



September 2, 2008

Dear Sixth Grade Families,

We had a great beginning for this school year! Thank you for your help with this. I also want to thank you for a wonderful Back to School Night. If you were not able to attend on the 26<sup>th</sup>, you should have found copies of anything I handed out in the Take Home folders that went home this past Thursday. Book orders were also sent home on Thursday. If you are writing a check, please make it payable to Scholastic.

Here are a few things we will be doing over the next week or two;

**SCIENCE** – We are learning the Scientific Method...why it is used, how it is used, the importance of using it, and what the words mean. The students constructed paper airplanes last week and will set up a problem, hypothesis and testing that follows the Scientific Method. We will look at the likenesses and differences between laws, theories, and beliefs in Science and the students will begin to take notes. Several labs will take place so the students can practice writing the steps of the Scientific Method.

**RELIGION** – I am a huge advocate of the idea that the better we know someone, the better we are able to deal with our differences and we are more likely to find out that we have something in common. So, during Religion classes I do a lot of activities to encourage the students to learn new things about each other, how to be tolerant of each other, and also how to let each other know when they are annoyed or need a break from someone. We will be doing several activities a week as we begin school and then I plan them weekly.

This week the students will begin A Great Bible Expedition. They will be using what they know to find answers in the Bible and I will be learning what we need to learn as far as navigating and reading the Bible.

**ILA** - The summer reading novel will get a lot of attention over the next two weeks. In September I concentrate on realistic fiction and we will use their summer novel to do many of the activities. If you have a copy at home that your child could bring to class, that would be helpful. I have a few copies in my classroom that we will also be using.

The students are also working on their Benchmark writing. These are interesting because they are done in the beginning of the year and the students enjoy looking back at them at the end of the year and seeing how their writing has improved. These should be completed within the next two weeks.

Reading Journals will be due the week of the 9<sup>th</sup>. We will do several practice letters this week and the students will learn the procedure I use for Sustained Silent Independent Reading. \*\*\*Please note the following date – 9/24. This is a Wednesday and we are not in school. I have told the children who have a journal due on this day that they may choose to hand theirs in on either Tuesday the 23<sup>rd</sup> or Thursday the 25<sup>th</sup>

Thank you for all you do to help make Our Lady of the Angels the great school that it is.

Mrs O'Donnell