



The WORD

from Two White



St. Joseph Catholic School

What Are We Up to in 2 White???

It has been a busy first month in Second Grade White! The children are getting used to the responsibility of copying the daily Assignment book as well as learning the new rules and procedures that come along with being a whole year older in a new classroom.

I have been pleased with their adjustment thus far. We all still have room for growth, but overall we are moving along nicely.

Spelling began the second week of school. The procedures for completing all homework are detailed in the children's Spelling notebook, please refer there, if you have questions. I will give a brief overview of the Word Study program we are using in 2nd grade and how this benefits your child at our Parent-Teacher conference.

Math has us turning our focus to reviewing subtrac-

tion this week. Timed tests will still be given weekly, so keep practicing those math facts! I'm looking for a 90% passing rate as an indication of mastery.

The genre and parts of a story are two of the points we have been focusing on in **Reading** thus far. We have just completed a fun apple tasting today, to wrap up reading a play about Johnny Appleseed. Fantasy and informational are two of the other types of stories we have read thus far.

A review of manuscript letters has started our year in **Handwriting**. We are preparing to begin cursive later in the school year.

The children's 4th journal entry was turned in today for **Writing/English**. The class has also been reviewing the concepts of creating proper sentences and choosing a good topic for a paragraph. Please see the

article below for more important, specific details about what is expected from our 2nd graders with respect to their writing.

Please see the reverse side for information on Religion!

Letters detailing our current and upcoming **Science** and **Social Studies** curriculums were sent home earlier this month. The children are enjoying switching classes like the older students and this movement provides a great learning opportunity for them to stay organized and be prepared with the correct folder and tools.

Thank you for your wonderful support thus far. We are off to a good start and I look forward to helping the children open their "Heart of Learning" as we continue to lead them along the path of growth together.

Second Grade Writing Expectations

When working with your child at home on written homework, please remind them that:

- 1) 2nd grade sentences have at least 6 words in them.
- 2) When completing Spelling sentences, only 1 of the sentences may begin with the word 'I'.

3) When responding to a question, the question should be restated in the response:

Question: What is your favorite color?
Response: My favorite color is...

Please remember that you should be reviewing their

Spelling sentences and Building Family Faith responses for correct spelling. You may chose to make corrections as they go along, or after they have completed the work, but you should be reviewing and correcting it with them.

Thank you for helping your child "Do Their Best!"

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Snack Reminder!

Snacks must only be sent in which are:

- Fresh Fruit (fruit cups are OK)
- Fresh Vegetables
- Yogurt / Cheese
- Water, Milk or Juice

Additionally, the children's water bottles are to **ONLY** have water in them, no juice or flavored drinks.

Thank you for observing our school policy!

Holiday Fun!

Looking for a fun online activity you can try with your child for the upcoming Halloween holiday? Check out: http://www.abcya.com/pumpkin_carving.htm for an interactive page where you can carve your own jack-o-lantern and then click a button to illuminate it. You can then print it out or save it to your computer. Fair Warning - They'll want to try over and over again!

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**We Believe in the
Greatness in Every Child!**

Visit Our Class
Website!

[http://sjcherndon.org/
sjsnew/TwoWhite/
TwoWhiteHome.htm](http://sjcherndon.org/sjsnew/TwoWhite/TwoWhiteHome.htm)

Simply Succinct

Interested in the How or Why of our **classroom arrangement**? We are using Kagan Strategies. Visit here: http://www.kaganonline.com/free_articles/dr_spencer_kagan/research_in_nutshell.php to read a brief article about why this approach works so well with learners of all ages.

Practice Math Facts online!

Check out: <http://www.mathmastery.com/cyberchallenge/index.html> for a great practice site.



Try TumbleBooks for a great online database of illustrated children's books that you can read manually or set to automatic and have them read to you and your child. This is a great resource for readers of all levels.

http://www.tumblebooks.com/library/auto_login.asp?U=fairfax&P=fairfax



Hurrah! Hurrah! The class has filled our first bucket! We finished the week with a special event marking this exciting occasion. Each child received their own personal stamp and 'bucket filler' folder, complete with drops for them to personalize and send to others. The 'drops' allow them to thank another person for the positive effect they have in their life. We had our first taste of being bucket fillers in this manner, as we wrote drops for staff members in the school, recognizing them for their contribution to our class.

What to learn more about why we are bucket fillers? Visit:

<http://www.inspirationalstories.com/cgi-bin/printer.pl?458> for a summary of the 'bucket filler' stories we have read in class.

Sacramental Preparation



We have finished Unit 1 in our **Religion** book this week. The children learned about the gifts God has given us and how we were received into the church in the sacrament of Baptism. We next turn our focus to the Ten Commandments as we begin our initial discussion of the sacrament of Penance / Reconciliation.

Over the next few months we will be extending what your child has learned in kindergarten and 1st grade with relation to their faith. You will also see them begin to have a deeper understanding of what it means to be active members of the church, as we discuss how they are an important part of our community here at St. Joseph.

As part of our curriculum, the children are required to know the parts of the mass and the responses we say during that celebration. To further encourage

their active participation, we will be discussing the message they heard in the sermon each week, so I thank you in advance for your continued attendance with them at Sunday mass.

We have reviewed the correct way to make the Sign of the Cross, to genuflect, and the proper posture while at mass. As you attend on Sundays, please check that your child is blessing themselves properly, genuflecting with the right knee and sitting and kneeling upright while at mass.

Written completion of the Building Family Faith assignment for each chapter, will continue to be a staple in the children's learning and deepening of their faith. (Please make sure your child is the one writing the responses. They should have 3 sentences written per bullet point.)

DATES TO REMEMBER

First Penance – Tuesday,
January 12, 2012 9:00 AM

Terra Nova Testing – Week
of April 23, 2012

First Eucharist – Saturday,
May 12, 2012 11:30 AM

May Crowning Mass –
Friday, May 18, 2012
9:00 AM

Check out our class website [Special Events](#) page for more details.



Want more details on what we're covering next? Check out:

<http://www.loyolapress.com/whats-my-child-learning-in-christ-our-life-grade-2-unit-2.htm>