



September 16, 2011

### **Religion**

This week we finished our Mass books and are bringing them home to share soon. Please take time to read them and practice the prayers with your child. Help your child to be mindful of using their right hand when praying the Sign of the Cross.

We also took some time to talk about God's Special Book- The Bible. We shared the creation story. The Old Testament story reveals how God our Father in heaven is also our Creator.

### **Literacy**

We have been busy this week looking at alliteration and beginning letter sounds. We've read lots of great book exploring the alphabet and have even made a few of our own class books. One of our favorite activities this week was looking for "lost letters" in our classroom. Look for a class book to come home soon. FYI: When a class book comes home with your child, please try to read it in a night or two and then send it back to school the next day so we can pass it on to the next student!

### **Math**

We focused on direction words this week during math. Learning left and right can be tricky, but an important descriptor for students to learn. We taught this skill by making a book to go along with our Right Hand poem.

*"This is my right hand. I shake hands with my right hand. I say the pledge of allegiance with my right hand. I make the sign of the cross with my right hand. This is my right hand."*

We also practiced this skill by asking students to follow these directions on their paper: draw a blue cloud on the left side, a yellow sun on the right side, a red flower on the left side, and green grass on the right side. This can be a fun and easy way to practice the skill at home.

### **Social Studies**

During our first unit of social studies, we are understanding ourselves, families, and community. This week we talked about what makes us special and some of our individual interests. We also explored our families. We found that every family is different and unique. This week we also looked at our homes and our addresses. A kindergarten expectation is that students know their street address, city, and state. Please work on this skill not only to meet the kindergarten expectation, but also as an important safety precaution.

## **Handwriting**

We have been practicing some letters using our wood pieces during handwriting. We also played a sign in game that helped the students focus on starting the letters at the top and stopping at the line. As a large group we have been working in our handwriting workbooks. One thing to point out, the style of writing we are learning is different from the D'Nealian style. D'Nealian has many loops, curves, and tails that can be difficult for children to form at this age. Handwriting Without Tears takes more of a "big line, little line, big curve, little curve" approach. Always remind your child to form the letters from top to bottom and left to right. If you would like more information, visit the website! [www.hwtears.com](http://www.hwtears.com)

## **Lunch**

Lunch has been very successful! The kids are getting used to the lunch process. Please ask your child what they ate for lunch everyday and encourage them to try all things on their tray. We have noticed some students are only drinking their milk and taking one bite. We do not want anyone to be hungry in the afternoon! Please check the lunch menu if you have a picky eater.

**COLD LUNCH STUDENTS:** If your child wants milk for lunch they can have it charged to their lunch account.

## **Important Reminders**

We will begin making a class book next week on rhyming words. **Please have your student bring in two rhyming objects from home. (Example: a sock and a rock)** Please have the objects in a bag with your student's name clearly marked on the bag. They will share the objects with the other students and then we will take their picture for the class book. We would like to have all objects at school by Wednesday, September 21<sup>st</sup>. Have fun helping your student find some creative rhyming objects.

Have a great weekend!

Mrs. Crandell

Mrs. Howard

Mrs. Morris