

## 4B Flight Update for the Week of September 24, 2018

This month's Catholic Virtue is Respect. This month's Gospel Value is Faith in God.



O God of Creation, you have blessed us with the changing of the seasons.  
As we embrace these autumn months,  
    May the earlier setting of the sun  
        remind us to take time to rest.  
    May the steam of our breath in the cool air  
        remind us that it is you who gives us your breath of life.  
    May the scurrying of the squirrels and the migration of the birds  
        remind us that you call us to follow your will.  
We praise you for your goodness forever and ever. Amen.

Dear 4B Families,

Happy Fall!! Although the days have begun to have a bit of a chill, the sunshine is spreading God's light everywhere while the colors begin to deepen on the trees! We see the handiwork of our Father in all that surrounds us each day and are reminded how blessed we are in our lives.

In the past weeks we have been discovering and exploring the different learning areas set up in our classroom. The children are doing a wonderful job taking on the responsibility of independent and partner/group work. They especially enjoy the Collaboration Station where they use a tabletop dry erase board to sketch ideas and teach each other different concepts from our studies.

We are excited to begin our first novel; *The Toothpaste Millionaire*; a new selection for fourth grade. Our reading and activities will span beyond reading time into science and other areas as we begin our talks about Invention Convention. The novel culminates in a cross curricular project that will lead us into the extension activities that will go with Invention Convention this year. If you have not purchased your copy of the book, we would like to begin on October 1, so please send your copy in by then.

Another week, of exciting events, awaits! Next Friday we will be celebrating Monsignor's birthday, after mass, with a special presentation! We would love to share this with our families so we hope you can join us in prayer and song that day!

Last week we went to the computer lab to begin the ground work for our Blended Learning tasks. The children have joined all our Google Classrooms; we worked with Google Docs, learning how to setup a document, share them, give them a meaningful title, and we set up a template with our proper heading for those tasks that call for our standard setup. There are a number of programs that we will be using and I want to make keeping track of things as easy as possible for them. I will be giving them "keys" to keep in their TRAVEL binder that will help them login to our Math, Reading, Science, and Religion sites. I also have several other programs where I created individual accounts for them; so I will give them a reference sheet to share with you. I will be sending you the class codes so you can join and interact with our Google Classes.

We have many blessings to be thankful for and an abundance waiting for us during this new season; enjoy each one! Have a wonderful weekend!

Warm Regards,  
Mrs. B

**Destination: ELA**

We completed our reading of *Elisa's Diary* and we will take an open book comprehension test on Monday. The purpose of the open book assessment is to work with the children on going back into the text to find evidence for their answer. They will mark the page number(s) next to their answer. Most reading assessments at this level are focused more on them being able to read a passage and then going back into the passage to cite evidence, which isn't always an easy task for a reader at this level. We will be reviewing the test in class so that we can review strategies for doing this more consistently. We will take the vocabulary test for the story on Tuesday. I have to commend the children as they did an excellent job on the previous vocabulary test. This was not one they studied for, but instead, worked on using context clues and word parts to help determine meaning. We will continue to work with roots, prefixes, and suffixes as part of our vocabulary skills.

Our next selection from our anthology will be a reader's theater selection, *A Royal Mystery*, where we will dive deeper into understanding characters through their dialogue. We will learn how to apply new close reading strategies; and what I am sure the children will enjoy the most, take on a character to perform the story!

Next week's spelling will begin our migration to a new routine. Beginning next week, I will give a pretest on the week's planned words; anyone showing mastery of those words, will be given a different list to work with for the week. This will help us as we continue to look for ways to offer more personalized learning for the children. As we move forward we will be doing this in other areas including math and reading.

**Destination: WRITING (Mrs. Damalas)**

We will focus on topic sentences and details to help us write a detailed paragraph. In grammar we are working on types of sentences, subjects/predicates, and complete sentences.

**Destination: MATH**

Our work with numbers in comparison and rounding will continue as we move forward to practicing and working on strategies for addition and subtraction. I will be giving a pretest for this unit and for those who show mastery and ability to apply their skills in more challenging problems, they will be working with the addition and subtraction concepts, but applying them to decimals. We will put a focus on multi-step word problems as well. For word problems, the children will be using the CUBES method. We will be going over this and practicing this during the week. I will be giving them a guide to using CUBES which they will keep in one of the clear pockets in their TRAVEL Binder.

**Destination: RELIGION**

Next week we will learn how Jesus leads us to happiness by discussing how he taught the Beatitudes and about the Kingdom of God. We will also learn more about how the disciples shared in Jesus' mission and how as his followers we can continue his mission.

**Destination: SCIENCE**

We began working on taking notes in science, focusing mostly on vocabulary and listing key concepts; this week we will expand on working on including diagrams and graphs. Today we worked on our first lab with paper airplanes! We made the connection with our summer STEM work and story of the Wright Brothers; expanding the idea to include varying paper type and conditions of flying. This helped us learn more on how to document and report on our work in science.

**Destination: SOCIAL STUDIES (Mrs. Damalas)**

We are concentrating on learning geographical terms and map skills. We will have a quiz on the next set of physical features, numbers 8-13, on Thursday, September 27<sup>th</sup>.

**Test jumps for Flight 4B on:**

Monday ....Reading Comprehension; Spelling Pretest (no prep)

Tuesday ....Math Pretest; Vocabulary (no prep)

Thursday .....Math Quiz; Religion Test (Chapter 2); Social Studies Quiz

Friday .....Spelling Test