

NEWSLETTER MAY 19-23, 2014



READY? MARCH! Please allow your child to march in the 130th Portsmouth Memorial Day Parade. Patriotic wands or flags will be provided. Registration is a must. Please sign up on School Speak today. God bless America and God bless you!

First Graders voted on the theme for the end of the year show...IT'S A ZOO IN HERE! Songs, poetry, jokes, art, music, etc. will celebrate animals across the curriculum. The date will be announced as soon as possible. On June 3, the Province Place volunteers will gather for their last visit for the year. This has been a wonderful partnership. Every two weeks every child received at least 15 minutes of uninterrupted one on one reading time with a fully attentive friend. We will have a Teddy Bear Picnic and Tea in their honor. And don't forget Fun Day. It is on Friday, June 6 with loads of fun. Please watch for sign up opportunities. We will need parents from first grade to run our Duck Pond and Bubbles game station for a 30 minute shift, which will include a set-up and clean-up time as well. Thank you for your help! I will be in the gym facilitating community resources such as Zumba, Tiger Martial Arts, etc. I'm counting on you. Thank you.

The May Crowning was a beautiful tribute to Mary. Thank you for the awesome flowers for the procession. On Wednesday, May 21, Fr. Ken will be celebrating Mass at 10:00 a.m. Boy and Girl Scouts will assist with this Mass. Students should wear dress school uniforms. However, scouts may wear their scout attire. School supplies for Horizons will be collected for the Offertory. For more information about Horizons, please visit their website at <http://horizonshamptonroads.org/>. PCRS is privileged to serve as a host school for this program every summer. Horizons K-Grade 6 will be with us from June 23-August 1! Drop by and see how your school supplies are blessings in the lives of these children.

In Religion, First Graders will continue to celebrate Mary and the rosary. Last week, 6th grade buddies helped us make a giant paper chain rosary and taught us about the mysteries. It was a rewarding and prayerful experience. First Grade will take their turn again leading the rosary in the morning over the p.a. system. How inspiring. Also, in Religion, students will learn about Heifer International. How perfect as we learn about animals. In this instance, we will see how animals are critical to our survival. First Grade will have a bucket in the classroom entitled "Chores for Change." Please allow

your child to complete chores to make extra change for our donation bucket. We will investigate the cost of honey bees, ducks, rabbits, llamas, etc. and determine what is a realistic goal for us. By May 30, we hope to know what we will be purchasing as a class with our earnings. Please view <http://www.heifer.org/> for additional information.

Read! Read! Read! Read on swing, in the tub, in the garden, etc. Where is the neatest place you have enjoyed a book this week. We want to know. Speaking of books and going places, how is Flat Stanley. He is due to return to our school on May 30. Cody's has been to Spain. He sends us a postcard every now and then. I'm sure wherever your Flat Stanley goes, near or far, we will learn about great people and places. Reading Logs will be due June 2. Go out with a bang. The sky is the limit. Read as long as you wish every night. Color the flower. Parents initial and date them. The progress this year has been amazing. Don't ever stop. In the coming days, we will be reviewing compound words, contractions, pre-fixes, suffixes, syllables and alphabetical order. In Word Study, students may be given booster lists. Sometimes the best way to move forward is to take a step back. Students may also be given a pep pack to extend words they have had previously and extend them to new patterns. Listen. Look. Learn. Patterns are key. It is essential that your child sort every day to promote automaticity. Speed and accuracy are our goals. In the 6+1 Traits of writing, we are constantly applying what we know in conventions, ideas, word choice, and sentence fluency. The last three traits are being addressed in the days to come. Presentation is important in terms of how the writing is shared. Organization in terms of beginning, middle and end are critical. Does the flow of ideas and details make sense. Lastly, voice is your child's way of making his/her writing personalized. Wow! How far First Grade has come in the writing process. Please sign and return papers that have been stamped with this request immediately. Those papers become part of your child's portfolio and will travel on with them to the next grade at PCRS. Write on!

In Social Studies, students will continue to learn about the continents and the countries on them. We will celebrate the U.S.A. and highlight other countries around the world. It will be a great opportunity to identify likenesses and differences and to compare and contrast. We will be sure to flag the areas our Flat Stanley's visit. We will be sure to take a peek at not only the people but the animals of each area. In Music students will discuss and describe the music from Kangaroos in Carnival of the Animals and analyze the music using movement. They have encountered quite the menagerie musically.