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# First Grade News

Mrs. Donohue's Class

## Fabulous First Graders

Well we are all trying to adjust to these long days. The students are doing a super job. They are working very hard!

Thank you for all your support. I thank the Lord that I have such a wonderful group of parents to work with.

Please return the orange Volunteer Information Sheet that you received in your First Grade Handbook as soon as possible. I will be contacting each of you some time in October to talk about how your child is adjusting to first grade.

Thank you again for sharing your precious little ones with me. I enjoyed seeing so many of you at the Open House on Wednesday. I hope you all enjoy this Fall weather over the weekend.

God's Blessings,

Kelly

## Farmer's Market Field Trip



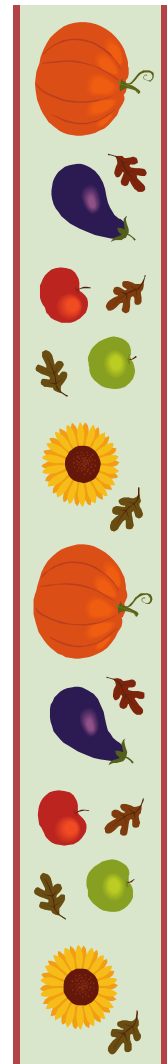
On Friday, Sept. 30 we are planning to walk down to the Farmer's Market on Fulton Street with Mrs. Lake's class. I will be bringing some produce back to the classroom to observe, investigate, and compare. You may send with your child no more than five dollars to purchase some fresh fruits or vegetables.

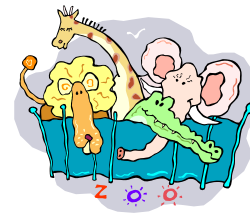
I am going to need some chaperones for this field trip. If you could help out that would be greatly appreciated. A permission slip is attached.

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St. Thomas the  
Apostle School

Sept. 16, 2011





## Reading/Writing

We have been reviewing our Zoo Phonics and will continue to do so for the next couple of weeks.

We also have begun The Daily Five. The lower elementary teachers are excited to introduce you and the students to **the Daily Five**. **The Daily Five** is a student-driven management structure designed to fully engage students in reading and writing. Using our curriculum to drive instruction, the Daily Five will enable us to work with individual students and small groups in order to meet them at their own instructional level. During our literacy time, if you look in our classroom, you might see a whole-group focus lesson followed by students rotating through the daily five:

- Read to Self
- Read to Someone
- Work on Writing
- Word Works/Spelling
- Listen to Reading



**The Daily 5** is a structure that will help students develop the daily habits of reading, writing and working with peers that will lead to a lifetime of independent literacy.

So far we have practiced Read to Self and Read to Someone. Next week we will be working on Listen to Reading.

We continue to work on one name a day in our Working With Words block and also our Writing block. They are getting very good at this. We have also read the book **The Meanies**. We echo read it and we also did some story sequencing.

## Special Person of the Week

### Math

**We have been doing some addition and subtraction readiness activities.** The students have used counters, mats, and even themselves as manipulatives. We are continuing with this chapter next week. We will be looking at 1 and 2 more than and less than and also some patterning.

I neglected to explain our **Special Person of the Week** board in the handbook that you received during Open House. Each week one of the students in the class will be Special Person of the Week. The Friday before I will send home a poster that needs to be filled out by the student and a note stating that your child needs to return the poster by the following Monday. Your child will be calendar helper during the entire week. **Every child in the class will have a chance to be Special Person of the Week.**



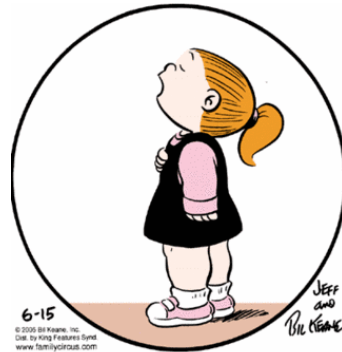
## Classroom Morning Meeting

Every Monday morning the class and I get together to share special intentions, discuss the week, and talk about how we can share God's love and peace here at St. Thomas. We do a lot of brainstorming. I choose a topic that we discuss and work on for the week. We also remind each other that it is something that we should be doing everyday, not just for one week. We also talk about how to give classmates gentle reminders when they forget what Jesus would do in certain situations.

Our topics so far have been "Using Nice Talk" and "Following Directions." The students are doing great with this. Many times I read a story that goes along with our topic.



## WORSHIP IN SPIRIT AND TRUTH



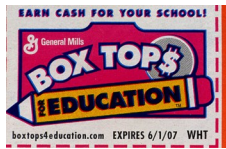
"... and to the Republic for witches dance ..."



## Dates to Remember

- Mon. Sept. 19: Library books due
- Wed. Sept. 21: Art Prize Opens
- Mon. Sept. 26: Library books due
- Mon. Sept. 26: Non-uniform Day
- School Pictures
- Mon. Sept. 26: H&S Skating Party
- Fri. Sept. 30: Farmer's Market
- Field trip 8:30 a.m.
- Sat. Oct. 8: Off to the Races!!

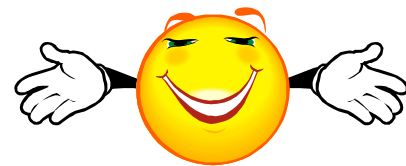
Please remember to cut out and send the Box Tops For Education Labels, found on many boxes of foods, to school.



## OFF TO THE RACES!



Please consider attending this Education Foundation fundraiser. It is a very worthy cause and I am anticipating that it will be a very fun night. I will be working at a table so please come and see me. I look forward to seeing you all there. You can pick up registration forms here at school at the front entrance or ask the office. If you have any questions please contact Maureen Muraski, Kayleigh's mom.



**Thank you to everyone that picked up a sticky note from the poster outside our door. We appreciate your donations!**