

October 7, 2011

Dear Parents,

Wow, what a busy, packed week! We have made it through the first two MAP tests, and will take our last one next Wednesday. These tests really help me to see where each child is so that I can plan for their needs. Some children find the testing stressful, but we breathe deep, try to stay focused, and they really do quite well!

We have finished our math work with money. We will be reviewing on Monday, and the test on Chapter 3 will be on Tuesday. The most difficult part of this chapter was making change (counting up.) We played a game in class yesterday where the kids worked in small groups to make change. We will revisit money throughout the year. Our next chapter in math is on addition. It starts simply, but gets progressively more challenging. We have been reviewing addition facts because so many students seem to have forgotten them over the summer. We continue to work on MMF. We will be doing MMF on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday most weeks. Thank you for assisting your child as they study their facts.

We finished our work with "Mulan" in Reading this week. Our next story is called "Lost and Found." We will be working on cause-and-effect as we work through this story. We will learn about correctly using commas in dates and places. We will continue to work on identifying sentence fragments and correcting them. We will also be working on a fun project. I will send the details on Monday if I don't have time to copy the sheet today!

I am in the process of assessing the children in reading. This takes a while, but it is great for me to meet with them one on one and get to know them and their likes and dislikes in books.

The 3rd graders have been working on their writing. Last week we started to write a personal narrative. This is our first genre study. Most students have a rough draft finished. Now the real work begins, with revising and editing. . . something they are not fond of doing! I was delighted to see how many of the kids used one of the five leads that we have learned about to begin their narratives!

We also wrote fall poems this week and hung them on our 3rd grade Poet tree in the hallway.

We have been learning about the Great Commandment in Religion. This week, the students worked with a partner to create a poster collage depicting God's love for us and our love for God and each other. They are pretty neat! I am very proud of how well they worked with their partners. Next week, we will begin to talk about the Trinity. I will also introduce our very cool service learning project to them, but more on that next time. . . . that's a long note!

We have finished our work with plants and will begin to talk about animals next week in Science. We have several little labs around the room with plants however. I love plants and have quite a few. We have taken some cuttings from some plants, placed them in water and are watching for the new roots to grow! We are also seeing what happens to seeds/plants that are deprived of water or light or both.

We are moving ahead in Social Studies to learn about the Native Americans culture in Michigan. This will prepare us for our field trip on the 20th to the museum. I could still use 2 or 3 more chaperones.

I am sending along the October book orders. As always there are great deals! Thank you for your orders. . . they make it possible for me to continue to enrich our classroom library with the books your kids want to read.

Please continue to send in the Boxtops for Education. We really appreciate your help!

Monday is a Jean pass day. Students may jeans if they have a pass, but must still wear uniform shirts.

Congratulations to Cole VanDyke and his family as they were blessed with little Oliver Michael this week!

Have a fabulous weekend!

In God's Peace, Mrs. Deb Pieri

