

FIRST GRADE WEEKLY COMMUNICATION NEWSLETTER APRIL 25-29

First Grade is growing more and more every day in every way. In Religion, students are preparing for two very special upcoming occasions in the Church, the Ascension and Pentecost. Easter joy lasts for 50 days and ends at Pentecost. At this time we look closely at the Gifts of the Spirit that Jesus left in our hearts forever. Students will name the fruits of the Spirit and relate them to their own lives as they live as disciples of Jesus. Our respect, appreciation and care for the Earth and God's creations continue to grow as well. The Student Advisory Council lead our entire school in an Earth Day Prayer Service. Students follow the example of St. Francis and hurt no living thing. When it comes to bugs, they have been challenged to ask themselves to squish or not to squish.

Language Arts provides us opportunities to extend our knowledge in many areas. Students are using words they know and locating synonyms and antonyms to increase their vocabulary and enhance their writing. In the 6+1 Traits of Writing, students apply their knowledge of topic, conventions, ideas and details, word choice, organization, and sentence fluency. The writing process is a real brain stretcher. In Tech, students will engage in an animal research webquest and create stuffed animals from scratch as a culminating activity. Their new stuffed reading buddy will accompany them as they present their report to the class. Animals here. Animals there. Animals everywhere! How do you choose just one? Shhhhh! We also have a surprise in store. First graders will have their faces digitally altered to resemble an animal. Afterwards, they will use a computer program on www.bighugelabs.net to create a jigsaw puzzle, magazine cover or trading card. Keyboarding skills will be put to the test. Social Studies is thoroughly integrated into Language Arts as students sing to read and read to sing songs for their end of the year "The World Is A Rainbow" presentation. What a wonderful world indeed. Special thanks to the resources who assist with special projects to make this a totally integrated across the curriculum event. Be sure to see our huge giant dove mosaic from our Peace Unit. Mrs. Smith is rehearsing songs from the classroom as well as preparing for the Benefit Breakfast on May 19. Students are identifying vocal patterns. Ms. Patty is helping with some moves in PE as well as reviewing Spring and Summer Safety. In Spanish, Senora Bonilla continues to have students pray in Spanish, greet one another with common phrases and use of vowels and consonants. She is also helping to teach them the song, "Jesus Es Mi Amigo." In this song, students must be able to sing the days of the week in Spanish.