

First Grade News September 30th, 2016

Classroom News:

- Run 4 Cathedral- Thank you all for your amazing support for our run today! The kids had a fantastic time and were excited to help fund special projects for our school! Thank you, thank you, thank you!
- Instagram- Our class now has a private instagram account for the first grade classroom parents/families. We will be sharing photos from our learning in first grade throughout the year on this account. Since privacy is very important to us, we will limit our instagram friends to parents. Our username is **cathedralpdx1** if you would like to follow our instagram account please find and request us and send us an email including your instagram username. We're really excited about this opportunity to share what we do in the classroom with you!
- Over the next few weeks, our reading comprehension focus will be on non-fiction text features and their purposes. One project we will work on to extend our learning about non-fiction text features includes writing captions for photos. For this project, each first grader will need to bring in 2 different photographs of themselves. The photos can include other family members, a pet, be from a special trip or really anything! Please help your child bring in 2 photographs by next Thursday, October 8th. The photos should be 4x6 or smaller. We will be gluing them onto our project paper so you won't be getting them back in their original form (regular copy paper is fine). Thank you in advance for helping with this special project. If you need assistance with this, please contact us.
- Homework-
 - o Writing homework will come home Monday – Thursday. The Monday homework is usually a “take home task” for students to do with their family. This Monday homework does not need to be returned to school, however if it is something your child is excited about and wants to share we would love to see it!
 - o Math homework will come home Monday – Thursday
 - o 2-5 minutes of math addition/subtraction “Fast facts” within 0 - 12 nightly (flashcards, Xtra math, a math app, game, etc.)
 - o Reading nightly- there will be a spot on the writing homework to write down the nightly reading. Please encourage your child to do this on their own by looking at the book's title.
- Kinderkonzert – Our first kinderkonzert is right around the corner. On Monday, October 10th we will be attending our first concert. We will be hearing and learning about brass instruments. We are still in need of drivers! Please visit volgistics to sign up!
- The class party sign ups are now up on Volgistics as well. We have 3 parties scheduled throughout the year: Halloween, Christmas, and Valentine's Day. Please sign up

to help with one class party throughout the year.

- We are still in need of various supplies for science investigations this year. If you have any of the items below that you are willing to donate to our class we would be very grateful!

- *Plastic Gerber baby food containers (need 16)

- *Various sized boxes (no bigger than a shoe box – need 16)

- *Toilet paper or paper towel rolls (need 16)

- On Monday we will be starting our Insect unit. If you have any insect/bug books at home that you would be willing to loan to our classroom library during October that would be great. Please make sure a family name is in any book that is sent to school.

- Our October author of the month will be Tomie DePaola. If you have any of his books at your house, feel free to send them in to share!

- Conferences- Parent/Teacher conferences are the 27th and 28th of October. If you have not yet signed up for a conference time please email us with your preferred time. The schedule with available slots is attached to this email.

Curriculum Focus for Next Week:

Religion: We will be learning that we are made in God's likeness.

Reading: Our reading groups are off to a great start! We are focusing on reading carefully and thinking about our reading. Over the next few weeks, our reading comprehension focus will be on non-fiction text features and their purposes

Writing: We will continue launching our Writer's Workshop. We are focusing on what to do as a writer when we think we are done. We are focusing on writing more, stretching ideas and adding details.

Spelling: We will continue to focus on th words. We will continue learning that some words are spelled the way they sound while others are not. We will continue to explore how new words can be made by adding letters to the beginning or end of a word or word parts.

Math: We will continue studying geometry. We will be learning about fractions of shapes, we will focus on identifying, making and describing equal parts.

Science: We will be learning about insects! We will be focusing on how insects use their external parts to help them survive, grow and meet their needs in our world.

School News:

Volunteering/Volgistics – We are especially in need of hot lunch and Book Fair volunteers.

Year of Mercy Student Art Contest -The Archdiocese of Portland is sponsoring a student art contest to provide students in grades K-12 an opportunity to explore God's loving mercy through reflection and creative expression. Students may enter via a variety of media. Cash prizes will be awarded.

Upcoming Events:

Sunday, October 2 – Family Mass by 2nd & 6th grade

Wednesday, October 5 – All-school Rosary

Monday, October 10 – 1st grade KinderKonzert field trip

Wednesday, October 12 – Mass by Kindergarten and 8th grade

Friday, October 14 – No School – Teacher in-service

Thursday, October 20th – Pumpkin Patch

Thursday, October 27th & 28th – No School – Parent/Teacher Conferences

Tuesday, October 31st – Halloween parade & class parties

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Mrs. Stephanie McCoy & Mrs. Gabi Kilkenny