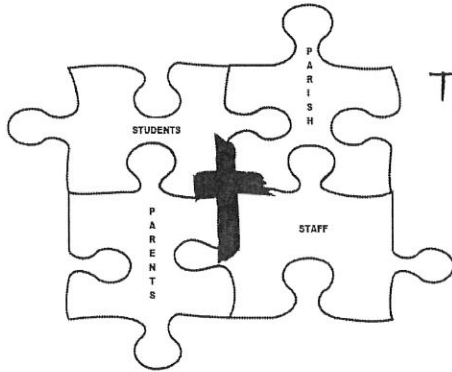


Mrs. Davis' 2nd Grade Class News

October 3, 2011



Together We Make A Difference!

Thank you so much for coming to Back-to-School night! Every student was represented by at least one parent. What a blessing!

Please remember to complete the yellow *First Communion Sheet* (that you picked up at Back-to-School Night) and send it to me as soon as possible.

Everyone is signed up for Parent/Teacher conferences on October 27th. I will send reminders home this week.

We should have enough volunteers to drive on All Saints Day. If you'd still like to join us, we'd love to have you. Just let me know. Driver information sheets need to be completed and returned to the office.

Thank you for going "paperless"! Every household in 2D is getting letters, notes, & updates, that would usually go in the Friday Folder, electronically by email.

Specials Schedule:

Monday - Spanish, P.E.

Tuesday - Library

Wednesday - Art, Music

Thursday - Music, P.E.

Friday - Computer

What Are We Up To?

Religion - The children have learned that Jesus was human just like us, but He is also divine because He did things only God can do. Jesus had a mother and a father, and they are called the Holy Family. Also, Jesus, the Son of God, taught us about God the Father and God the Holy Spirit (the Trinity). We're talking about the work of Jesus, and the beginning of the Church. We are also looking deeper into what is happening at Mass.

Math - We've been practicing place value to 100, reading & writing numbers, estimating amounts, ordering and comparing numbers, and recognizing patterns. We will finish Chapter 1 this week. Then we'll spend some time understanding addition and subtraction concepts, which help the students make sense of basic addition and subtraction facts. I urge you to practice *Track Math*. I can't stress enough how important it is for the students to put those facts to memory. Next we'll take surveys, make tally tables, and make and understand picture graphs and bar graphs.

Reading - We are reading from our basal reader. This week the story is Days with Frog and Toad and next week it is Wilson Sat Alone. We will discuss the characters, setting, and plot, and compare texts. We'll also write a friendly letter, a thank you note, and make a list.

Spelling/Phonics - Thanks for your patience as I continue to assess the students' spelling and phonics skills. I may change a few things in the next week or two in order to adequately challenge each student. For now, the spelling list is posted on our classroom webpage and students glue a list in their planners.

English - We are studying the four kinds of sentences: statement, command, question, and exclamation. We're also practicing writing complete sentences that begin with a capital letter, end with an end mark, and have a subject and predicate.

Science - To begin our unit on the "heavens", we're going to read about God's creation from the book of Genesis. We'll start tracking the phases of the moon, and the students will memorize the planets in order from the sun. In addition, we'll talk about the seasons and what they are like where we live.

Social Studies - We will be using an atlas and learning about communities. We'll talk about what earth looks like from space, and then zero-in on where we live.

Helping our Children Grow Closer To Jesus

I like to think of our 2nd graders as saints-in-the-making. Saints are people just like you and me that God gave special graces to in order for them to do special things. God knew that these people would do His Will. When we pray each day, we should remember to ask God to help us do His Will. Each of us can become a saint!

As we learn about the saints, we'll discover that they are remembered for something special. For example, on Saturday we celebrated the feast of Saint Theresa the Little Flower. St. Theresa grew close to God by showing acts of love and small sacrifices each day. We might talk to St. Theresa about how we'd also like to make gifts of little sacrifices out of love for God each day. We don't pray to saints, though. Saints only assist us in our prayers to God. When we pray we can ask a saint to intercede for us. That means that the saint talks to God for us.

Saints are role models and heroes. They are real people who did great things. It would make me very happy to see our children become as excited about saints as they are about make-believe super heroes in books, movies, and video games. I started a collection of holy cards in our classroom. You might consider starting a collection at home. There are also some really good books that tell about the lives of the saints, written so that children can understand. I will try to introduce the students to a saint each day. Ask your child about it...we all might learn something that will help us get one more step closer to heaven.



How To Contact Me

Everything that is sent home is also on our classroom webpage. Contact me any time when you have questions or concerns. The best way to reach me is school email. If you have a concern that needs a quicker response, you may call or text me. My phone number is in your child's planner. Please contact me if your child has questions about homework or is worried about something. I would rather address the concern right away than have your child (or you!) lose sleep.



... for the *Track Math* program for mastering basic math facts.
... at an explanation of the *All Saints Day* project. The *Saint Request Form* is due next week.

... for a permission slip for *All Saints Day*.

... The *Family Prayer* schedule can be found on our classroom webpage.

... Our school handbook explains the uniform policy and the dress code for Spirit Day. Make sure your child is dressed appropriately each day.

... Don't forget to check our classroom webpage for links to copies of everything that is sent home!

Family Prayer Schedule

Oct. 3 Mrs. Davis' Family
 Oct. 11 Joseph's Family
 Oct. 17 Samantha's Family
 Nov. 7 Selma's Family
 Nov. 14 Venicio's Family



Our Classroom Wish List

Age-appropriate books for our Classroom library, especially nonfiction and biographies.
 We have a lot of books about animals.

11 x 17 heavy colored construction paper

Holy Cards