

January 2, 2012

Dear Parents,

I want to extend a HUGE thank you to each of my 4th grade families for your warm wishes and very generous and thoughtful gifts this Christmas season. The class gift was such a surprise, and I'm still wondering how that was kept a secret! May God continue to bless each and every one of you with a healthy, peaceful, and prosperous New Year. Please know that I greatly appreciate all that you do each and every day to support and promote our efforts here at FAW.

During this month in 4th grade, we are both reviewing for the end of 2nd quarter, and beginning new skill areas. Congratulations to those students who have already made, and in some cases, surpassed their 2nd qtr. A/R goal in **Reading**. For students who are not quite there yet, **January 13th** still leaves enough time to make their goal a reality. Perhaps increasing the nightly reading minutes, and/or adding reading to weekend activities, could push students that much closer to their contracted goal.

In **Religion** we have concluded our study of the new Roman missal Mass translations, as well as our study of the liturgical seasons of Advent and Christmas. We will now focus on the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Reconciliation.

In **Math** this month our focus will be operations with decimals, fractions, and percents. Our new skills will include multiplying with larger factors, and the introduction of the long division process. (Toward the end of the month, ask your student what DMSCB means when it comes to Math!) Please continue to drill multiplication & division facts at home, especially those in the "memory" group featured in Chapter 38. Once those last 10 set of facts have been successfully memorized, students should have little difficulty completing our daily Math drills in a timely and accurate manner.

Even in the area of **Penmanship**, there have been some notable changes. Since our last progress reports, "invitations" to write in pen have been given out to students who have consistently turned in neat and legible papers. More of these "invitations" will be distributed to deserving students with report cards in two weeks, and then again at the next progress report time. Hopefully, by 4th quarter ALL 4th graders will be writing their language assignments in pen.

I am very excited to announce that later this month after the completion of our unit on "electricity" in **Science**, Mr. Dudash and some of his associates from Patuxent River, will be conducting weekly experiments and presentations to 4th graders on the topic of "flight." I am very thankful to Mr. Dudash for his personal initiative, hard work, and preparation in bringing such a program to my 4th graders here at FAW. In the area of **Md. History** we are busy learning about our colonial past, and later in the month we will be seeing Maryland's part in the American Revolution.

As you can see, we have accomplished much, but there is still plenty of work to be done. After the distribution of report cards, if anyone would find it helpful for an individual conference, please don't hesitate to contact me through e-mail, a phone call, or a short note attached in the daily assignment book. Again, Happy New Year and God bless!

Sincerely,

