

MAY/JUNE 2010

WHAT WE ARE LEARNING IN SEVENTH GRADE

RELIGION

The focus of this month and the remainder of the school year is family life. The students will be engaged in discussions and projects involving many topics including drugs, alcohol, self esteem, relationships, nutrition, puberty and prejudice. This also includes fetal development with a project in science. In between these very interesting topics the seventh grade will be busy preparing for May Crowning. It is a beautiful event and well worth coming to mass to see your child hold the flower arches for the 8th graders.

MATHEMATICS

Students will begin the month developing spatial thinking through their study of geometry. They will use logical reasoning to explain the relationships among figures, including pairs of angles, congruent triangles, and types of polygons. We will then move into the study of area of various figures: parallelograms, circles, triangles and trapezoids. If time allows we will also study the volume of these figures as well.

LANGUAGE ARTS (READING, ENGLISH, SPELLING/VOCABULARY)

7th grade will spend May and early June studying H. E. Hinton's novel, *The Outsiders*. Always a student favorite, we read the book aloud in class; students are assigned dialogue for the various characters while I fill in the narration. We change readers every day so everyone gets the opportunity to interpret character attitudes and emotions and practice reading fluently and with proper voice inflection. Included among the novel study activities are keeping a journal of 60s slang, participating in a poetry recital, and designing tee shirts for the Socs and the Greasers to wear the night of the big rumble.

In English we will complete Unit 4 on modifiers and begin Unit 5 which covers the basics of writing conventions; what we don't cover in Unit 5 this year we will pick up at the beginning of 8th grade. We'll also continue writing with greater emphasis on "show versus tell." By year-end we will have completed vocabulary units 13-15, and I will be selecting at two more spelling units that cover commonly misspelled words for the students to study.

SCIENCE AND HEALTH

We will continue studying the theory of evolution and how it has affected planet earth. They will finish their dioramas that take a specific time on earth during specific eras in time. We will also begin our fetal development project which will probably take until the end of the school year.

HISTORY/SOCIAL SCIENCE

Students are currently working on individual projects for Chapter 10, which focuses on ancient Chinese civilizations. Next, students will move on to ancient Japanese civilizations, and learn about topics and important figures such as Prince Shotoku, the samurai, bushido, Japanese government and economy, and the influence of China on Japan. Students may end the year learning about medieval Europe and the Crusades, depending on time constraints.

COMPUTER EDUCATION

The first two weeks of May the students will be working on the Shield the Vulnerable program, the remainder of the month they will be finish their Stock Market Portfolio's. Then, if time allows, students will be researching an assigned week of fetal development for a science project.

