

# Portsmouth Catholic Regional School (-)

## Announcements

### Newsletter September 23-27



Happy Fall! Isn't it beautiful? This week we will explore Fall, changes in our weather and environment; celebrate Johnny Appleseed's birthday, his travels, his contributions, and wonderful virtuous example; explore maps and cardinal directions; identify patriotic symbols and their meaning; explain the Trinity and live the Virtue of acceptance. Wow! All of these areas will involve ample reading and writing. If you have literature on any of these topics, please feel free to share.

In the 6 +1 Traits of Writing, we are focusing on conventions. First graders are writing complete sentences using correct capitals and punctuation. This trait will be emphasized today and forever. Please encourage your children to find these examples of conventions as they read. They should ask themselves questions. Why is that word capitalized? Why is there a question mark at the end of that sentence? Why is there an exclamation point? We will have some editing fun and unscramble scrambled sentences to help firm up our understanding and usage.

In Reading, First graders will identify fiction and non-fiction literature. They will delve into story elements such as title, author, illustrator, characters, setting and plot/problem/solution. They will also apply sequencing skills: ordinal numbers, alphabetical order, beginning-middle-end.

Resource teachers have a lot of learning in store as always. In Music, students will learn a song game while exploring and creating the steady beat. In PE students will explore the movement concept of direction, speed, and levels. Students will participate in an obstacle course involving these concepts and fun cooperative activities. In Art, students will add the final touches to their self-portraits. First Graders will learn the names of some farm animals in Spanish, and put together a mini-book with drawings and the names of some animals: *cerdo, vaca, caballo, gato* and *perro*. We will continue to sing, *¡Hola! ¿Qué tal?* Technology time is going to super busy. Congratulations to First Graders for completing the Math assessment on line. The Reading assessment will be provided online within the next week. This is a great way to establish a baseline performance measure. In addition, Mr. Baker and I will review Reading Counts online testing procedures and complete the webquest begun on amphibians. Research skills are challenging as students learn to hone in on important details.

We are hoping Fr. Brian will have lunch with us again and answer some important questions we have - How did God get to be 3 people? Do you like roller coasters? What made you want to be a priest? How did you know? What are the Fruits of the Spirit? How do you get them? I think Fr. Brian has a lot of thinking to do. He suggested using a candle to explain the Trinity. I hope he will share this great analogy. REMEMBER THURSDAY IS MASS DAY AT 10:00 A.M. WITH FR. BRIAN. Please wear church uniforms. Families please join us if you can.