

December 13, 2016

Dear Fifth Grade Families,

The December school days are busy ones. We have Christmas Eve rehearsal every day and finesse the schedule as needed to insure that academics stay on track. It is especially important for students to be organized during these weeks when the schedule fluctuates and remain focused academically.

Our academic studies have included several weeks of study skills in practice. We worked in Science with graphic note-taking or mapping. Those students who learn visually prefer this method as words and pictures splash on the page colorfully to reinforce content. This week we will use those notes, eleven sheets in total, and students will have an opportunity to "be the teacher" and write the test and answer key for the Monster Storms Unit. Another study skill that we have been experimenting with is a technology based program called Study Stack. Students who enjoy time with electronics tend to like this method of review. We made a class "stack" for the Chapter 5 Social Studies test so that students could review content at home. We spent several class periods last week practicing how to respond to essay questions. The formula is essentially the same, regardless of content area, and is very important for students to understand and master. We wrote two of the three essay responses as a class so that all students could study full credit responses for the test as part of their preparation. The Social Studies test is included in the folder this week.

Last week we enjoyed pizza lunch and raised more than \$500 for the Night Ministry. The money was used to purchase items such as gloves, socks, toothpaste & toothbrushes, gum, playing cards, and more that was lovingly packed by students into Christmas stockings for those in need. The kids really love the hands-on opportunities of service and I thank you for your generosity and example of serving that makes this possible.

Also, a reminder and a request as we enter these winter days. I like to take the kids outside for recess whenever possible (Mondays and Wednesdays for certain). Please send appropriate gear in which to do so. Fresh air and an open field give us an opportunity to blow off some steam unless dangerous temperatures occur which means we will stay in the gym. Finally, please send in any old magazines or catalogs that may fill your mailbox these days that are no longer needed as we regularly seek opportunities to locate grammar in context.

Together in Christ,

Mrs. Massmann

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