

Dear Parents,

October 6, 2006

Fall greetings to you and your family. I hope the school year is going well for you at school and at home. I will be sending a sixth grade monthly newsletter home on the first Friday of each month. This newsletter will highlight what is happening in the sixth grade.

### **Religion**

The sixth grade will be studying the Old Testament this year. We are currently discussing the stories of Creation and the gift of ourselves. Along with the study of the Old Testament, we will continue to practice our lifelong guidelines and lifeskills. As part of our Catholic faith we are asked to live out the seven social teachings of the Church. One social teaching is reaching out to the poor and less fortunate of our society. The students attended a mission awareness assembly on September 25th that showed how we can reach out to the poor through our mission collections here at school. In response to this awareness, your child is designing a St. Wendelin Elementary Spirit Shirt. Each student is designing a spirit shirt which will be voted on by the student body. The student body will vote to choose the top five designs and then they will make a second vote to choose the top design that will be printed. Once printed the spirit shirts will be available for the student body to purchase. All profits will be sent to the missions.

### **Language Arts**

The sixth graders will be taking the Diocese of Toledo Writing Competency Test beginning Monday, October 9th and finishing Friday, October 13th. Please be sure that your child gets plenty of sleep each night and a healthy breakfast each morning.

### **Reading**

We will be reading *The Egypt Game* and exploring the land and people of Egypt. Along with this book we will be working on developing our vocabulary word base and our creative writing skills.

### **Spelling**

Please continue to study for tests.

## **Social Studies**

Many weeks have been spent on the skills of geography from naming world places, latitude & longitude, and coordinates to map reading & vocabulary, and time lines. In the study of Ancient Civilizations, we begin with archeology, the Stone Age, and the beginnings of farming & villages. Our study in 6th grade is set at the very early times, actually before 2,000 B.C., so we'll study the river civilizations around the Tigris & Euphrates, the Nile, and the Hwang Ho Rivers.

Parents, please be sure to check the Social Studies worksheets in the Friday packets. Too many 6th graders are not reading directions well, plus they're turning in incomplete and late work. This only leads to lower grades. Students who have had lower than C test grades can restudy and then retake a similar test to improve their averages. They needed to see me this past week.

Congratulations to those with A's & B's in Social Studies for the first mid-quarter grades. Good going for you're turning things in on time and reading directions well!

## **Science**

Overall, the students have been doing great. The test that was given last week, that all parents or guardians signed, were lower than I expected, but I think that was due to the new test format. I let the students correct their tests to gain some points back, after all we learn best from our mistakes. We are beginning a new chapter this week. We will be exploring the different types of energy through visual and hands-on explorations. There will be a vocabulary quiz and a guided reading for each section of the chapter.

## **6th Grade Math**

Without a doubt we are heavy into 6th grade math. This week you saw and signed the first Chapter Test which included Place Value, Exponents, Estimation and Equations. This chapter was heavy as will be the case all year. Your child is learning things that you and I learned in high school. In some cases I do not feel they are ready and yet it is the curriculum of our state and our diocese. In Chapter 2 we deal with Decimals. Please just make sure that they are doing math each and every evening. It is vital that they keep up. I felt honored today when a student came to me and asked, "I did poorly on my test, how can I make it up?" At this age, this desire has to come from them. I will not follow them around asking them to take something over. It is up to them. Encourage them to do so if there is concern.

## **Important Dates**

Week of Oct. 9	Writing Competency
Week of Oct. 16	Spirit Shirt Voting
Tues., Oct. 17	SW Feast Day Mass 10:30
Fri., Oct. 20	1st Quarter Ends
Tues., Oct. 24	Visit the SWHS
Oct. 23,24,25	Book Fair
Fri., Oct. 27	Report Cards Sent Home
Wed., Nov. 1	All Saints Day Mass 10:30
Thurs., Nov. 2	Conferences 3-7 pm
Tues., Nov. 7	EARLY DISMISSAL 2:00 pm Conferences 2:30-7:30 pm

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at school (419) 435-1809 or at home (419) 435-0379. Thank you.

Mrs. Susan Tiell