



Dear Parents,

Happy November! Our **team** was incredibly busy last month. Here are a few highlights from the month of October and a glance ahead to November.

Language Arts Reading

Making Inferences or Making Predictions



* Use background knowledge or what you already know to assume what the author means or what the author might write next!

* The author might be giving hints!

* Read between the lines!

3G is doing a tremendous job applying reading strategies to the stories that we read. Using a variety of strategies in the classroom has greatly enhanced the students' comprehension, fluency, and ability to answer text questions on their own. They have become experts on **making connections** to their own lives, other texts, and the world around them. Recently we focused on **predicting or inferring** what might happen in a story. This strategy enables students to use background knowledge, previous events, and previous character traits to determine what might happen in the text. We look forward to

applying this strategy in the many texts we read as we continue to read throughout the year.

Development of a large vocabulary is an important part of your child's growth in reading. Children learn new words by having opportunities to use them many times in talking, reading, and writing. Providing your child with many exposures to words helps him or her gain an appreciation for how words are used in our language and builds a solid foundation for later reading success. It's not necessary for children to memorize long lists of words, but it is important for them to use words in many different situations. Here are some examples.

1. Each family member can attempt to learn a new word each day. All the family members will benefit.
2. As you talk to your child, use new words **frequently**. **Put them in sentences that he or she can figure out the meaning themselves.** For example, "That was an enormous elephant. Look how big it is."



SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI SCHOOL

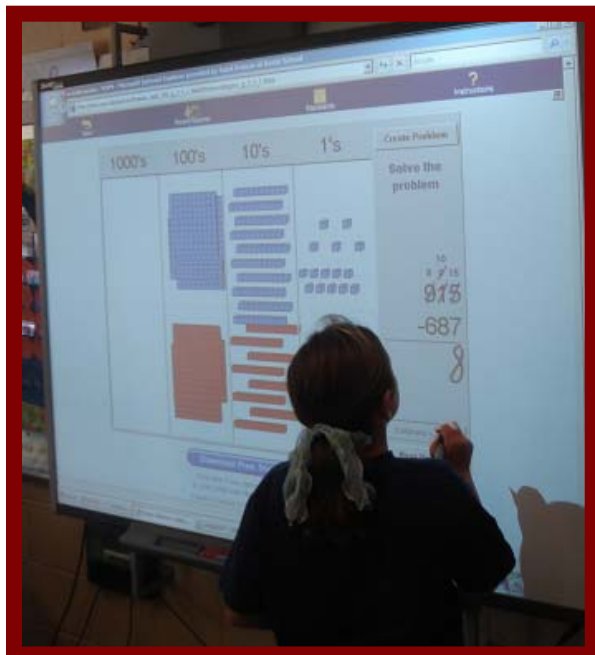
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Saint Francis of Assisi Mission Statement: We are a Catholic community of faith striving to follow Jesus, pledging each day to do our best by imitating Saint Francis of Assisi as "instruments of peace." Our goal is to maintain a safe and healthy environment and to be academically prepared for this technological age.

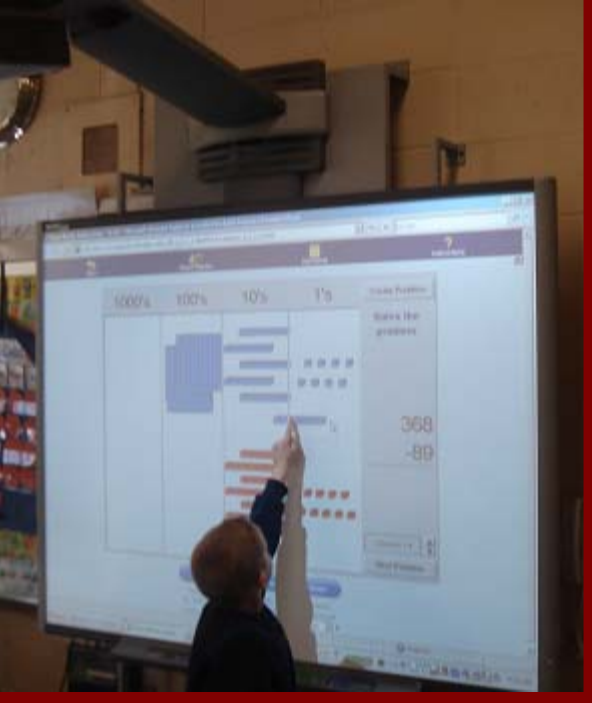
3. Remember that children need **many repetitions** of words before those words become a natural part of their vocabularies. Try to share new words with your child in a variety of situations.
4. **Read lots of books with your child.** The more opportunities children have to hear words in action, the more inclined they will be to add those words to their own vocabularies.

We just read Charlotte's Web in class. This is an excellent book to teach new vocabulary, and adjectives to third graders. The students have enjoyed learning the new vocabulary in this story. Students have been using adjectives to describe the characters in this book. Furthermore, they are applying their knowledge of adjectives by constructing character webs of themselves and their classmates titled "Some Kid!" This has been a great way to enhance vocabulary. Teammates have added to one another's webs. These webs serve as daily reminders of their positive thoughts and attributes to the classroom.



Math

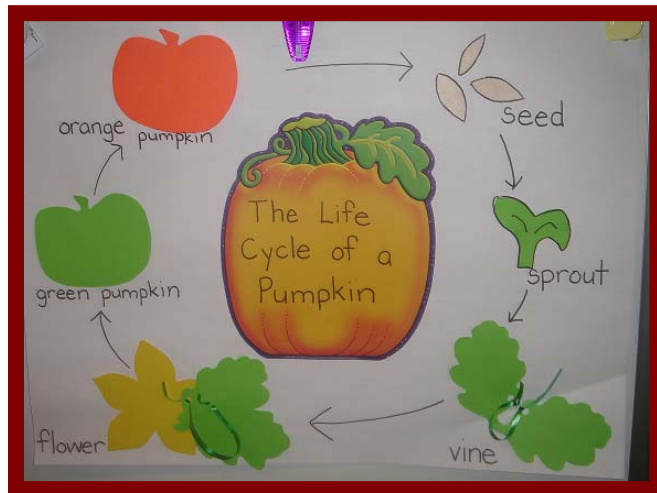
Our chapter on **addition with regrouping** came to an end. We are now working on **subtraction with regrouping**, and we will begin **multiplication** shortly! I know the students are excited to learn this new concept and will find that virtual manipulatives, drawing pictures, and concrete objects will enhance our learning of multiplication and help individualize instruction within the classroom.



Please review addition and subtraction facts with your children on a regular basis in order to make these problems more automatic. This skill is invaluable, especially as math facts become more difficult. Also, I will be providing some helpful math links that the students might enjoy using to help them with math concepts and facts. The **Sadlier-Oxford** website, <http://www.sadlier-oxford.com/math/>, includes some great tutorials of math concepts.

Science

Throughout the month we have learned about the **classification** of animals. We are currently learning about the life cycles of living things. We have been able to incorporate *Charlotte's Web* into our science unit as we learned about the life cycles of some of these animals. We are also focusing on the life cycle of plants. Last week we read *Pumpkin Circle*, a story of a pumpkin's life cycle and created a poster. The following is an example:



We will continue to study living things throughout the month.





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Social Studies

We began the month learning basic facts about our state and have now moved on to learning about the history of our state focusing on the natives of our state, the pilgrims that came here to be free of religious persecution, and the events that led up to the 1st Thanksgiving. We will also begin a study of the Revolutionary War and the many events that took place right here in our state.

Religion

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the reception after our 3rd grade liturgy last month. The liturgy reception was a huge success, thanks to you, and it was a pleasure getting to spend time with the students and their families.

Last month we focused on the great women of faith from the Old Testament and the New Testament. We particularly focused on Mary, mother of God. October is the month of the Rosary so we focused on this set of prayers that honors Mary. In November we will focus on Saints. The Saint projects that were due on October 30th, will help all of us learn about these faithful, and virtuous Saints of our faith.

Some Important Dates to Remember:

- November 3rd** ~ 3G Monthly Dress Down Day and Windy City Players Presentation of The Emperor's New Clothes
- November 9th** ~ Grade 7 Snack Day
- November 11th** ~ Veteran's Day NO SCHOOL
- November 17th** ~ Absentee and Make-up photo day
- November 20th** ~ School Liturgy
- November 25th** ~ 12 noon Dismissal
- November 26th -29th** ~ Thanksgiving Break
- November 29th** ~ First Sunday of Advent
- Library Dates this month ~ November 3rd and 17th**



As always, feel free to contact me via email. We look forward to this busy and exciting month. Thank you!

~ Miss Giroux
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