

Happy New Year everyone and welcome back to school!

**Here's What's Been Happening in 1S!
Week of January 7-11, 2019**

Religion

The students were introduced to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. this past week. They reflected on him as a peacemaker in our country who used his life to make the world a better place. Students also took the opportunity to challenge themselves to think of something they could do as an individual to make this world a better place. Their written reflections will be posted soon.

A good amount of time was spent this past week preparing for our upcoming Prayer Service on January 16th. The students have been doing an excellent job with their parts so far. We look forward to celebrating the life of Dr. King and his message of peace next week. Just a reminder that all are welcome to join in the Service. I anticipate that it should be 30-40 minutes. All students have a part in the Service.

Math

Students began working with place value skills this week. Groups of 10s and extra 1s was the focus, though students were also introduced to groups of 100s and even 1000.

Language Arts

Students learned about ocean habitats in their **Reading** books this week. The comprehension skill of Author's Purpose and supporting details was practiced as students read their informational texts.

The concepts of beginning & ending sounds were practiced in students' **Spelling** books, as was the concept of word families. We will begin sending home a list of spelling words to practice at home on Monday.

The "th" and "sh" sounds were practiced in **Phonics**, the letter "e" in **Handwriting**, and a reflection on how each student can make this world a better place in **Writing**.

Students participated in **STAR testing** this past week as well.

Social Studies

Dr. King was the focus. Students watched a video about Dr. King's life and learned that he is proof to us all that one person's life can make a difference in the world.

Art

Students participated in Art Lit on Friday, thanks to many of you. They learned about the ancient Mayan civilization and their use of hieroglyphs. Ask your child about it!

Students also began working on water color snowmen, which will be on display soon.

Ruby was our Student of the Week!

Prayer Service

As mentioned above, 1S will be hosting the Prayer Service on Wednesday, January 16th. A HUGE thank you to all of you who are practicing the speaking parts with your child. They are doing a fantastic job so far! We hope to see many of you there on Wednesday. The Service will begin at 9:35 in the Convent chapel and last between 30-40 minutes.

Grandparents & Special Friends Day!

Thursday, January 24th, has been set aside as Grandparents and Special Friends Day. A flyer went home before Christmas about it. If your child does not have a grandparent that is able to come, please feel free to invite a special friend- perhaps an aunt or uncle, a neighbor, an adult friend from church, for example. We do ask that "special friends" be adults. **If you could send me the name(s) of your child's guest(s) ahead of time I would really appreciate it. I plan to have the kids write a note to thank their special guest for coming. It would be helpful if I could help them know who to address it to.** If you would like us to release your child to his/her grandparent or special friend that day, please let me know ahead of time. Thank you!

Have a wonderful weekend and a fabulous start to 2019!

**Thanks, as always, for all you do in support of Valley
Catholic-especially first grade!**