

Kindergarten News

Saint Michael Catholic School

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Happy Easter! I hope everyone had a restful spring break. It sure was nice to see all those smiley faces on Monday.

This week in reading we are starting a new story titled, Sing a Song of People. The story takes place in a big city. One of the most interesting features of a big city is the different kinds of people and the way they hurry about rarely getting to stop and enjoy the sights or other people around them. In phonics the children will learn to write the letter Pp. They will also learn the sound for /p/.



During our calendar time the children are learning how to read a thermometer. The children will learn about some other measurement tools this week. I have also introduced some new math games that require the children to add, compare, exchange, and problem solve. Keep practicing those counting patterns at home!



We are inviting *all* our Moms to join us on Wednesday, May 5 for a special celebration. We will host our annual "Mother's Day Tea" from 10:00 to 12:00. If you cannot attend, your child may invite a favorite grandmother, aunt, or neighbor. We are looking forward to honoring you and *all* you do!!

We are learning about the Holy Spirit this week during our God's Time. We read a story about the first Pentecost and discussed what it must have been like to be present in the room with all of the apostles. The children are making a Holy Spirit pendant. I am encouraging them to wear their pendant during our church celebration of Pentecost.



Happy Birthday Jordan!



ITBS Testing

Next week, for the first time, the kindergarten and first grade classes will join the rest of the school in taking the ITBS (Iowa Test of Basic Skills).

This is a standardized test administered to students to measure how much they have learned both inside and outside of the classroom. As in all standardized tests, questions will vary. Most questions will focus on skills at the child's grade level. Some questions will test skills slightly above grade level.

Remember, that children at the kindergarten and first grade level still do not understand the importance of or implications involved in testing. We in no way, want your child to become anxious about taking this test. This is not an intelligence test!

At this early stage of your child's learning, we are hoping to gain some information about how your child listens and learns. We will use this information to understand how and what your child is learning and this will help us know how to better address your child's learning needs.

We are going to tell the children that they are taking a special test (just like the big kids) that will tell us about how they learn. Most of the children will be excited.

You can help your children by making sure they get lots of sleep, eat a good breakfast, and come to

school on time. We are also asking parents and visitors to be extra quiet in the hallways during the testing period. This will be especially helpful for children who are sensitive to noise and become easily distracted.

We love your children and we want to do everything possible to provide a loving, learning environment that allows them to experience success at every grade level.

There is a letter coming home in the Thursday envelopes that will provide more information about the testing process. If you have any questions, please contact me.

Reminders:

There is a buddy mass next Friday. We are in the process of scheduling our trip to the zoo. It will be Wednesday, May 19. Let me know if you are interested in driving or chaperoning. We have to submit our reservation and money prior to the trip.

Have a fabulous week!