



First Grade News

St. Thomas the
Apostle School

Oct. 1, 2010

Fabulous First Graders

We are rolling along in first grade. We are almost finished with all the names in the class, and **we are having a fun time making words with names and writing about each other.** Your child will soon be bringing 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

Mon. Oct. 4	Library Books Due
Mon. Oct. 4	Celebrate Life Week
Mon. Oct. 11	Jean Pass Day
Mon. Oct. 11	Book Orders Due
Sat. Oct. 16	Auction with a Twist
Fri. Oct. 22	No School



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!

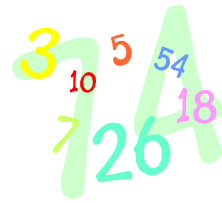
Thank You!

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 on Friday. We made our "Foods I Like" book using grocery ads and also did a song and book "Eating through the Week." 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.

THE GIFT YOU HAVE RECEIVED, GIVE AS A
GIFT



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

Our homework survey was very interesting to read. There are such a wide variety of opinions on homework! We are copying and sending home the results, just so everyone becomes aware of the preferences people have. We will have homework that comes home each Monday and is due at the end of the week. Right now the students are expected to read 20 minutes a night for the Book It program (info. came home earlier this week). We started homework with a fun project, and those instructions will come home on Monday for a project due on Friday. These are due next Friday. The regular homework will come home the following Monday. All materials needed will be in the folder every week.

Important!



PLEASE REMEMBER TO FILL OUT A BACKGROUND CHECK, EVEN IF YOU FILLED ONE OUT LAST YEAR. YOU CAN'T GO ON FIELD TRIPS OR VOLUNTEER IN THE CLASSROOM WITHOUT IT.