

## Happy Spring NEWSLETTER APRIL 28-MAY 2



HAPPY EASTER TO ALL! GREAT NEWS. First Grade will have a field trip on Thursday, May 8 to the Virginia Air and Space Museum. The cost of the program, exhibit and I-Max film is \$15.50. Unfortunately, adults drivers and chaperones will have to pay the same amount. The I-Max film will be on butterflies is one of the upcoming topics very soon. Nancy Larson will provide an up close and personal look at the life cycle of the butterfly. Students will experience the butterfly across the curriculum: music, poetry, fiction and non-fiction literature, writing and art. How perfect for Easter as well. The butterfly is a beautiful symbol of dying to an old life and being resurrected as a new creation! In Religion, students will take a look back at the 40 days of Lent, what they accomplished and they they were transformed. They will use their experiences to give a new perspective to the 50 days of Easter. There is more joy ahead. What an awesome opportunity to learn about sainthood and the tremendous examples of our Saints and Popes John Paul II and John XXIII. Students will learn about these popes and what examples their lives provide for our own as we grow as followers of Jesus. In addition, students will be sharing a Divine Mercy Chaplet with you at home. Find time to pray this beautiful prayer together. You will also notice a Blessing Bag circulating among our families in First Grade. Bags will go home for one night only. Please explore the materials in the bag with your child. There will be a Bible, games, puzzles and journal. Use the Blessings Journal to write the petitions for your family. Your child will lead our class in prayer and lift the needs and requests of your family. Prayer is talking and listening to Jesus. What a blessing to be able to enjoy this special relationship with our Lord together at Portsmouth Catholic Regional School.

In Tech, students will engage with their environment as nature detectives and look closer at the world around us through digital blue microscopes. The digital blues and laptops will be taken outside in order for the students to magnify their world. A nature scavenger hunt will be provided for each child to enhance observation, problem solving and critical thinking skills as they work independently and in small groups to meet the challenges before them. Later in the week students will travel to the Tech lab to complete Reading Counts activities. Please feel free to utilize this program at home. Your child has his/her own username and password in the homework book. This is a great opportunity to foster comprehension and independent reading. Students will also be recording Earth Day and Nature poems using the green screen. Earth Day should be every day as we thank God for the abundance of beauty and wonder in all of his creations. In Reading, students will continue building vocabulary and determining meaning using context clues. Alphabetical order and dictionary skills will be put to the test with a number of exercises. Students will sort and apply parts of speech including nouns, verbs, adjectives and pronouns correctly. In the 6+1 Traits of Writing, knowledge of word choice and sentence fluency will be enhanced through application of a varied vocabulary including antonyms and synonyms and understanding of grammar. Students will continue to generate ideas pertinent to a specific topic and apply the conventions of capitalization and punctuation consistently and correctly. Write on, First Grade!

In Music, students will discuss composer Camille Saint-Saens and the piece Carnival of the Animals. Throughout this unit, we will breakdown several different movements from the piece. This week, we will identify the instruments used in the first movement Royal March of the Lion and dramatize the piece through movement. In Spanish, students will recognize parts of the body (ojos, boca, orejas) and incorporate them to the story of "Caperucita Roja" (Little Red Riding Hood). The adjective "grande" will be discussed.

Mark your calendars for Mass on April 30 with Fr. Kevin at 10:15. Please wear church uniform. Ask your child about Habitat For Humanity. Remember their donations truck will be here on April 30 from 7:30-8:15. Spring clean. Go Green. Go disciple and help others in need. Thank you!!!!