



Newsletter September 15-19

Portsmouth Catholic Parents, Students and Teachers are teaming up for the success of our students. Our goal is to read, read, read, and succeed! We have worked together to accept our Principal's challenge surpassing the minutes spent reading. Mrs. Paul will be reading from the roof of our school. This takes reading to new heights! Did you know....First graders are working hard to build vocabulary, recognize word patterns with their eyes and ears in Word Study, write about Ants to show we can include interesting ideas and stick to a topic as learned in the 6+1 Traits of writing and so much more! First Grade explored Noun Town as well learning that PPT'S are nouns...persons, places and things. On a more abstract level, ideas are also nouns like love, beauty, peace, and acceptance. In Religion, we are studying about the Holy Family and Jesus' life as a baby, boy, and young man. We are learning very special songs through a process called "Read to Sing and Sing to Read." Each student has a song book and spends time reading and singing the lyrics. Wow! These angels are amazing. Come visit and we'll sing for you. In Social Studies, we are identifying good citizen choices and sad citizen choices. We are learning about our great country, the United States of America and the wonderful qualities of its citizens that make it so great. We are exploring our many American symbols and learning patriotic songs as well. Do you know what the Pledge of Allegiance means? We do! God bless America and God bless YOU! In Music class, students will be paying close attention to the

Star Spangled Banner lyrics and meaning and sing it together proudly. Growing in citizenship and fairness is included in PE instruction as First Grade will learn two new games, "Sharks and Minnows" and "4 Square." Focus will be on cooperative play, taking turns and having fun! In Art, we will continue with the exciting self-portrait project by adding features and clothing. Details! Details! Details! We are moving past the days of stick figures. Wow. How impressive these creations are indeed!

In Math, the students are beginning to tackle addition skills. We will be learning new ways to approach addition, such as finding double facts, "flip-flopping" facts, and looking for patterns in addition. We have been making strides during our Math Workshop time, and the students are practicing skills through games on the SMARTBoard (starfall.com addition practice), addition fact puzzles, number balance scale, and fact flash card practice. These are activities that are happening whilst Mrs. Taylor meets with groups in small groups for differentiated instruction. Please continue to practice addition on IXL with the skills that I emailed on Monday morning to each family. Please let Mrs. Taylor know if you are having trouble logging into IXL to complete the minutes.

In Science, the students are finishing up their exploration of the stages of human development as we create a human habitat mural. We will be starting to learn about plants at the end of the week, first looking at the parts of a plant.

Mass this week is Wednesday, September 17 at 9:00 a.m. with Fr. Oscar. Come join us. First Grade is paying close attention and tries very hard to respond, sing, and behave reverently. In a couple of weeks we will assist Second Graders with jobs such as readers, greeters, and gift bearers. Participation is prayer. When we pray,

we listen as well as talk to God. We would love to have you come pray with us.