

October 15, 2009

Dear Parents,

I'm sure you are aware that the flu season has finally arrived at St. Michael's school. We have faithfully washed our hands before lunch and snacks, wiped down our desks, computers, and doorknobs daily. We are carefully coughing into our sleeves/elbows. Please keep your child home when they are not feeling well, running a fever, or coughing uncontrollably. Remember, they are not allowed cough drops without a doctor's note. I recommend life savers in place of the cough drops. Just send in a note letting me know they have them.

In reading, we are still in the *Perspective* genre. We are reading about Beni Seballos, a teenager from the Philippines, who is having difficulty adjusting to life in the United States. This story has led into some great discussions.

In Social Studies, we are applying critical thinking skills to organize and use information from maps, discussing the consequences of human modification of the environment, and the use of latitude and longitude to determine exact locations of places on Earth. Remember that Passport Check will be on October 27<sup>th</sup>. If you are interested in assisting with the passport check, please let us know. There will be a training very soon.

We are finishing Chapter 1 in math. We have reviewed the properties of addition and the rules of subtraction, the comparing and ordering of whole numbers through billions and decimals through thousandths, the use of estimation, reading and writing of Roman numerals, and learning various strategies to use in solving problems.

In Science, there are a few students who have not turned in their science fair application. It is imperative that they are turned in ASAP. If your child has not chosen the research paper topic, please help him/her to do so. It should be loosely tied to the science project. We need to begin next week working on the research paper.

Finally, tomorrow night is **SMART FAMILY AUCTION!!!** Everyone has worked very hard to make this a wonderfully, success evening and I hope to see you all there, bidding on the front row seats for our Shakespeare play, *Twelfth Night*.

Peace in Christ,

Mrs. Albert