



Third Grade News  
Mrs. Needham  
Saint Michael Catholic School  
[sneedham@stmikesolympia.org](mailto:sneedham@stmikesolympia.org)

January 21, 2010

### Greetings,

Have you ever noticed how a short week seems twice as long as a regular week? We are having one of those weeks – a short-but-twice-as-long-one. You will notice on “those” kind of weeks that the students only have one day to practice their spelling words prior to the pretest. You should see what we have to do to fully cover a story in language arts!

### Religion:

A few middle school students came to teach a religion lesson to the 3<sup>rd</sup> graders this week. They used the homework input you helped your student with this past week to talk about one of the 12 Gardens of Stewardship; an archdiocesan curriculum requirement. The 3<sup>rd</sup> grader's garden is on the history of mankind and God's hand in that history. For next week we will then, hopefully, wrap up our unit on different types of prayers. Ask your 3<sup>rd</sup> grader what the greatest public prayer is.

### We are Wrapping Up...

- **Math chapter 4** – In this chapter we learned more about multiplication such as the terms, factor and product, and how to multiply by zero and one. We also learned about the order of multiplication which tells us that  $3 \times 4$  is different than  $4 \times 3$  even though they equal the same product of 12.
- **Native American studies** – we hope to be charting the individual groups' findings by next week.
- **Library skills** – The students have been practicing paraphrasing in the library in preparation for their sea life research. Mrs. Evans also reiterated what plagiarism is.
- **Computer class** – Next Friday will be the last day of computer class for the 3<sup>rd</sup> graders this year. That will not be their last opportunity to work in the lab however, as we will plan to find and label sea creature diagrams during our research on the sea.

Ciao

Hello 3<sup>rd</sup> grade families!

Mrs. Needham and I used an instructional strategy called differentiated teaching during a math lesson this week. We divided the class into two groups which allowed us to provide two different approaches to teaching the same information. The groups switched teachers halfway through the lesson, so each student had a chance to learn the material through more than just one instructional approach. I think that is important because we all know that children think and learn differently. We have visual, auditory, and kinesthetic learners which should be taken into consideration when planning our lessons and activities. In the end, we found that this strategy helped the lessons run more smoothly as the groups were smaller and the students were more focused.

Thank you,  
Ms. Erdman

### Upcoming Tests:

- ★ Spelling test – Tomorrow, Jan. 22<sup>nd</sup>
- ★ Math chapter 4 test – Wed., Jan. 27<sup>th</sup>
- ★ Passport Check Day – Fri., Jan. 29<sup>th</sup>

### Upcoming events...

- **Passport Check Day** – Fri., Jan. 29th
- **Catholic School's Week Mass** – Sun., Jan. 31  
Downtown and Westside. Wear your uniform to mass to receive a free dress day.
- **Catholic Schools Week Events** – Feb. 1 - 5

Have a Wonderful week,  
Sandra Needham and  
Stephanie Erdman

