

April 29, 2010

Dear Parents,

With three weeks of ITBS over, we can now return to our normal schedule. Please find the following overview of what we are working on at this time.

In reading, we are continuing to read Lois Lowry's book *Number the Stars*. We have been discussing life in the 1940's and the hardships that went along with being in a country occupied by the Nazi's. The story lends itself to discussions on the moral choices people were making then.

In religion, we are studying Jesus preparing his disciples for a time when he will no longer be with them as they have come to know him. He gives them a new commandment, to love one another. Also, we are learning the various prayers recited at Mass.

The students are working very hard on their colonies and will soon have them ready for all of you to see. Through their reading and research, the students are learning that life wasn't easy during that time.

In ITC, we are almost ready to leave Africa. We will be traveling on to Great Britain. We should see and experience many wonderful sights.

You will find us getting back to working on our Mixtures and Solutions unit from our Foss kit. We will be separating salt solutions and studying crystals. We will also begin studying models of matter, which takes in elements and compounds. This leads us into the study of the Periodic Table of Elements.

In Math we have begun the division of fractions. This particular chapter builds on prior knowledge of skills and concepts such as multiplication properties, expressing fractions in simplest form. The students have been introduced to the term reciprocal, a concept that is fundamental to their understanding of the dividing fractions algorithm.

Of course we are still working hard on our play, *Twelfth Night*. It is slowly coming together. Most of the students have tried on their costumes and they are looking more and more like thespians.

Finally, conferences are just around the corner and you will find the letter with your scheduled time in the Thursday Notes packet. Please return it ASAP. Also, be looking for midterm progress reports next Thursday.

Peace in Christ,

Mrs. Albert

