



First Grade Weekly Communication Newsletter March 16-20

Peace be with you! Please RSVP asap and attend the First Grade Prayer Breakfast on Tuesday, March 17 from 9:30-10:30 in the gym. Guests from the Portsmouth Police, Sheriff and Fire Departments are expected as well as our friends from Province Place, 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 join together to remember Jesus, the Prince of Peace, who died and rose for us.

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 had Things 1-21 in our class. Not only did they wear the blue hair but made edible blue Thing Hair cotton candy. Nothing like a story you can taste. The next authors will be of Little Bear fame, Else Holmelund Minarik, 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.

During Math, we will be practicing counting money with pennies, nickels, dimes and quarters. Please practice this skill at home whenever possible. We will also explore equal amounts of change using different coins. During Science, the students will be exploring the human skeletal system. We will be investigating the skeletal system's purpose, as well as specific parts of the skeleton.

In Music, Mrs. Smith will support Religion, Social Studies and Reading by teaching the Peace Round and helping First Grade get music ministry ready for the Peace Prayer Breakfast. In Art, students will make Lenten crosses for family and seminarians. In Spanish, students will identify and label body parts. In PE students will explore a variety of tumbling and motor skill activities. They will focus on balance, 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. For even more fun, students will work on hitting a pitched ball by the teacher. They will also learn the rules and play of Wiffle Ball carrying along with them a sense of peaceful play and good sportsmanship.