

First Grade News

September 5th-8th



A Peek at the Week

Religion:

One of our favorite things that we did this week in religion was celebrate the Blessed Mother's birthday on Friday! We made birthday cards and spent some time outside in our garden around the beautiful statue of Mary. All of our first graders placed their cards at Mary's feet and together we prayed. It was a beautiful moment for us in first grade as we celebrated the Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary. In addition, this week we chose and painted special prayer rocks. They will be coming home on Monday September 11th. These rocks will be reminders for our first graders as they incorporate prayer into their home life throughout the year. Also this week, in our *Be My Disciple* series, our first graders focused on learning about the Bible and how it is God's word to us. We learned that the stories inside the Bible teach us about God's love for us. We will begin our second chapter centered on the theme "God Loves Us." In addition, we will be learning about the feast of *Our Lady of Sorrows*, celebrated on September 15th.

Math:

This week, our first graders continued with Chapter 1 and focused on learning all about using strategies to solve addition problems. When solving a word problem, we used motions to help us remember that we "underline what we already know and circle what we want to find out." Each first grader has had practice now using strategies to solve these problems, write addition number sentences and even use dominos to help with learning about addition. During our morning work time, we rotated playing math games to help us in learning our math facts and with putting together addition number sentences. Some of our favorite games were "Sum Swamp" and "Addition and Subtraction Pop." Any extra time you have to dedicate to mastering math facts will be quite beneficial as we continue our work on this in the classroom this year!

Reading:

During our reading block this week, students learned all about words with short a, and consonants n, d, p, f. We read "What is a Pal?" and reviewed several new sight words throughout the week that have been officially added to our sight word rings. Throughout the week, our first graders used several of our centers to focus on many of our reading skills. Some of their favorite activities included playing "Sight Word Blop" and building words with -at, -ad, and -an. In addition, we had the opportunity to use the iPads to scan QR codes to listen to our favorite stories and play "Spin and Write" in the writing center. To practice our weekly spelling words this week, we used old keyboards to practice typing our words and play-doh to make them! Our first graders were quite busy this week putting their skills to the test in their literacy centers! Throughout the week, we also began using our daily book baggies and read three decodable readers. These included "Nan and Dan," "Nat Cat," and "Dan and Nan." Next week, our first graders will continue bringing home decodable readers as we begin Lesson 2 in our Journeys reading series.

Social Studies/Writing

During our social studies time, we continued our first unit; "Me On the Map" which has helped us take a closer look at our continent, country, state, city and neighborhoods. We continued to focus on putting into perspective how we are a part of each one of these places.

We also worked on our "Me On the Map" booklets which opened up much classroom discussion about where we live and many of our friends and families around the world. During our Writer's Workshop time, our first graders were introduced to their "Words I Use When I Write" booklets (mini dictionaries). We also charted our class writing stamina and set individual writing goals for the week as we wrote all about ourselves in a piece titled "Three Things About Me."

Mark Your Calendar

September 12th: NUTS day

September 15th: Mass at 8:30am, 1st Spelling Test on Lesson 2, Math Study Guide comes home

A Note from Mrs. Buckley:

Dear First Grade Parents,

It was wonderful getting to see so many of you at our Back to School Night. I hope that you all found this helpful and have a better understanding of how our first grade curriculum will be implemented this year. Please don't hesitate to let me know if you have any questions at all!

As mentioned at Back to School Night, we will try to do one service project each month. For our first service opportunity, we will be making snack packs to donate to elementary children in Charlotte who are in need. We will be collecting items the week of September 25th, however, if you'd like to send them in early, that is great too!

Friday, your first graders brought home their spelling bags! In class, we went over how the spelling bags work and their options on the menu for practicing their words throughout the month of September. They all seemed very excited to get started! In addition to using the spelling menu for activities, www.spellingcity.com is a great site used specifically for spelling and vocabulary practice. All first graders are welcome to use this site in addition to or in the place of one of their activities each week. Just make a note on their journal if this is the case. I do believe you have to sign up for the site however, it is a great option for students of any age. Spelling bags are due back at the end of the month on September 28th. We will have our very first spelling test on Friday, September 15th. In celebration of their first test, we will have a very special snack after Mass ☺

Also this week, our first graders have received several new sight words, please be sure to take a few minutes each day to review these words. We will receive 6-8 new sight words **each week** therefore, reviewing these words throughout the week is critical.

I noticed this week that there were many students that went above and beyond on their weekly reading logs. I LOVED seeing so many first graders eager to read extra books in addition to their book baggie books! Only the 10 minutes is required at this time, however, reading for additional time certainly helps your first grader become a better reader! Great job first grade!

Please let me know if you have any questions! I look forward to another wonderful week with your students.

Blessings,
Mrs. Buckley

Spelling words: LESSON 2

if, rip, is, fit, him, pin