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

*Week of September 23, 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.*

 **Second Grade Scientists**

This week our second grade scientists began writing in their science journals. After singing the **Scientific Method Rap,** our students discussed each step of the ***scientific method*** that we will be using in our second grade science experiments. Steps include asking ***questions*** (inquiry); making an educated ***guess*** (hypothesis); ***predicting*** an outcome; conducting an ***experiment*** (with ***observations)*** and drawing ***conclusions*** (finding an answer to our original question.) Our scientists are putting the scientific method into practice by conducting **The Great Banana Experiment** with our wonderful volunteer, retired SKS teacher, Mrs. Chris Smith … ask your scientist to tell you all about it!

**Second Grade Readers and Writers**

We experimented with several ways to interact with text as we read and reread ***Iris and Walter*** from our reading textbook, **Reading Street** (Pearson Scott-Foresman.) We listened to the teacher read, we read as a group, we read silently to ourselves and we took turns reading with a partner. We look forward to beginning ***Readers’ Theater***. In ***Readers’ Theater***, each textbook story has been rewritten as a script. We take turns

performing our script using our voices and our faces. We will learn that ***Readers’ Theater*** is different from a staged play in that we do not use costumes, scenery, make-up or blocking. We have also begun to work in our ***Daily Reading Practice Book***. This practice book gives us the opportunity to reinforce the skills and strategies we use every day when reading. **Pages from the practice book will be sent home occasionally for homework.**

**Spelling (Word Study) Homework**

As you are aware, second grade spelling word study will focus on patterns. Please help your student complete his/her word study homework every week. In a typical week, the homework will be as follows:

**Monday:** Students sort words and read them out loud to a family member.

**Tuesday:** Students write words in categories, using ***blue*** for **consonants** and ***red*** for **vowels**.

**Wednesday:** Students choose two words from each category and **write sentences** using proper **spelling** and **punctuation**.

**Thursday:** Students write the words in correct categories as someone reads to them.

**Friday:** Spelling test in school.

As always, **thank you for your support** with your child’s reading and word study homework!

**Homework**

Homework is an opportunity for students to practice what has been taught in school. As mentioned previously, the recommended daily amount of homework is 10 minutes per grade level. Second grade students should spend about **20-25 minutes** a night on homework. **Please check your child’s planner daily and initial when your child has completed her/his homework**. Your child will have homework most nights from Monday through Thursday. If there are any questions or concerns about homework, please do not hesitate to send a note or an email.

**Curriculum Night**

I am grateful to have had the opportunity to meet so many of our families at Curriculum Night! One important indicator of a **student’s educational success** is **family involvement** and focus on educational goals. Our second graders are fortunate to have such **strong support** from their families!

**Parent Volunteer Reminder**

As mentioned in last week’s newsletter,if you would like to **help out in our class or chaperone** any of our field trips,please remember that you must have completed the **CASE (Creating a Safe Environment)** training. CASE certification is valid for **three years**, so if you’ve taken it in the past, please be sure that your **certification is** **current**. CASE training is available **online** at ec.dor.org. (Parish: St Kateri Tekakwitha; Username: IT357; Password: initial) Please print a copy of both the **quiz results** and the **completion certificate** and bring to the **Faith Formation office.**

**Label All Belongings**

Please **label** all of yourchild’s belongings with her/his name, including **coats, hats, mittens, boots, backpacks, lunch boxes, water bottles** and **SKS sweatshirts**. Thank you so much!

**Thank You!**

Thank you to all of our families who have sent in their child’s **school supplies**. Our second graders have been putting them to very good use! We so appreciate those who have sent in extra supplies such as extra **cleaning wipes**, **Kleenex, paper towels and zip-top bags.** As you can imagine, we do use a great deal of Kleenex and paper towels throughout the year!

**General Reminders**

**Scholastic Book Order Code: P9PYN**

**October 9-16 …** online orders for November hot lunches

**Tuesday, Oct 1 …** School Mass 8:45; hot lunch begins (pre-orders only)

**Tuesday, Oct 8** … Quiet Mass, Grades 2/5

**Wednesday, Oct 9 …** Walkathon (wear **Spirit Shirts** and **comfortable shoes**; bring labeled **water bottle**)

**Friday, Oct 11 …** Superintendent’s Day

**Monday, Oct 14 …** Columbus Day Holiday