

6th Grade News...

January 6th, 2012

Dear Families,

Welcome to 2012! I hope you had a very wonderful and restful Christmas break. Thank you very much for your outpouring of generosity—particularly regarding our collection of items for the mission in Guatemala (I think our classroom collected the most!). I certainly enjoyed my time with family, but it is nevertheless very nice to be back in the classroom with the 6th Graders.

In Literature this week we began reading Mildred D. Taylor's "Roll of Thunder, Here My Cry." This is a story about a land-owning African-American family, the Logans. The story is told through the eyes of nine-year-old Cassie Logan, who, in 1933, must learn the harsh truths of her existence while a greedy, white plantation owner threatens to take away her family's farm. This is a powerful novel which provides a number of opportunities for our class to discuss facets of our nation's ugly history of racial inequality and hatred. In the novel the author is very honest and frank about the injustices and cruelty suffered by African-Americans. To accompany the storyline, we also have been discussing other injustices suffered by African-Americans in the years between the end of the Civil War and the Civil Rights era. You will notice too that our Spelling words for the next few weeks will be from this novel, which includes many challenging words.

The Geography Bee will be happening Friday, January 20th at 1:00 p.m. in our gym. Prior to this, we have begun our classroom geography bee to determine who from our classroom will compete in the school bee. Good luck, 6th Graders!

A permission form was sent home this week for a Youth Rally that will take place on Friday, February 3rd at Holy Family School in Coeur d'Alene. The cost for this day-long event is \$2. Please sign and return the form as soon as possible so that I may coordinate drivers for the event—please volunteer if you are able; you are not obligated to spend the day at the event if you drive, but you are certainly welcome. This will be the fourth year that our 6th, 7th, and 8th Graders attend this event, and students who attended in previous years had a wonderful time. In a nutshell, this event is akin to a day-long youth group meeting, and many of the middle-schoolers from other Diocesan schools will also attend. There will be fun and engaging activities that will allow your child to meet students from other schools, as well as time for prayer and reflection.

One more thing: many of the 6th Graders are running out of some school supplies such as loose-leaf paper, pencils, and red pens. Please check with your child to make sure that he or she has what is needed for our daily work.

Have a nice weekend!

Paul Kennar