

4B Flight Update for the Week of September 10, 2018

This month's Catholic Virtue is Respect.

This month's Gospel Value is Faith in God.



Seventeen years have passed since the devastating September 11 attacks that shook the United States and communities around the globe. On this anniversary, we continue to honor the memory of those who died, their loved ones and the many first responders who risked their lives to bring healing to a fractured society.

O God, our hope and refuge, we come remembering and we come in hope, not in ourselves, but in you. In times of pain, give us comfort. In times of despair, give us hope. In times of hatred, give us love. In times of doubt, give us trust. And even when we feel far from you, be close to us, Loving God. Amen.

Dear 4B Families,

Next week we take time to remember, not only those who were lost to their families and friends on September 11; but to also pray for those families and friends who continue to dearly miss them, seventeen years later. I read an article earlier that asked, how do we, as teachers, teach this part of history, still so current, to those who didn't experience it; in fact, the current class of high school seniors, at most, would have been 1 year old on that day. How do you teach what happened, and the profound sadness it brought, and the many other emotions and aftermath of the attacks? At the tender age of a fourth grader, I defer to you as their parents, their first teachers, as it should be at these times. My children and I were in St. Rose School that morning, they were in second and fourth grade, and the teachers did not share what was happening, we tried to keep it calm and the day as "normal" as possible as phone calls were made and we checked on parents and relatives that worked in the places that were attacked that morning. What I remember most vividly was walking the children over to church that afternoon, again not telling them what had happened, that was for a time when they were home, safe with their families, if at all, for the very youngest of our community; instead we focused on prayer; what we are so blessed to be able to turn to each and every moment of our day within our school community. Our prayers were for peace and healing. So on Tuesday, the children and I will pray for peace and we will talk about kindness and compassion and getting along and respecting others, as we have these past few weeks; because it is a day, we will be reminded, in our lessons and in our prayers, that God has called us to be his instruments of peace and goodness and hope and love and it all begins with each one of us. I know you will join me in prayer for the victims of that tragic day and for their families and friends; and for a prayer of peace for our children and the world that will be theirs to care for and lead years from now, a world we continue to pray and hope will be filled with peace for them and all mankind.

We continue to build upon the foundations of our faith and hope; and of kindness and respect in our little family, the learning community we are building and shaping is coming along wonderfully! The heat interruptions have caused a little turbulence in our planned first day journeys; but the children have been such troopers, going with the flow and being cooperative and attentive. They are so excited that you will be visiting their "aircraft" on Thursday evening and look forward to you seeing where they spend their days learning and teaching!

I look forward to visiting with all of you on Thursday evening and sharing a tour of our space and our daily routines. Please note the evening begins with an HSA General Meeting at 6:30pm. You will then have the opportunity to visit our classroom.

Please be sure to refer to the school newsletter for updates on upcoming events and other school news!

May God's Peace be with you today and every day!

Warm Regards,
Mrs. B

Destination: READING

We read our first story in our anthology, *A Package for Mrs. Jewls*. The children loved the story, as it was a humorous fiction selection about school. This week we will reread the the story to focus on different story elements to refresh our skills in identifying and providing supporting details. We will also read a Reader's Theater selection on gravity, which ties in with the story and as we love connections, also ties in with our first Science unit of the year! Working with paired text like this is very valuable in building their reading comprehension skills across the curriculum.

Our spelling list is not the one associated with the reading, but instead we are focusing on a list with prefixes. We have been talking about the wonder of words and how we will work towards learning more about Greek and Latin Roots that we can use in our word attack strategies for vocabulary. We are also using this lesson to learn and practice spelling routines and how quizzes and tests are given. We will have a check-in quiz on Friday, 9/7 to see what words we have mastered and what words we need to focus on for Wednesday's test.

Vocabulary for the story was introduced this week, next week we will focus on the vocabulary and constructing reader responses to questions based on the story.

I will be sending out a separate email about our class novels for the year. For now we are doing STEM work and other curriculum based activities related to our summer reading books.

The children are working with Ms. Damalas on writing and grammar; but, we are also addressing these in our classroom through our ELA block on Friday; and throughout the curriculum. I have had the children do several writing activities with me so that I can get an accurate read of their stamina, style, and application of writing conventions. I will focus more on writing in the content areas rather than the writing workshop styles.

Destination: MATH

This week we focused on place value and how to determine the value of a digit within a whole number. We will be focusing on getting to better understand how the digits in a number relate to each other and being able to compare their values both higher to lower and lower to higher. This is not an easy concept, and we are working on learning different strategies and finding the one that works best for us. In our first chapter we will be working with addition and subtraction to one million. As part of this, the children are beginning to understand, more and more, why it is important to know their basic math facts.

We will be working consistently on our multiplication drills, and as we have learned the connection of multiplication and division through fact families, and if you know 1 fact, you know 4, I will begin to introduce division practice and drills in upcoming weeks. I will also be using mixed operation drills from time to time so that they work on paying attention to details of what operation they are working on within a problem.

Destination: RELIGION

Next week we will continue our journey with Jesus as we learn more about how He is the way, the truth, and the life. We will be talking more about walking in Jesus' footsteps and being more like Christ in the way we interact with each other. A part of our weekly lessons will also be focused on parts of the mass and our prayer life. The children and I have started to share and discuss scripture; we will be using this for our reflections, as well as bringing us closer to Christ, the master storyteller and teacher!

Destination: SCIENCE

Our first unit of Science is Energy and Motion; and how exciting that it not only weaves into some of our upcoming reading selections; but it also ties into our summer reading. Our first lessons on Energy, Speed, and Moving Objects gives us many opportunities to connect to our reading and use STEM to make connections. We will also be learning about cause and effect and tie this in with our lessons of identifying cause and effect. *Tales of Despereaux* and the *Wright Brothers* are excellent books to begin our connections. For science we will have application work, including visits to the lab, as well as vocabulary work. Next week we will begin with some fundamentals about Energy and Motion, and get started with our note-taking skills.

There is still so much to share; so many new things, and I will try not to overwhelm you with too much information. You will hear more about our Growth Mindset on Thursday evening. I have been using this for several years and the positive atmosphere it creates for learning and giving the children more confidence and stick with it attitudes; and the children adapt to it quickly as you see it in the perseverance they show in their daily work. I will be sharing more, with you, about Empowering Our Learners and Genius Hour, as well as the importance of Service Learning in our classroom. We are off to a great start, our family is coming together with care and respect; and they are being asked to demonstrate ownership and responsibility for their learning, which I am seeing take form in many positive ways for each learner and as a group.

Our big focus has been on organization, both in and out of the classroom. We are using our TRAVEL binders with three folders: Blue, Green, and Red. Here is how we are using them to make sure we don't misplace or throw out important papers. Blue is for any homework we have that needs to come back to school. Green is for our Study Materials; this includes reviewed homework and any other study materials we might be given for upcoming quizzes and tests. The papers in the Blue and Green folders shouldn't be removed to be left at home at any point. The Red folder is for Parent Review and Left at Home Items. These included graded papers, notices, and study materials, once a test has been passed. The papers in the Red folder can be removed and left at home. Our planner is in the front part of our binder; and we have several clear sleeves to put reference sheets in during different units of study. We will swap these out as needed. We will be adding more organization through our binder system as the days go by; but, for now we are going to get the folder handling under way; and so far so great!!

Test jumps for Flight 4B:

Wednesday, 9/12...Spelling Test

Thursday, 9/13.....Place Value Quiz

Friday, 9/14.....Reading Vocabulary Test

WE NEED A FEW ADDITIONAL CREW members...

FLIGHT 4B NEEDS A ROOM PARENT!

4B is looking for a Room Parent; we are a lovely crew with a lot of enthusiasm and would so appreciate having one or two parents volunteer to help us coordinate several events through the year. You are welcome to form your own crew for tasks, but I will need one or two parents to be our main point of contact for HSA and school events. Please let me know if you'd like to join our wonderful crew this year; we'd love to have you join us!! With your help, the sky isn't the limit as to what we can accomplish!

FLIGHT 4B NEEDS Lunch/Recess PARENTS!

If you can help during our lunch and/or recess time, we would appreciate having extra hands and eyes to help us care for our precious cargo during this time. This year, fourth grade has lunch and recess with grades 1-3. We have recess 11:50-12:10, and lunch 12:13-12:38; if you can help us, please send me an email with the day(s) you would like to sign up to join us.

As we maneuver through these first weeks, thank you for your support, your patience, and most of all for entrusting me with your precious cargo each school day!