



# First Grade News

St. Thomas the  
Apostle School

Sept. 30, 2011

## Fabulous First Graders

We are rolling along in first grade. We finished with all the names in the class, and we had a fun time making words with names and writing about each other. Your child should have brought home the book that everyone made for them. They are really proud of these books; as they should be.

We have also been working hard on writing letters the correct way. We are learning about tall letters, middle letters, and sinker letters. It is important for us to remember to "touch bump" our letters on the lines.

Thank you to all of you that took a sticky note from our donation poster. We really appreciate all of your donations!!

I can't thank you enough for all the support I have received this year. You are great!

God Bless,

Kelly

## Important Dates to Remember

- |                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| Sat. Oct. 1      | 1st Grade Parent Gathering                   |
| Mon. Oct. 3 & 10 | No Library due to MAP testing for grades 2-8 |
| Sat. Oct. 8      | Back to the Races                            |
| Fri. Oct. 21     | No School/Teacher                            |



## Cool Weather

Please make sure your child has something to wear outside when the temperature is below 60 degrees. From day to day we don't know what the weather will do these days!

Thank You!

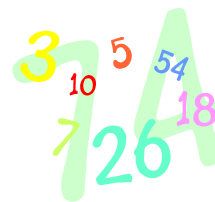
## Science/Soc. Studies

This week for science we continued our study on nutrition which we will cap off with our trip to the Farmer's Market today. We made our "Foods I Like" book using grocery ads. The kids seem to have a really good understanding of what is healthy food. Next week in Science we will do some comparing and measuring.

In Social Studies we talked about Johnny Appleseed this week and worked on some mapping skills.

If you have not given me your e-mail address, please do so as soon as possible. I am sending out newsletters via e-mail. I will also, at times, send reminders via e-mail.

WORSHIP IN SPIRIT AND TRUTH



## Touch Math

We will soon begin Touch Math. This incorporates hearing, seeing, speaking and touching numbers so that children with all learning styles can be successful learning addition and subtraction. This is just another tool they can use-some may use it all the time and some may choose not to, and that's ok too! On the attached handout you can see the touch points for the numbers. The double dots are to count twice. In addition problems, the child says the bigger number and continues counting while touching the smaller number to get a sum. For example,  $8+3=11$  the child touches 8, says, "8" and continues counting while touching the three touch points on the three (eight...nine..., ten, eleven). This way they can even do the higher numbers:  $25+3=33$  (twenty-five...26,27,28,29,30,31,32,33). Eventually, as your child learns the touch points, he/she will feel as if the dots are present even when they are not, and then they won't need them at all! Some of the first graders already know how to add, but I am teaching them all the strategies, then I will differentiate instruction according to their readiness levels.

### Reading



We introduced two new words for our Word Wall this week. They were: I and a.

Next week we will have 5 new Word Wall Words. They will be: see, me, my, like, can. We chant them and spell them and frame them and write them many times. Finally on Fridays we get to write them in our Word Wall Books. We already have put "I" and "a" in the Word Wall Books.



Our Daily 5 is off to a great start. We are just getting started using our journals for Work on Writing. I am teaching "mini lessons" on thinking about what to write, how to sound out words and how to use complete sentences with capitals and periods. The students have been introduced to all of the Daily 5 elements except for Word Work. That will be introduced and practiced on Monday.

NOTE: Some of you have had a problem e-mailing me at school. Make sure that you spell Donohue with an "o" in the middle.

### Homework



We will have homework that comes home each Monday and is due on Friday. Right now the students are expected to read 20 minutes a night for the Book It program (info. is coming home today). We started homework with a fun project, and those instructions are coming home today. These are due next Friday. The regular homework will come home the following Monday. All materials needed will be in your child's homework folder every week.

### 1ST GRADE PARENT GATHERING

The gathering will be on Saturday, Oct. 1st at 7:00 PM at the home of Stacey and Nagih Chalfoun, Lana's parents from Mrs. Lake's class. The Chalfouns live at 4700 Old Grand River Trail NE in Ada 49301. Any questions call Lisa Mullen, Aiden's mom from Mrs. Lake's class.