

ELEMENTARY 2 – KAPPA

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.

Where there is hatred, let me sow love. Where there is injury, pardon. Where there is doubt, faith.

Where there is despair, hope. Where there is darkness, light. Where there is sadness, joy.

~St. Francis of Assisi~

What a joy it has been to be get to know the students in E2 these past couple of weeks! We have spent quite a bit of time reflecting on what peace is, how as Christians we can be at peace in a very not-peace-filled world, and what a peaceful environment looks like here at Hand In Hand. Each one of them designed a beautiful work on peace that is displayed in our room. I pray that our hearts can be at peace this year as we know we rest in the arms of a great and loving Heavenly Father.

The children are getting to know the layout of our room and where all the materials are, so they are able to work more independently. We have discussed how to keep our room peaceful and inviting to work in, and everyone has a job each week to help keep it neat, clean, and orderly. We are in the midst of deciding on a class pet. We had many creative ideas offered last week. A pet rat has been offered to us, so Remy is currently visiting our room with the hope that he can stay permanently.

In Godly Play, we enjoyed hearing about the Good Shepherd and how he protects us in all places and leads us to the table he has prepared for us, and how all people of the world are invited to share in communion with the Good Shepherd. We enjoyed learning how to make bread in the bread maker and were able to break bread together after our Godly Play story, which is a truly blessed time. I am excited to start sharing with the children some of the stories of saints who throughout history have done great work for the Lord.

In grammar, we are diving more in depth into the 9 different parts of speech, starting with nouns, for the year 4 and 5 students. Year 6 is getting deeper into verbs, starting with transitive and intransitive verbs. We are also working on sentence analysis and symbolizing. If symbolizing is new to your child, ask him or her about the symbols for nouns and verbs and why those symbols are used! We also started Latin last week and discussed why Latin is important as we see it used in English words almost every day.

Landforms are our focus in year 4 geography this semester, including where they can be found throughout the world. The 2nd half of the year we will be focusing on the study of our nation, but I am encouraging the children to begin learning their states and capitals now! The 5th & 6th graders have begun their study of Minnesota History. Each Monday they need to bring their Minnesota history folder and their bare book. A letter from Miss Sheila outlining due dates and projects will be sent home with your child on Wednesday.

In science, all the E2 students are studying the vital functions of life: fourth and fifth graders are learning about the vital functions of plants, and sixth years are learning about the vital functions of animals in preparation for their more detailed study of human biology. Ask them about Miss Claire's mythical Very Lazy Student who wouldn't do any work.

Returning Kappa students are picking up where they left off in last year's math, while new students are enthusiastically orienting in the world of Montessori math materials all under the guidance of Miss Claire. The energy and joy of learning really comes out in those lessons, where children are discovering that they are competent and they *do* understand mathematical concepts that used to be mysterious tricks on paper. Soon they will be through the preliminary materials and exploring entirely new territory with the materials to guide them.

PEACE

It does not mean to be in a place where there is no noise, trouble or hard work.

It means to be in the midst of those things and still be calm in your heart.

(author unknown)

