on paper.
4. Find a quiet place to study and do homework.
5. Use a sharp pencil and a separate eraser.
6. Keep your solutions neat and line by line.
7. Work problems vertically.
8. If the problem lends itself to it, draw a picture.
9. Explain your solutions out loud on tough problems.
10. Finish all the problems.



SOCIAL STUDIES:

We began the year with a unit in Economics. This learning tied directly into the Classroom Economy which is now in full swing. In the Classroom Economy students have applied for and been hired to perform a job. In turn, they will receive a paycheck. Using the money they've earned, students are responsible for managing their spending and saving.

In addition of learning about economics, students have learned about 9/11 and the U.S. Constitution.

SCIENCE:

Welcome to Science!

We are off to a great start, learning how to learn! It takes a lot of attention and processing skills to learn how to take good notes and how to get that information from a textbook to be meaningful later for a test. Patience all around is greatly appreciated as we hone our skills.

We are currently in the depths of the Layers of the Earth in 3rd grade and exploring the many types of rocks in the Rock Cycle in 4th grade. We will continue with Earth science until the end of October. Physical science is next, through January.

Please do not forget there will be a major science fair project completed by the entire class. If your student wishes to submit an individual project, please let me know.

Your students are doing an amazing job and I am very blessed to be their teacher.

Thank you so much!

READING:



3rd Grade:

Students are learning each story has important elements including characters, setting, and plot. Identifying the characters and setting in a story will not only help a reader understand what he/she has read, but will also provide clues about what is important in the story.

4th Grade:

Students are learning about a character's traits and motivations. A trait shows what he or she is like. A character's motivations are the reasons he or she acts a certain way. Thinking about a character's traits and motivations helps students figure out why a character took a certain action in a story. Sometimes authors state a character's motivations; other times readers must use what the character says, does, and thinks to figure out the character's motivations.