### **RELIGION - LAURA PORTWOOD**

# PRE K-3

We had a delightful start to our year together in Religion class! The students began by wondering what religion was and "Who is God?" and came up with some imaginative ideas. Next we jumped right into the Bible and learned there are two parts-the Old Testament and the New Testament. We did some fun finger play activities with "Mr. Old Testament and Mr. New Testament." This helped the students become familiar with the different parts of the Bible and develop fine motor skills. Using the Bibles, we started with the story of Creation and then learned about Noah and the Ark. They had fun pretending that were on an Ark when actually we were on our own playground equipment. Then we read about Abraham and his wife Sarah and how they trusted in God. They truly enjoyed learning the song "Father Abraham" with all its movements. With International Peace Day on September 21, the students created pinwheels for peace. We even had a visitor "Joy the Bear" to help us learn how to exchange peace with one another. Also Mrs. Koenig, the 1st -5th religion teacher here at Episcopal, came and shared how each of us can be a piece of the puzzle of peace. The students were able to color a blank puzzle piece that together made a whole Peace puzzle. In each lesson we looked to see how God was working and how He is still working within each of us today.

# PRE K-4

The first quarter was a time for our young Knights to learn routines and expectations of our time together in religion and we are off to a good start. We began with talking about God and what the students knew about Him. Using some finger play activities, we learned "Mr. Old Testament and Mr. New Testament" are two parts of the Bible. This helped the students not only become familiar with the different parts of the Bible but also developed fine motor skills. The children learned about Noah and the Ark, Abraham and his wife Sarah and Baby Moses. Each child worked to develop their skill of holding the Bible and turning the page one at a time. They enjoyed laying on their tummies and following along with their own Bible. The students discussed such topics as listening to God, how God always keeps His promises and how to take care of our family, friends and pets because we are all part of God's world. With International Peace Day on September 21, the students enjoyed creating their own pinwheel for peace. We then planted our pinwheels on the front lawn of the school on September 21st as part of our chapel service. We even had a visitor "Joy the Bear" to help us learn how to exchange peace with one another. Also Mrs. Koenig, the 1st -5th religion teacher here at Episcopal, came and shared how each of us can be a piece of the puzzle of peace. The students were able to color a blank puzzle piece that together made a whole Peace puzzle. Next quarter will continue with more fun activities and stories from the Bible.

#### KINDERGARTEN

What a wonderful start we have had in our Religion classes! We jumped right into the Bible and learned there are two parts, the Old and New Testament. Using the Bibles, the students began with the story of Noah, Abraham and Sarah and Baby Moses. The children enjoyed our time outside when we pretended the play equipment was the Ark and they had to take care of all the animals. One of the songs they loved singing was Father Abraham with its many movements. Their skills of handling the Bible, turning pages and following along while reading or noticing site words is ever improving. The are always asking to read the Bibles while laying on their tummies. It is the cutest picture. We even had a visitor "Joy the Bear" to help us learn how to exchange peace with one another. Also Mrs. Koenig, the 1st -5th religion teacher here at Episcopal, came and shared how each of us can be a piece of the puzzle of peace. The students were able to color a blank puzzle piece that together made a whole Peace puzzle. With International Peace Day on September 21, the students enjoyed creating their own pinwheel for peace, which we planted on the front lawn of the school on as part of our chapel service. During our time together the students are encouraged to develop an understanding of God and His love for them and all creation. Next quarter we continue in the Old Testament but move in the New Testament as it goes closer to Christmas.

# **RELIGION - JENNY KOENIG**

### **FIRST**

In this first quarter of the school year in Religion class, the first graders learned about Old Testament Kings, Judges, and other key people, their actions, and the events in their lives. Specifically, the students learned about Joshua, Deborah, Gideon, Samuel, Ruth, David, Solomon, and Josiah. The last week of the quarter was spent learning about how to be a resourceful servant -- how being helpful to others is part of our calling, especially with our Lower School theme of "Love Your Neighbor." To support their learning, the students participated in activities relating to the lessons: crossword puzzles, word searches, and art activities such as drawing or creating with play-doh. One of the highlights of the first quarter was decorating puzzle pieces as part of our learning about the theme of "peace." The children worked in groups to decorate a puzzle piece for peace and came up with a title for their piece. The pieces are on display on the Religion bulletin board in the Greer Center. I invite you to go take a look!

### **SECOND**

In this first quarter of the school year in Religion class, the first graders learned about Old Testament Kings, Judges, and other key people, their actions, and the events in their lives. Specifically, the students learned about Joshua, Deborah, Gideon, Samuel, Ruth, David, Solomon, and Josiah. The last week of the quarter was spent learning about how to be a resourceful servant -- how being helpful to others is part of our calling, especially with our Lower School theme of "Love Your Neighbor." To support their learning, the students participated in activities relating to the lessons: crossword puzzles, word searches, and art activities such as drawing or creating with play-doh. One of the highlights of the first quarter was decorating puzzle pieces as part of our learning about the theme of "peace." The children worked in groups to decorate a puzzle piece for peace and came up with a title for their piece. The pieces are on display on the Religion bulletin board in the Greer Center. I invite you to go take a look!

### **THIRD**

In this first quarter of the school year in Religion class, the third graders learned about prophetic writings from the Bible. They learned that the Hebrew prophets of the Old Testament were passionate advocates for faith in God and for moral and social responsibility. Again and again, these prophets called Israel and Judah back to worship and obedience. They learned about Elijah and Elisha, Amos, First Isaiah, Micah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Second Isaiah, and three of the twelve "Minor Prophets": Hosea, Joel, and Jonah. To support their learning, the students participated in activities relating to the lessons: crossword puzzles, word searches, and art activities such as drawing or creating with play-doh. One of the highlights of the first quarter was in learning about the theme of "peace". The children worked in groups to color a puzzle piece for peace and came up with a title for their piece. The pieces are on display on the Religion bulletin board in the Greer Center. I invite you to go take a look!