

November 29, 2016

Dear Parents,

Happy New Year! I'm referring to the new year that begins in the church calendar. Advent begins our Liturgical year anew and we have spent the past few mornings with Pastor Dave Wegner learning about the colors and symbols that make up the church year. We will spend the rest of the week on this topic before focusing on the season of Advent.

This part of the school year requires a great deal of flexibility. We have many special opportunities that will interrupt normal instruction. For example this Thursday, Ms. Sprecher comes to give an art lecture on Madonna and Child and a special art project will follow. Also in this folder is a note about a special pizza lunch that will allow us to raise funds to make stockings for the Night Ministry (due on Friday 12/2). We have a full schedule of Christmas Eve rehearsals and will move around academics to ensure that all subjects are covered. One other change for the month of December is that I am teaching Social Studies. The timing is perfect as Miss Washburn and I are using the content of the Social Studies text to demonstrate another study skill called Study Stack (www.studystack.com). Ask your student about how this technology tool can be used to study.

In Reading, we began our first novel study yesterday. It's a classic 1967 novel that might even be familiar to some of you, *The Mixed Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler*. Students have a folder and some colorful tools to keep daily work. I'll balance this classic read with a mini unit on graphic novels before Christmas arrives. These comic style of books are here to stay and involves a different set of "reading" skills. I must admit that my appreciation for graphic novels has steadily increased through the years and it a style of reading that most fifth graders find very inviting.

Together in Christ,

Ruth Massmann

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