First Grade Weekly Newsletter
April 11-15, 2016

Happy Easter. Yes, we are still in the Easter Season in our church. It is a 50 day celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus and all the joy, love and promise His Rising from the dead holds for each of us. First Grade continues to examine the meaning of this life giving event and identify signs of new life all around us. We acknowledge God's goodness and appreciate his wonderful gifts of creation. In the spirit of Easter and upcoming Earth Day, we pray for God's creations and identify ways we can show love and care for God's gifts. First Grade investigates the conditions of our Earth that make it unhealthy, uncared for and disrespected. In an effort to identify and create ways to make a difference in our world, First Grade will travel to the Learning Barge. While on the Barge, they will travel to learning stations and examine effects of pollution and ways we can improve our Earth and keep its Elizabeth River healthy. The Elizabeth River, once considered dead and poisonous, nonswimmable and nonfishable, is showing signs of improvement. Previously, it received an F on its report card but is now evaluated at a C. We still have much work to do to make it the best river it can be! Students will be asked to make observations regarding solar and wind energy, recognize river creatures and perform scientific and mathematical tasks in terms of their appearance as well

as observe the negative impact of run off and discover ways to use plants to keep our soil in place. In addition, the Race For Education will soon be here. It's a great way to enjoy the environment, celebrate creation and help our school.

As always, PCRS resource teachers are tremendous in their specialized instruction for our students. Students investigate a variety of tumbling and motor skill activities in PE. They also focus on balance and flexibility activities. Every PE day learning is connected to their overall health. For instance, students have been getting in shape for the Race For Education in PE by building up endurance for the Race Day by completing an 8 minute walk/run. In Spanish, students will vowel sounds and the consonant d. Students take turns leading the class with prayer in Spanish. Of course, common greetings are exchanged throughout their class time. In Music, students will compare and contrast vocal patterns and rehearse for benefit performance and First Grade's end of the year program. In Art, First Graders are creating a large canvas dove, which is the perfect culmination of their unit on Peace and unforgettable Prayer Breakfast for Peace. Shalom!

In Language Arts, First Graders are exploring types of sentences - statement, question, exclamation and command and the appropriate punctuation mark. They will collaborate to treasure hunt various types of

sentences in Reading selections as well as create their own sentences. It will be tricky yet fun. Students are engaging in many fiction and non-fiction nature stories in preparation for the celebration of Earth Day. Are you oviparous? Certainly not, as only animals that lay eggs are oviparous. Do you know the two exceptions? They live in Australia - the spiny anteater and the duck-billed platypus. Students will also create a diagram of the chicken life cycle and sequence the stages correctly. While we are on the topic of animals, we will begin work on creating our own stuffed animals. This will require following directions very closely. By the end of the year, each student should have a stuffed animal keepsake that was created by hand from start to finish. Just as with Religion's objective to show respect for the Earth and all creation, Social Studies will allow students to investigate people, places, and traditions from around the world. As a final Corporal Work of Mercy, students will save Pennies - for prosperity in an attempt to break the cycle of poverty. Proceeds will be donated to Heifer International. First grade will be deciding on how to spend their money and provide persuasive arguments for the class purchase and donation. Will it be a flock of geese, trio of rabbits, a llama? We will keep you informed.