Tuesday, March 14, 2017

Dear Fifth Grade Families,

 What an exciting week to celebrate Lutheran Schools. It’s been so much fun to participate in the daily dress up themes and have some extra activities outside of the normal routine. The week culminates on Saturday with the annual fund-raiser, *A Graceful Evening*. It’s not too late to get tickets, contact the school office for details. Worth noting is that this year a portion of funds will be dedicated to the fine arts department to purchase special items related to music, art, and theater needs. During this Lutheran Schools week, Grace students have been asked to bring donations for the fund-in-need. As a fifth grade class, our goal is to collect $75. Thanks for your support of any kind.

 Our class worked with Miss Washburn last week to gain a better understanding of the MAP reports. It’s a learning process for all of us. In just the second year of using the MAP tests, I have observed some tremendous growth. The ability to have immediate results helps inform instruction and target areas of need. In the Fall, we made class goals in each of the content areas of Math, Reading, and Language Usage. Just last week, we re-examined the goals and made adjustments as needed with the purpose of writing a plan of action. Each student individually selected a goal area and wrote three ways that he/she planned to work on obtaining that goal. After the last round of tests in the Spring, students will have the opportunity to reflect again. I’m a fan of the procedure for multiple reasons but most importantly it gives students ownership of the learning process.

 We have been learning about the disciples in Religion class. Each student is working with a partner to create a “Guess Who” profile of a particular disciple. They have been heavily engaged in the project and through our research we have uncovered the term martyr which sparked some good conversation. Pastor Lauren Wegner will join us Thursday morning to add to our knowledge. Speaking of meaningful conversation, our novel *Tuck Everlasting* has had this chatty group silenced as I read aloud. Ask your student about the Tuck’s fountain of youth and if living ‘forever’ is a good thing or not.

Together in Christ,

Mrs. Massmann

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