



# JANUARY

## January Newsletter - Room 105

January 8, 2019

Dear Parents,

Welcome back! I hope that all of you enjoyed some special time with your families as much as I did. I would like to thank everyone for the awesome words, cards, and gifts you sent my way in December. I was extremely touched by your overwhelming support and kindness. Thank you as well, to our parents who helped to share holiday fun and treats with the children last month. Thank you for your never ending support in 2018! Now, we are all rested and ready to work hard while we have a whole lot of fun in the weeks that follow.

**Math** – We finished up Ch. 7 which focuses on 3, 4, 0, and 1 multiplication/division facts. Next, we will jump into Ch. 8: Multiply and Divide by 6, 7, 8, and 9, and 11 (not 12). Daily study will be needed to memorize these facts, although your son/daughter should already know many of these facts if they already memorized the 0-5, and 10 facts (ex, they should already know  $4 \times 6$ , 7, 8, and 9). Please have your child continue to practice their multiplication facts at home for 5-10 mins whenever possible, for the rest of the year. They may forget what they have learned if they don't keep practicing. Also, it is recommended that any time you can, to please challenge your children with mathematical word problems, and reading and interpreting directions at home (like a recipe for cookies, or to assemble a household item). Please do so, for the more practice they have with these, the better they'll get at reading and interpreting written mathematical problems.

**Language Arts/Reading** – We kicked off 2019 by setting resolutions for ourselves for the New Year and writing about them in a New Year's flip book. This month, we will explore expository writing (writing based on fact), to set the children up for a report they will write in February. As readers, we will continue to work on identifying the main idea and supporting details for nonfiction. When reading fiction, we will work on problem and solution, sequence of events, summarizing, and author's purpose. By the end of this month, we would like to see all of the children able to write (independently) at least a five sentence paragraph (preferably more) that conveys an organized thought clear to the reader, with vivid details and appropriate mechanics (complete sentences, with proper punctuation and grammar). They should also utilize accurate spelling of words we have covered in Spelling this year and past years. We hope they are able to do this in under 40 mins. Practice writing at home may be needed to develop writing fluency. For the rest of the year, each

week we will also spend some time practicing reading, writing, listening, and speaking tasks that match the benchmarks (recommended goals of performance) set forth by The New York State Dept of Education for third graders. Good listening skills, the ability to follow written and oral directions and taking personal responsibility for one's learning are critical areas of growth we need to see for all of the children in third grade. Thanks in advance for anything you can do at home to help your child master these skills.

January Book-it logs were sent home in the children's Take-Home folders before break. Please continue to have your child read text that is at his/her independent level at home every day and complete their "Book-its" on both sides independently and return their January logs to me on Feb. 1. Thank you for your support, as daily practice is a critical element for your child's reading development.

**Religion** – The part of the Mass we will focus on this month is The Liturgy of the Word. We will be scheduling a teaching Mass for the children soon, during school hours. Also in class this month we will work on looking up specific scripture passages in our Bibles, learn about the Epiphany, what Baptism means, and practice the Apostle's Creed and understand what each line means. Please pray for your children, that they will understand the significance of the Blessed Sacrament of Eucharist in the months to come.

**Science** - We will be learning about the tropical Rainforest ecosystem, and later this month we will explore the Desert ecosystem, its weather characteristics, and the living things that interact there. Important vocabulary and notes/diagrams for study can be found in your child's Science Journal

**Social Studies** - Our world travelers are currently enjoying their time in Brazil. To begin our trip, we are looking at a variety of maps of Brazil to understand the geography of this diverse continent. Next, the kids will be able to visit a variety of Brazilian cities using the iPads and the Time for Kids website. Later this month, we will be navigating the Amazon and learning the qualities of rainforests.

## **Reminders:**

- Third Grade will go to see our Bound for Broadway production of "Aladdin Jr." on Mon., Jan. 14. Lunch will be as usual, in the cafeteria.
- Catholic Schools Week begins on Sunday, January 27 with the HSA Family Mass and Breakfast. Let me tell you, this week will be a blast! Details for the schedule of events for Catholic Schools Week will be shared soon!
- Our St. Chris Lip Sync Contest will be held on Friday, Feb. 1st! Tryouts will be held in Rm. 103 on Friday, Jan 25. One group will be chosen to represent Rm 103 in the school-wide contest on Feb. 1st.
- Coming soon... Please watch for a permission slip to be posted this month for an amazing field trip for our Third Graders to Kleinhans Music Hall in Buffalo on

February 5, for an educational performance by the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra!

•It's "Recorder Time!" Please look for this information from our music teacher, Mrs. Siekierski and return the required form to Mrs. Siekierski by Jan 17.

• **MINI-RETREAT February 2<sup>nd</sup> 9:00 – 12:00 Mini Retreat 12:00 – 3:30 Family Afternoon**

The Mini Retreat is for candidates only. This is a time for our children to come together as a parish family. Please drop your child off at 8:45 am and rejoin them at 12:00 for the Family Afternoon. The Family Afternoon is a time for families to share faith with their First Communion Candidates. The children and at least one parent must attend. We will gather for prayer, have a presentation on the Eucharist, learn about the mass, visit Outreach and have other activities. We will also be serving lunch. We are asking each candidate to bring in a non-perishable food item for our Outreach Program. If you and your child cannot attend the scheduled date, please call the office to reschedule.

In February, you will be receiving an envelope with your child's name on it. We ask that you send a picture of your child's Baptism and a current wallet size picture and return it in this envelope. **The current picture should be wallet size and the baptism picture should not be any larger than 4 x 6.** Any pictures larger than that will be cropped down. Please make sure your child's name is on the back of both pictures. These will be displayed on a poster in the narthex of church.

**\*Important: Please be aware that at this point in the year, many children's supplies have dwindled. Please check with your child and replace any supplies they may have lost or used up, as many need scissors, a ruler, glue sticks and/or pencils. Many of the children would benefit by cleaning out his/her supply bag, and making sure he/she has 3-4 sharpened pencils each night for the next school day. Also, please encourage your child to show you what is in his/her Take-home/Homework folder and empty the "Take-home" side every week. Thank you so much for your help!**

On that note, Happy New Year, and stay warm!

All my best,  
Mrs. Pronti  
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