



# The Library Lowdown

## Iowa Tests: Evaluating Our Learning

You know Spring Break can't be far behind when Iowa testing begins, and it is that time of year. Reminders about eating a healthy breakfast, getting a good night's sleep, and bringing a sharp #2 pencil are rampant. The standardized test is an important instructional activity that is required by the Diocese. It gives us a good snapshot of the growth your child has made over the past year. With our bimonthly Yearly Progress Pro individualized assessment program and other assessments in place to give us

constant feedback about student progress the Iowa results should not surprise anyone. They should fall in line with the other results our teachers collect on an ongoing basis. The potential for aiding in individualizing instruction is one reason these tests are so important. Our teachers work hard to ensure that the physical environment is conducive to obtaining the best results from your child. We will be reinforcing the importance of doing their best on the tests, but not to the point that they are stressed over them.

## Ozzie Reading Program: Prize Time!

Students who turned in their First Base Slips should expect to find their first prize in folders today. If you do not, please let me know and I will send one right out. I'm pleased with the number of students participating, but a bit disappointed that there aren't more.

We are halfway through the Second Base two-week period, so continue to keep up with your reading time. Completing the program will earn a free ticket to the Nashville Sounds!

## Reference Materials on the Iowa Tests

There have been indications on past Parent Surveys that some wonder about the importance of the library skills taught in our weekly library classes. While being skilled in seeking and interpreting information is reason enough, I also want to be sure that parents are aware that Reference Materials is a subtest on the Iowa tests. The purpose of the questions measure the student's ability to use reference materials and library resources to obtain information. Search strategies, keywords, dictionary usage, and general reference material skills are all covered. At the lower levels, alphabetizing and parts of a book are covered. At the upper levels skills measured also include note-taking, indexes, and using electronic sources.

## Library Classes

This week will find us sharing the books that garnered the recent American Library Association awards. I will give book talks and share activities from *When You Reach Me*, the Newbery gold medal winner for 2010 as well as *Claudette Colvin*, *The Evolution of Calpurnia Tate*, *The Mostly True Adventures of Homer P. Figg*, and *Where the Mountain Meets the Moon* which were the Newbery Honor winners. Grades 1 and 2 will hear the Caldecott winners including Jerry Pinkney's *The Lion and the Mouse*, and the Dr. Seuss beginning reader awards for *Benny and Penny in the Big No-No!*, *Little Mouse Gets Ready*, and *Pearl and Wagner: One Funny Day*.