

Mrs. Wilson's Fourth Grade Newsletter

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March 8, 2021

Lenten Mass, Forgiveness

Fourth grade will lead the school as we celebrate mass on Thursday, March 18. Our theme is forgiveness. Our entire fourth grade class is welcome in the church. I've asked that we be the only class in-person. All other classes and fourth grade zoomers will participate through the parish live stream services, found at <https://www.olgseattle.org/livestreaming-at-olg>

In person participants will experience the same (or greater) social distancing we have in our classroom and are welcome to receive communion. The parish webpage has a lot of information on mass during Covid times. I found this page most helpful to know what safeguards are in place and envision how communion works. Blessings are also touchless. <https://olgseattle.org/preparing-for-public-masses> Note: No parish registration needed for our class.

This week students and I will break open the scripture for March 18. We will talk about forgiveness, read through the readings and intercessions. By the end of the week we will have our readers. Those students will need to practice at home.

The theme of Forgiveness works well with our Religion curriculum. As part of our study of making moral decisions, fourth graders learn that sin is a choice that offends God and hurts our relationships with others. We really can't talk about sin without talking about forgiveness. Next trimester we study Spiritual Works of Mercy, acts of compassion that help others with emotional and spiritual needs: instruct, advise, comfort, console, bear wrongs patiently, **forgive**.

Science:

Fourth graders continue their study of Energy. This month our focus is Waves. We ask "How are waves involved in energy transfer? How does light travel? How can you make a motor run faster using solar cells?" Fourth graders learn energy is at work everywhere. Students identify sources of energy and some of the mechanisms by which energy is moved from place to place (energy transfer).

Waves present an interesting challenge for students. Using water, rope and slinkies, fourth graders can model wave patterns. Moving the rope up and down with a lot of energy makes big waves (greater amplitude). Moving the rope back and forth quickly makes a lot of waves (higher frequency). The more energy, the greater the amplitude. The faster the back and forth motion (vibration) the higher the frequency. Building on these models, we then consider other kinds of waves that have similar properties but are harder to detect. Sound waves and light waves have properties of frequencies and amplitude.

I am hopeful we'll have some sun this week as we explore light waves... I know, living where we do, I've got flashlights ready. Good times ahead!

Dates to Remember:

Tuesday, 3-9: End of Trimester 2

Friday, 3-12: No School, Teacher In-Service

Thursday, 3-18: School Mass, sponsored by 4th grade. More information to come!

Friday, 4-2: noon dismissal, Good Friday

Spring Break from April 5 – April 9

Monday, April 12: Back to school

Scholastic Book Club Orders!

Thank you to Alexandra Thompson for organizing book purchases.

Order books online by next Monday, March 8. Use classroom code H8V76.

<https://clubs.scholastic.com/home>

Battle of the Books!

Mrs. Sommerville zoomed with our class this week to introduce our Battle of the Books competition. Fourth graders completed a survey on Friday to express their interest in this optional opportunity. I will work with students to make sure everyone who wants to participate can. Look to Mrs. Sommerville's webpage for more information:

<https://www.guadalupe-school.org/classes/library-tech/what-is-the-battle-of-the-books/2021-battle-of-the-books-family-letter/>