

## **The FIRST 1st Grade Newsletter**

### **Week of September 4-7, 2018**

Welcome to 1st Grade! I am so excited to work with you this year. Thank you, in advance, for allowing me this opportunity to be a part of your child's life.

This year you can expect to be kept up-to-date on what has been going on inside the classroom on a weekly basis. I will send a newsletter home via email at the end of each academic week, letting you know about what your child has been learning most recently. Please let me know if you have any questions along the way. You can reach me at [astorm@valleycatholic.org](mailto:astorm@valleycatholic.org). Just so you know, the best time for me to respond to emails is between 8-9 PM, after my own children are in bed. The 1st grade program will be explained in more detail at the upcoming Back-to-School night on Wednesday, September 12th.

For now, here is what you need to know:

### **Religion**

This first week of school students were introduced to God as the Creator. They learned that they were created unique and special, with many talents to share.

Jesus was also introduced as God's gift of love to us. The biblical account of Jesus welcoming the children was shared. Students learned that Jesus is welcoming them into this new school year and that He invites them to get to know Him better.

The school theme of kindness has also been a source of several lessons. Students are being challenged to think of ways they can show kindness in the world around them.

First grade celebrated their first Mass of the year with all students preschool-12th grade. Students will continue to attend Masses and Prayer Services throughout the school year.

### **Math**

Students took a beginning of the year math assessment. They have also been working with various math skills during our daily calendar time, including finding different ways to make a number. This will be a perfect connection as we delve into the curriculum next week, with the first topic being addition!

## **Language Arts**

Beginning of the year individual reading assessments have been taking place and will continue into next week. As students are being assessed one-by-one various stories have been shared with the rest of the group, mostly dealing with the theme of school. Students began to differentiate between fiction and non-fiction texts.

Students wrote about what makes them special, something fun they did during their summer vacation and what they are excited to do in first grade.

Alphabet skills and some basic sight words were also reviewed.

## **Science**

Germ was the topic this week as we find ourselves in close quarters for much of the day. Hand washing was reinforced as a way to keep ourselves healthy.

## **Social Studies**

Students practiced the fire drill in both our classroom and in music class this week.

## **Art**

Torn paper art was the focus this week. Students worked to create their own image, which will be on display soon.

**Happy Birthday to Kavya! We enjoyed celebrating with you!**

## **Save the Date!**

Wednesday, September 12th has been set aside as Back-to-School night. Please plan to come so you can learn more, first hand, about what first grade is all about. It will begin at 6:30 in the Eagles Gym (located inside of the high school) and then will move over into the classroom. I hope to see you there!

## **Volunteering in the Classroom**

I LOVE having parents come into the classroom to help with our learning! Soon reading and math groups will be established, which means that soon I will be looking for an extra adult during our reading and/or math blocks in the mornings to assist small groups of students. If you are interested in volunteering, please make sure that you are up-to-date with your Called to Protect status. If you are unsure of this, please call the office. As a side note, you will also need to be up-to-date to be able to chaperone on a field trip during the year. More details will be shared at the upcoming Back-to-School night.

**Have a great weekend everyone! Enjoy your cherub!**