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February's here! We have begun the month by making our own predictions about the Groundhog's annual weather forecast. Early Spring or six more weeks of Winter...only time will tell. But it was fun to tally our guesses and graph who could whistle like a groundhog does. Our math unit on graphing, tallying and interpreting data has been fun and challenging.

Our students along with others in the Parish have now received their second Sacrament, Reconciliation and learned all about the goodness of God's forgiveness. It is a very special blessing and one they will hopefully return to throughout their lives. In school we are continuing our discussion of the 10 Commandments and how they should guide our lives, behaviors and personal choices. It is of course crucial that these same values and practices are being stressed at home. Also, as part of their ongoing faith formation it is expected that the students are attending Mass on a regular basis with their family. By living the Faith with your child you are clearly demonstrating your own beliefs and the value of a Catholic Education. Be sure to check your calendar for this week's parent meeting for Eucharist. It is the ONLY such meeting scheduled and therefore attendance by at least one parent is crucial.

We have finished our first Unit of the Superkids and are now moving into the second half of the second grade curriculum. By now, you have certainly realized that the level of grammar, phonics and spelling have all reached a more challenging level. The expectation is clearly laid out for students to build on all the foundations and skills learned since Kindergarten. By now your student should be reading comfortably, seeking new challenges in their choices and demonstrating clear comprehension for a variety of genres. It is important to reinforce this interest at home by providing additional age appropriate materials for your student. Reading is a lifelong skill and a gift for those who enjoy and pursue it with enthusiasm.

February of course immediately brings to mind Valentine's Day, thoughts of cards, gifts and class parties. This year it also coincides with Ash Wednesday which of course begins the season of Lent and an entirely different tone as we learn of the ultimate gift of LOVE! For this reason, we will be celebrating our Valentine's Day party on Tuesday the 13th. It will be kind of a Mardi Gras /Valentine's Day. More details will follow this week in student folders but as always the students are invited/encouraged to bring a Valentine for each of their classmates. A list of names will be provided in their Homework journal this week, to insure correct spelling of friends' names.

A quick but important note to all as this update comes to a close. Parents, in recent weeks I have noticed a real decline in the quality of homework being returned to school. There are frequent errors, incomplete pages and even the handwriting is poor and indicates a rushed quality. Please take a few minutes to check HW pages for accuracy, neatness and quality. If your child has difficulty then by all means take a minute and write a quick note on the page so I

know to address this individually. Stressing the value of quality work and your expectation for their success is an invaluable support to your child. Also, though the holidays are over and we are hopefully back to routines and schedules, there are still a number of students arriving late, missing supplies, homework, lunches etc. This takes a toll on the class routine every day and impacts your child's mindset as well. Please do your best to reset routines, be sure they have BREAKFAST (to avoid the mid-morning energy crash) and establish good family practices that will insure success for all. Thank you!