

4B Flight Update for the Week of January 21, 2019

This month's Catholic Virtue is Kindness. This month's Gospel Value is Service.



"Let no one ever come to you without leaving better and happier. Be the living expression of God's kindness: kindness in your face, kindness in your eyes, kindness in your smile."

~St. Teresa of Calcutta

Never get tired of doing little things for others, sometimes those little things occupy the biggest parts of their hearts!

Loving God, inspire us to serve all around us in the love of Christ. We all need help from time to time and it gives us hope to know that others around us care.

Show us how to reach out to those we see struggling or who are in trouble. Amen.

Calendar Updates and Reminders:

Jan. 27—Open House 1:00-3:00pm

Jan. 28—SRS Spirit Day—Dress in Red/White for donation of nonperishable food item

Dear 4B Families,

As the second quarter comes to a close, and half of our year together is complete; I want to celebrate the wonderful accomplishments of our crew! They can be very proud of themselves for taking on more responsibility, making the progress they have, and giving their all each day! We are currently enjoying our reading of *Poppy*, in fact, novel studies with them is an adventure; they have wonderful insights; and their enthusiasm for our stories always make our reading time one of the best parts of our day.

We are busy working on a cross-curricular unit with our novel, *Poppy*, as our overarching theme. Taking the animals in our story, the children are working in groups to do research and create a teaching chart, slides, and a presentation for their selected animal. In science, while they learn the vocabulary our ecosystem unit, they are making connections with the real world problem of overpopulation for *Poppy's* family; on our last science vocab test, in addition to showing that they knew the definitions, they also had to show an understanding by describing the problem and solution from the novel using the science vocabulary. Our current piece of related activities is creating a habitat for our animals. They have been collecting and bringing in supplies; I see such a variety of materials that I can't wait to see the results next week!

On Monday, we take time to think about the contributions and lessons that we still value from many years ago as delivered by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. His legacy of people united, fairness, and kindness resonate in so many ways, yet the struggles in some places still continue. Our children will be seeing the common threads that run through the struggles we learn about in social studies and in our reading of historical fictions. Weaving these lessons, along with our faith lessons, we work towards becoming the solution to the problem, the ones who help lift the struggle and become peacemakers.

In the upcoming weeks, after we finish *Poppy*, we will be reading our next novel, *Number the Stars* by Lois Lowry; a historical fiction story with the focus on characters who fought to uphold the freedoms we strongly covet in our daily lives. We will see another example of injustices and struggles of those who fought to be peacemakers and treat all people fairly and with kindness.

From the lessons in history or peacemakers, like Dr. King, to the stories of great inventors who brought us great advancements, such as the light bulb; things that we can so easily take for granted and forget how they came about, and how there was a person behind these with the good of all in mind; our children are learning how they can make a difference in so many ways. Our role models across the curriculum and the importance of what we study continues to make a great impact on our crew and the rich discussions we have in class and the way they approach their tasks, wanting to give their best and give more; they certainly have grown over the first half of the year!

Kind Regards,
Mrs. B

Destination: ELA

We are getting closer to the end of *Poppy*, and the excitement continues to build. Focus in the upcoming week will be on plot summaries, character analysis, sequencing, and fact/opinion using the remaining chapters of our novel. We are also working with some cross curricular activities as we bring our characters into our ecosystem study in science. The children will have an activity to complete to show their understanding of the real animal habitat needs of the characters in the story.

Our next novel will be *Number the Stars* by Lois Lowry. This is a historical fiction novel; and a favorite among past fourth graders!

In our station rotations, our groups are working on leveled reading comprehension with Readworks on the Chromebooks, as well as other programs for ELA skills; enriching our vocabulary stations; reading groups with teacher using our novel; and comprehension/reader response work with our current novel.

Destination: MATH

We are moving ahead in our work with fractions; as we started this past week, we did reviews with previously taught skills of factors and multiples. These will help us with our work of equivalent fractions, simplifying fractions, and in our computations where we need to find common denominators.

In our station rotations, our groups are rotating between working with programs on the Chromebooks, which allow them to follow their own personal learning path; for both practice and challenge. Our other stations include task cards with skills that we need to practice and reinforce; teacher lead practice with current math topic; and math vocabulary work.

Destination: RELIGION

As we prepare for Catholic Schools Week, the children will be working on reflections and other writing, expressing why they love St. Rose. They will also be learning more about traditions and practices of our Catholic faith.

Destination: SCIENCE

In addition to being posted on Google Classrooms under Science; the beginning Invention Convention communications and forms will be given to each fourth grader in a binder sleeve to be added to their TRAVEL Binder. We will begin our invention process; but, we will also continue work with our study of the ecosystem.

Destination: SOCIAL STUDIES and WRITING with Mrs. Damalas

In Writing, we are finished with our Opinion Writing Essay. We have started doing research and gathering information for our next writing piece. We will soon be putting all this information about our State all together in our essay.

Parents, please send in a Composition Notebook with your student so we can continue our prompt writing at home. Thank You for your help and support. Thanks to those who have sent the notebook in!

In Grammar next week we will work on singular and plural nouns. Please ask you student and check on Rediker for test date.

In Social Studies – We are reading and learning about the US Economy in our book while working and doing research for our State Project. More information will follow on this project and what is required.