***Mrs. D’Aprix’s Second Grade News***

*Week of October 15, 2019*

*Saint Kateri School Mission Statement*

*We at Saint Kateri School strive to continue to develop each child’s relationship with God by providing a Christ-centered Catholic academic education focused on the Gospel message of love, responsibility and service to others.*

**Marvelous Math**

Our second grade students really **love math**! We continue to practice **seeing patterns** in the various types of equations we solve. Every year we hear from parents who are **not familiar with some of the vocabulary and strategies** we now use to help students **understand the mathematical concepts** that underlie the problem-solving they are asked to do.

What we have found is that students are **much more successful** in math as they go through school if they **really understand why numbers work the way they do.** As a result, we are now teaching students to **purposefully apply different strategies** when solving a variety of problems. These are the things **we do automatically** **as adults** when we are in a store or in other places where we use numbers. No one really taught us to use numbers in a certain way … we just do what works for us.

For example, when we are solving an equation such as **6+3+6**, we automatically **add the two sixes** together to get 12, and **then add on the 3**. In second grade math, we teach students to **see the double and add it first,** even when the double numbers are not next to each other.

Continuing with this thinking, we also practice a strategy called **near doubles**. In an equation like **6+3+7**, a student can recognize that **7 is only one more than 6**, so s/he can add the doubles (6+6), add the 1 leftover from the 7 (12+1), and then add the 3 (13+3).

We also use a strategy called **making ten**. Second grade students find adding a number to ten is fairly easy … 10+2=12; 10+3=13 and so on. In an equation like 9+5, a student can “take“ 1 from the 5 and add it to the 9 to “make ten”. The equation then becomes 10+4 … a much easier equation to solve.

To help your student practice the above strategies, it is **very helpful** for them to know **doubles facts to 20** (1+1; 2+2; 3+3 … up to 10+10) and the **facts for making ten** (0+10; 1+9: 2+8; 3+7; 4+6; 5+5; 6+4; 7+3; 8+2; 9+1 and 0+10). Attached you will find a page that lists some **websites** that you can **use at home** with your student to **practice math facts**. We will also continue to practice these facts in school.

Due to the size of our class, for the next few weeks, **Mrs. Payne and I** will be splitting the class for some **instruction and practice** so students will receive **more 1:1 time** with a teacher. **The groups are not based on academic need** … each group has a mix of students. Group composition **may change** from week to week as needed.

**Math Splash**

Last week an information sheet on **Math Splash** was sent home by **Mrs. Payne,** our math AIS teacher. **Math Splash** is a free **online program** that provides a **fun** way for your student to **practice math** at home. Mrs. Payne brought all of our second grade students to our **SKS technology lab** to teach them how to use this resource. Everyone seemed to really enjoy this program, and its use at home is **highly encouraged**. If prompted, our class code is **AVMSMV**.

**SKS Halloween Celebration**

On **Thursday, October 31**, our SKS community will celebrate **Halloween**! Second grade students **may wear their costumes to school** so they will be ready for the **school-wide parade** to begin at **9:00**. Parents are invited to gather in the school parking lot (weather permitting) to cheer as our SKS students parade by. Later in the day, all classes will participate in **Halloween Bingo**.

As for costumes, please **sign and return** the **Halloween costume guideline form** that was sent home last week. On Halloween, each student should have an **alternative outfit to wear** in case s/he gets tired of wearing a costume all day.

Our **class party** will be held from **12:45-1:45** in our classroom. Thanks to all who signed up to send in treats for our party! A special thank you goes to our room moms … **Ms. Alyssa Poluch, Mrs. Monica O’Brien, Ms. Jen Reulbach, Mrs. Laura Owens** and **Ms. Diana Estrella** for helping organize our festivities. ☺ We could still use some **parent helpers** during the party. If you’d like to **celebrate with us on Halloween**, please contact me at **susan.d’aprix@dor.org**.

**Walkathon**

**Walkathon Day** was a huge **success**! Thanks so much to **Mrs. Peco** who organized an amazing tenth anniversary celebration complete with **snacks, painting,** a Helmer Nature Center presentation on **bats,** a **karate** demonstration, **bounce houses** … and of course, **walking!!!** Our class **tallied the miles** we walked … each student walked a **minimum of two miles**, and one energetic student walked a total of **six miles**. The **total mileage** for our class was **54.5 miles** … what a terrific effort for students that are 6, 7 or 8 years old!

Thank you also to the **many parents who volunteered** … without you, we could not have a day like this. **Many thanks also to all who donated so generously!** Proceeds from the Walkathon will be used to buy additional materials for our new **STEAM Lab.**

**General Reminders**

**Splash Math October Class Code: AVMSMV**

**Scholastic Book Order Code: P9PYN**

**Monday, Oct 21 …** St. Kateri Prayer Service

**October 23-29 …** Red Ribbon Week

**Thursday, Oct 31** … Halloween Parade and Class Party