

FIRST GRADE



Dear Parents,

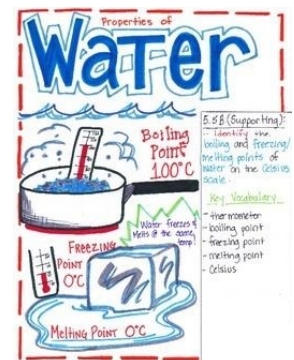
I wanted to take this opportunity to thank all of you for supporting our Halloween and Thanksgiving celebrations. The children had a great time and were very excited to have parents in the classroom to help celebrate. These activities would not have been possible without the special volunteers and all those parents who provided supplies for the celebrations. Thank you!



First grade will be working hard in the coming month to improve our comparing and grouping skills in math. We will be focusing on graphing and finding the mean, median, and mode in number sets. The children will be working with collecting data through surveys and arranging it in pictographs, bar graphs, real graphs, and pie charts. These comparing skills will also be applied in language arts as we begin to write comparative and opinion pieces in our writers workshop. The children will be learning about Venn diagrams and how they can be used to help categorize information.



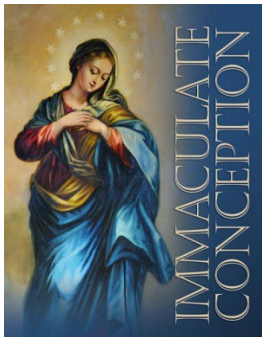
Our science curriculum in the month of December will continue to focus on solids, liquids, and gases. We will be focusing on how melting, mixing, evaporating, and freezing can have an effect on a variety of elements. This will include a few hands-on activities which the children are looking forward to. We will also be learning about the life cycle of a plant by continuing to examine the pumpkin seeds we planted in November. Thank you for your donations! The children enjoyed all the pumpkin activities last month!



As we move into the season of Advent, we will be focusing on the real reason for celebrating Christmas--the birth of Jesus. We have begun discussing the importance of caring for those in need, especially during the Advents and Christmas seasons.

Along with the idea of giving during this season, we have also begun to discuss gifts we can give to baby Jesus for his birthday. The children have been told that the best gifts we can give Jesus are kind words and actions. We will be decorating a Christmas tree together and placing "Gifts" for Jesus under the tree. Each child will be given gift wrap and asked to write something they can do for others that will be a gift for Jesus on his birthday. In addition to our class Christmas tree, we will have a small celebration in the classroom. More information will come to you via email as we get closer to the date.

IMPORTANT DATES



I wanted to remind you of some important days for December. There is a school Mass **Friday, December 8th** at 11:00 and dress uniform is required. The Advent program will take place in the church on **Wednesday, December 13th** at 6:00 p.m. **Friday, December 15th** we will have our annual Sing-A-long in the hall at 11:30. Friday is a minimum day; daycare will not be available on this date. All children must be picked up at 12:00.



As always, I thank you for your support. I want to remind you that I'm here for you and your children who are constant reminders, to me, of God's great love.

Thank you,
Mrs. Barrios

December Words

Advent	habitat	wreath	symbol
nativity	living	Venn diagram	survey
tally	fact families	pie chart	data
roots	chart stem	save	range
nutrients	weather	volunteer	mode
leaves	rain	water	median
air	candy cane	sunlight	real graph
dirt	forest	gingerbread	picture graph
Christmas	star	reindeer	
Apostles	angel	staking	
pine	liturgical calendar	pictograph	