

4B Flight Update for the Week of February 4, 2019

This month's Catholic Virtue is Compassion. This month's Gospel Value is Simplicity.



Jesus, help me to simplify life by learning what You want me to be; and becoming that person.

May my heart be consumed in loving Thee. Make me humble and holy, give me childlike simplicity; transform me into thy holy love. O Jesus, joy of my soul, accept my heart as an altar. I will give thee the gold of charity, the incense of continual, humble and fervent prayer, and the myrrh of constant sacrifices. Amen.

Dear 4B Families,

What a wonderful week we enjoyed this past week; although I know the children are excited to have another day to look forward to, compliments of the weather! We hope you can join us Wednesday for our Student Appreciation Day, complete with beachwear and volleyball game!

Thank you to all the parents who volunteered their time, made dessert items, and sent beautiful notes of appreciation to make Teacher Appreciation and the whole week of celebrating Catholic Education and St. Rose such a wonderful time for the children and I! We are grateful for the many things you do throughout the year!

Getting back to our regularly scheduled itinerary in the upcoming week; it'll take a little getting used to, but we are ready to continue gaining altitude as we continue on our learning journey. In the upcoming week we will be having our class Spelling Bee to see who will compete in the school Spelling Bee and then who will go on to represent fourth grade in the Knights of Columbus Spelling Bee in March. March will be a busy month as mid March will also be the time we will present our invention and compete in the school level Invention Convention. An information packet with dates will be coming home this week. There are also some tips for parents on how they can help coach their child through this process. The building of the invention and documenting the process will be done at home; the board and other related tasks will be completed in school. I will be conferencing with them for the writing of their Invention Log. We will go through the log step by step to discuss how to document their process in building their invention; but, also how to include diagrams and properly label them. There is more information in the Science section of our newsletter.

Please keep in your prayers those in our community who are suffering or struggling at this time.

Kind Regards,
Mrs. B

Destination: ELA

As we ended reading *Poppy*, the children were at the edge of their seats for the last few chapters; but, were also sad when we got to the end of the book! We will still be doing some work with the novel; but we also talked about the possibility of finishing Number the Stars in time to do one more novel for the year and perhaps they would like one of the *Poppy* sequels. It has been so refreshing working on the novels with our crew as they get so involved with the story and pick up on the most interesting details; and of course I am thrilled they love something so much, especially because it isn't a graphic novel!

This past week we formed our lit circles based on our STAR testing recommended book levels. The children did a book walk and initial few chapter read with their lit group and then wrote about what they learned in the first chapters and what connections they could make with previous novels or books they have independently read. They are very enthusiastic about their groups and novels and I am looking forward to working with each group.

In the past two weeks we worked on homophones that I noticed were most commonly misspelled in the children's writing, as well as several other pairs they need to learn. In the upcoming week we will go back to our regular weekly and challenge lists; however, from time to time I will do an all class list when I notice a pattern of spelling errors in their writing.

Destination: MATH

Currently we are working with equivalent fractions, which is the foundation for us going forward with our operations with fractions. We will also be working more on word problems and computation skills as we go forward with our fraction units. I want to make sure that we continue to hone the skills of checking for reasonableness of our answers and do the inverse operation to check our work. We have also been learning strategies to help us save steps in certain types of problem solving so we are practicing these as part of our instruction and classwork.

Destination: RELIGION

We will be focusing on the commandments that guide us in our relationship with others. Our first focus will be on the fourth commandment and our relationship with our parents and those adults who care for us.

Destination: SCIENCE

We have worked on cross curricular lessons with reading to learn more about habitats and ecosystems. This week we will do final presentations of our habitats which include identifying the features we included and how these support and sustain the life of the animal we are working with for this activity. We have been working with vocabulary for the current unit and in the upcoming week will be working on articles that help us reinforce our understanding of food chains and food webs.

We will also be going over our plan for Invention Convention and when the different pieces will need to be completed. A packet of information will be coming home with due dates; certain steps will be done in class and others will be homework (this will mainly be the building of the invention). I am going to ask that the board and materials be sent into school (I will let you know when we are ready for these) so that I can coach them through how to create an informational board, how to decide on fonts, colors, display of data, etc. Since they will have to create boards as they go forward in school, I'd like to teach them some of the skills they will need to be able to do this independently for future assignments. Our first step in this process will be planning the board. I know they have great ideas and are always ready to jump into the work; but, I would like to show them the importance of planning so that they create a final product they are proud to share. Part of our process will also be working on the oral presentation of their invention; I will continue, as I have the last two years, to have them meet with the judges and present and answer questions about their invention. We have been reading, discussing, and trying out ideas for inventions throughout the last quarter; now we are ready to get started inventing and we are definitely looking forward to this part of our journey together!

Destination: SOCIAL STUDIES and WRITING with Mrs. Damalas

We are still doing a bit research and gathering information for our State Informational Essay. Next week we will be visiting the library for more information on our state. Once we have gathered all the information we will start our essay. Next week we will work on verbs. Please ask your student and check on Rediker for test date. We are reading and learning about the manufacturing, industry and business in our book while working and doing research for our State Project. Students will be given what they need to start working on their poster the beginning of next week. Thank you all for your support in this project.