

First Grade Weekly Communication Newsletter
March 21-24

Lent Means Spring

First grade is learning about the Triduum and preparing for the 3 holiest days of the liturgical year. Students are praying more and creating spiritual bouquets for members of our community and their intentions. Sacrificing is a challenging task but we hope that by doing a little of it every day we can appreciate our sacrifices are small but meaningful and can make a difference. We recognize the sacrifice of Jesus, our Lord and Savior, was the biggest sacrifice of all. Lastly, we give alms to make life better for those in need of shelter, compassion, and love by helping Habitat For Humanity. Social Studies will incorporate service learning and the writing of reflections to highlight Habitat For Humanity in our local and global

communities. Students are learning more about the twelve apostles and our call to be disciples of Jesus as well. What do disciples do? Follow Jesus' example, and reach out to others in this Year of Mercy. On this Holy Thursday, First Grade will spend the day praying, reading, singing, creating, and relating all that Jesus did for them in his final days so that they could live with Him forever some day. Students will examine their conscience and decide on ways their relationship is very strong with Jesus as well as behaviors that may keep them from being the best Jesus created them to be. Being Christ-like and a peacemaker can be very challenging. Jesus said He did not promise it would be easy...only worth it!

In Reading, students are strengthening comprehension skills especially visualization and summarizing. Students will by respond to books read to them using

images created in their brains and transferred to their paper. This exercise helps students to more effectively analyze and understand stories. Students will learn about long vowels and r-controlled vowels. They will work cooperatively to treasure hunt given vowel patterns found in their text books and library resources. Author study will include the works of Arnold Lobel of Frog and Toad fame. In Technology, students will listen to Frog and Toad stories and complete a reading response exercise using the approved internet resources. Students will complete Reading Counts quizzes on their favorite Arnold Lobel literature. The 6+1 Traits of Writing will be integrated into students informational as well as creative quick writes about frogs. Ideas, conventions, word choice, organization and presentation will be focal points for these young authors.

Our resource classes will keep learning fun. In Spanish students will greet one another using standard conversation, pray the Trinity Prayer and use vowels and consonants en Espanol, which is somewhat different from the sounds we know in English. What a mental exercise when the mind has to translate not only vocabulary but sounds. In Music, students will name and demonstrate tempos and keep the beat with their bodies, presto and largo. Mrs. Smith will also integrate literacy songs to strengthen understanding of contractions and long e. In Art, students will be concluding their last week for their emphasis in Art. They will be utilizing canvas to create a class project. In addition, they are synergizing to piece together the 23 individual pieces they painted to create a magnificent dove as a special memory of their Peace unit. Last but not least, in PE first graders will explore a variety of tumbling and motor skill activities. Students

will focus on balance and flexibility. They will continue to build stamina for the 8 minute walk/run for the Race For Education.