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November 14 – November 18

First Grade Parents,

 Oh how I wish I could freeze time!! It is flying by!!

 For the most part, this is a “normal” week. We will have a spelling test and Bible verse test this Friday. Both should be in your child’s folder. Please be sure to practice both each night, even if it is not assigned homework.

 Our school Coat Drive ends tomorrow, November 15th. Now is the final chance to clean out those closets!! Don’t forget about our Blanket Drive, which ends December 2nd. The class that brings in the most blankets will receive a fun prize (pizza, ice cream, or a free dress day) courtesy of the PTO. The real winners are the families who will be warm this winter, though!

 This week is our week to sit at the picnic tables at lunchtime. Please volunteer for that duty if you can. No parent volunteers = no picnic tables for us.

 This Friday is Red Shirt/Blue Jeans Day in honor of our military. The cost to participate is $1 or a can of food. This event is to help HOPE feed our community families for Thanksgiving. Additional money or food would gladly be accepted.

 This Friday is also our social studies test. Some of the children said they started studying over the weekend…nice job, Parents!!!

 Next week we have a couple of fun events:

 For the past 18 years, I have baked bread for the Thanksgiving Day Mass. The breads are small loaves of pumpkin bread and cranberry orange bread. A few years ago, I thought it would be fun to make this a class service project. So, on Wednesday the 23rd, after Mass, we will commandeer Presentation Hall! Half of the class will help bake a batch of bread: cracking eggs, measuring oil, stirring, etc. while the other half of the class does a craft project. Then we switch. I need about 10 parents to come in and help with this. It really is fun! I will need some to help the kiddos make the bread, some to wrap the baked bread, some to help with the craft, and ALL to clean up. (The kiddos will be in the Hall for about an hour, but I will need parents in there until about 11:30.) Then, the next day, at the Thanksgiving Mass (Thanksgiving Day 9 AM), the priest will bless the bread. At the end of the Mass, he will call any first graders who are present to come hold a basket. The parishioners then all come forward take a loaf to eat for breakfast or as part of their Thanksgiving dinner. It is a way for us all to be connected and “share a meal” on that day. I do hope that your family will be able to come to Mass that day. It is a beautiful way to begin Thanksgiving morning and the parishioners love to see the first graders who made the bread.

 Also, on that Wednesday, we will have a class Friendship Feast. The feast consists of soup, corn bread, and dessert. There is no school lunch on the 23rd, but we will have lunch in our room at 11 AM. Tomorrow, I will send home a list of items we will need. Each family will mark any items they would be willing to bring in. I will choose one of those marked items for you. It might be 2 cans of corn or beans; it might be cornbread or pie, etc. The soup will cook while we are over baking and we will enjoy our feast together before we head home for Thanksgiving Break. It might sound confusing now, but it will make sense when it matters, I promise! I might need a parent or two in the room to help serve food.

 Thank you to the Berny Family for providing snacks this week. Next week is a short week and we will work on eating up some of the perishable foods we have in the refrigerator. The Hoban Family will be providing snacks the week after we return from Thanksgiving.

 May God Bless You,

 Mrs. Stevason