Dear K-5 Parents, April 27, 2018

Even though our remaining time together is short, the kindergarten classes are very busy with end-of-the-year activities! One of the most exciting is the Kindergarten Science Fair, which begins Monday, May 14. Briefly, each child has a different “theme bottle” that they will have created at home with your help. They love sharing their “creations” with the class, and we love the excitement about science!!! You will receive more detailed information the week of April 30th.

We know the children don't always share with parents all the aspects of their kindergarten day so we thought you might like to know some highlights of what is taking place in our classrooms these last few weeks !

1. With May coming up and being the month for honoring Mary, we will be learning the beautiful "Hail Mary" prayer and why she is so special to us here at Queen of Peace. Please continue to practice at home.
2. May is also the time we honor our mothers. We are planning a Mother’s Tea on May 10th. For those attending the Mother’s Day Tea – please go directly to the Gathering Space. You do not need to sign in at the school office. The Tea is at 2:15. The teachers do appreciate knowing ahead of time if a child does not have a family member attending.
3. We had an author visit us and she read her book to us! We got to ask her questions and learn how a book is created. Since we have been writing our own books we had very good questions. Her name is Sally Schnarr and her book is called Sally’s Stone. We painted stones with our Faith Friends. Then, we had a prayer service outside and hid our stones around our school!
4. We also had Kindermusik on Friday and we were able to play instuments and dance with butterfly puppets to the sounds of different kinds of horns.
5. In math we are strengthening subtraction concepts, as well as reviewing addition. We have also begun our study of clocks and telling time!
6. Your child may mention working in their math folder, either as a math center activity or independent work. These folders are already set up with about 25 math papers, and the child works at their own pace, going on to the next page as they finish one. We've been very pleased at how excited the children are with these folders. Some have asked to "play" with their math folders during free-choice time. Words teachers love!! Look for these to come home during the last week of school.
7. We continue to present common sight words to the children. Not all children are developmentally ready for this - don't be concerned if your child isn't accomplishing this yet, but please continue to practice at home.
8. Speaking of writing . . . many of the children are still having reversals, both with letters and numbers. This is very common at the kindergarten level, and may continue towards the end of first grade. The more you can encourage your child's number writing and letter printing the better!
9. We have had loads of fun going to the first grade rooms for reading parties. The kindergartners now are comfortable with knowing these teachers, and their biggest concern about first grade has been relieved: yes, there are toys in each of these rooms!!
10. Speaking about next year, our kindergarten day has become closer to what a first grader's day is like. This includes working quietly, listening and following verbal directions. While it probably sounds simplistic, just staying seated correctly is something we are still working on! Interrupting and calling out are other areas we continue to address.
11. As always, a major part of kindergarten is addressing social issues and settling differences. Using words to express feelings continues to be a skill we work on. Along with this is learning the responsibility of listening to, and respecting, a friend's words. What life-long skills!!

Mark your calendars for the end-of-year K-4/5 Mini Field Day on Thursday, May 31st.

Cross your fingers for good weather. If we do have to cancel due to rain we will still have our End of the year singing program from 9:30 to 9:50 in the church. On the day of the program please quietly wait in the gathering space because the K4 students will be having their End of the Year Program right before us. Each child should wear QP Spirit Wear, their Fun Run shirt, or a blue/white shirt for this special event.

 **IMPORTANT DATES:**

 May 4 Launching Into Kindergarten Day! K4 kids come to K5 classrooms and K5 kids visit

 First grade in the am. K5 has school all day!

 May 10 Mother’s Day Tea in Gathering Space at 2:15

May 11 No School – Teacher Inservice

May 14 Science Fair projects due (more info will be coming soon!)

May 16 8:30 a.m. All School Mass planned and led by K5 students

May 28 No School – Memorial Day

May 31 Field Day and End of Year Program 9:30-9:50 in church ~ wear QP Spirit Wear,

 Fun Run shirt, or Blue/White shirt

June 1 Last Day of School! All School Mass 10:15 Dismissal 11:30 a.m.

Thank you for reading this very long but important newsletter!

 Have a wonderful weekend!

Carol Albertini and Mary Curtin