



Dear Third Grade Families,

Our first month of school has flown by! I have so enjoyed getting to know and work with your students! They are a delightfully energetic bunch! Our routines are running smoothly, and every day shows their improvement as a class.

We have successfully finished the fall round of **MAP testing** and the data this provides is extremely helpful in planning lesson instruction at your child's level. With that knowledge I will be able to make use of the many parent and grandparent volunteers to support excellent academic growth. Look forward to coming into the classroom to work with a small group in completing their learning activities. The spring MAP testing should show each child's personal academic growth.

This month's **Top 20 social/emotional focus** is on creating a culture of learning, and to do this we need to help others succeed, we need to communicate that everyone matters, and if we see a problem, we need to own it and fix it.

For stronger **Math** fluency, practice the 2's, 3's, 4's, 5's, and 10's multiplication facts at home. Start with learning facts by skip counting (2,4,6,8,10...) and then building their memorization by stating them in random mixed order ($2 \times 7 = \underline{\quad}$, $2 \times 3 = \underline{\quad}$, $2 \times 8 = \underline{\quad}$). We will be making keyring flashcards at school for kids to practice with EVERYWHERE! Families, please help your child master their multiplication facts. Save the remaining digits for later...it is on purpose that only these numbers are introduced first.

In our **Language Arts**, we have explored nouns and verbs in grammar, learned new vocabulary words, and written summaries with our stories. The students are working on reading the directions carefully before starting their work and following my modeled example to help them get it right. Every evening at home students should practice both silent reading and oral reading for at least 20 minutes. This is essential for optimal progress in all school subjects! Read to the cat! Read to the teddy bear! Read to Mom and Dad! Be sure to check out the new Scholastic Books catalog the first week of October, will orders due by Halloween.

Our first **Science** unit taught us how clouds form, why they look white, and what some of the various kinds of cloud are called. Check the skies with your child and ask them which type of clouds they see and whether it will storm or not. Does anyone know of a real-life meteorologist that might come talk to the class about clouds and storms? We can host them in person or via Zoom! A cool virtual guest speaker!

In **Social Studies** we are learning about communities. We discussed how we can be citizens in several communities, and we can enjoy the cultures of people from different communities too. We may belong

to a school community, a faith community, a cultural community, a sports community, and more! Communities have government and laws, and businesses provide for people's wants and needs. Help your student learn these important vocabulary terms by talking about communities at home.

The first prayer to memorize for third graders is the **Apostle's Creed**. Please use the sheet protected copy your child has in their folder to tackle it in three parts: God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit. This needs to be mastered before Christmas break, and your child should be able to recite it by heart independently. Mrs. Rutherford will send information soon on how students can train to become altar servers or Mass helpers.

Thank you for your kind support during this first month of school! Let me know if you have any questions or concerns. I appreciate serving this amazing ICRS community!

Blessings,

Malia Santucci

Grade 3 Teacher

Immaculate Conception Regional School

