

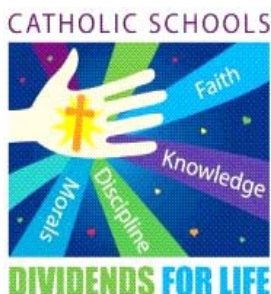
# 5th & 6th Grade Language Arts

## End of the 2nd Quarter!

I hope you had a wonderful Christmas holiday. January can be a challenging time of the year. There is a natural let-down after the holidays. The good news is we have a whole new year to look forward to. The second quarter is quickly coming to an end. However, students still have over 2 weeks to work at improving their grades. Report cards will go home on January 22<sup>nd</sup>. Once you receive the report, please contact me directly if you have any questions or concerns. The students themselves are aware of any concerns I have regarding their lack of effort and/or cooperation. If I mark these areas on the report cards, it indicates a continual problem that has not improved despite my reminders to the students. Please speak to your child if they have any remarks on the report cards that shows they are not applying themselves in class.

Shortly after Christmas break, the 5th grade class began reading novels. I have divided the class into 3 groups. One group is reading Missing May; the second group is reading Nory Ryan's Song; and the 3rd group is reading Eleven. By reading 3 different novels I hope to offer students a choice, and also the opportunity to work in small groups.

The 6th grade students are starting the novel, Someone is Watching. In addition to comprehension skills, the students are identifying character traits of the 2 main characters. This includes giving examples from the novel of those traits. In addition, they are doing writing prompts and will write a summary of the book at the end. I feel the 6th graders need more practice in writing about stories they have read. I am confident they will enjoy the novel that explores a boy's search for his lost sister. It is full of action and suspense.



I know what a financial hardship providing your children with a Catholic education can be in these tough times. I have been blessed with the opportunity to attend a Catholic school for 13 years. I consider this as one of my greatest gifts in life. I'm sure your children will treasure their experiences in Catholic schools and will be forever grateful.