

November 22, 2016

Dear Fifth Grade Families,

6 As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to live your lives in him, 7 rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving. Colossians 2:6-7

The fifth and sixth graders have been leading our morning Religion periods with Thanksgiving devotionals. Using a Litany prayer format and a Bible verse like the one above as inspiration, students have been sharing crafts, reading picture books, reciting poetry, and singing songs as we focus our time on thankfulness. It's good to see their leadership in action.

By the time you read this note, we will have assembled the cooking kits for Refuge One. This project was collaboration between grades 1, 2, 5 and 6 and I thank Mrs. Sorg for taking the lead to coordinate our efforts. Refuge One is the recipient of our chapel offerings for the first part of the year and we learned about their organization in a slideshow that detailed one particular family that Grace Church supported in the past. Today, students assembled cooking kits for refuge families who travel to Chicago with the assistance of Refuge One. Thanks to all those who supported the efforts by purchasing particular items for the kits or sending chapel offerings regularly. All students made welcome placemats to include with the kits and the project was met with great enthusiasm.

Last week I mentioned a few "tweaks" to the curriculum in this grading period. One of changes was a new spelling packet in place of the book. One of the aspects that I particularly like about the Spelling packet is the opportunity to use standard proof-reading marks in context. We practiced those marks in Spelling and then used them to self-edit our recent Writing project. In addition to editing for errors, we also took our lesson on adjectives and tried to find more creative ways to describe these admirable people. It was a multi-step process and will require more opportunities to practice but I'm pleased with their efforts.

Miss Washburn has been leading the students in a graphic form of note taking called "mapping" during our Science class. We are using a colorful text about Monster Storms which lends itself nicely to this kind of study skill. After Thanksgiving break, other study skills will be demonstrated.

Happy Thanksgiving,

Mrs. Massmann

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