

First Grade Weekly Communication Newsletter

March 14-18

Peace be with you! Please plan to attend the First Grade Prayer Breakfast on Thursday, March 17 from 9:30-10:30 in the gym. Special guests will include Vice-Mayor Psimas and Councilman Moody from Portsmouth as well as the Deputies from the Sheriff's Department, friends from Province Place, local parishes, Oasis Social Ministry, Habitat For Humanity, and Horizons of Hampton Roads. Let us pray for peace in our hearts, our homes, our school, our city, our state, country and world. Students have been reading to sing and singing to read and practicing the St. Patrick's Breastplate prayer and Irish Blessing. We will join together to remember Jesus, the Prince of Peace, who died and rose for us. Peace! Come to eat, sing, play and PRAY!

Who says Dr. Seuss is just for his birthday on March 2? In Reading, First Grade will explore story elements and include them in book reporting exercises. Focus has been on Dr. Seuss and his purposes for writing such as to teach a lesson or provide rhyming word fun to help us learn to read more effectively. Students will practice identifying main idea, summarizing, details and visualization as they read texts. We will enjoy Things 1-23 in our class. Rumor has it one of our parents is a pro at making edible blue Thing Hair cotton candy.

Nothing like a story you can taste. Upcoming authors will include Else Holmelund Minarik of Little Bear fame, and our Frog and Toad creator, Arnold Lobel. What literary treats are in store for First Grade. Students will explore the world of synonyms, antonyms, and homonyms as they enrich their vocabulary and include more vivid word choice in their writing. In addition to word choice, students will focus on the 6+1 Traits of writing including organization and presentation. Write on First Grade!

In Music, Mrs. Smith will support Religion, Social Studies and Reading by teaching the Peace Round and helping First Grade get their music ministry ready for the Peace Prayer Breakfast. In Art, students will be making a giant Peace Mural. Painting a piece of peace is one thing but assembling it requires the class to synergize...WORK TOGETHER PEACEFULLY. We are accepting the challenge. It's just taking a little longer than expected. However, the pins of little houses are completed and ready to donate and wear by the Habitat For Humanity staff, benefactors and families. Each First Grader will save one for their own family. In Spanish, students will continue to pray in Spanish, greet one another with common expressions and work on vowels with the letter "L". Just how do you say this letter in Spanish? In PE students will strengthen balance and flexibility and continue to build up endurance with an 8 minute Walk/Run. Yes, they are

getting in shape for the annual Race For Education.
What a great way to build peaceful playground
manners, stamina and benefit PCRS at the same time.