



First Grade News

Mrs. Donohue's Class

Fabulous First Graders

Wow! October is sure flying by quickly. We are getting the hang of how the Daily 5 works. The students have built up their stamina nicely. They are becoming good independent workers.

The first graders are really doing a fabulous job making words and using the different decoding strategies when reading.

I hope homework is going well. Remember that it should only take about 10–15 minutes for each assignment. If it is taking more than that just write a note on the paper to me and have your child hand the paper in "as is." I am not a big stickler when it comes to homework. Homework is to give your child practice.

During our Monday Morning Meetings we have talked about being honest, using nice talk, following directions, feeling left out and solving a problem. Next week we will discuss knowing when to tell.

Have a wonderful weekend!

God Bless,

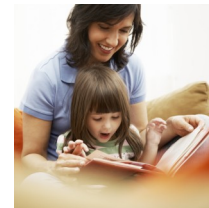
Kelly Donohue

Volunteers

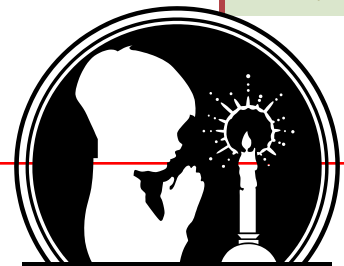
Thank you to everyone who volunteered to listen to children read, help during Fun Friday, or doing something from home. I will be getting in touch with some of you soon. If you ever have to cancel, don't worry about it. I know things come up.

St. Thomas the
Apostle School

Oct. 14, 2011



WORSHIP IN SPIRIT AND TRUTH



Science/Social Studies

In Science we discussed what it means to measure the **volume** of something. We had fun comparing different volumes.

Next week we will discuss the season of Autumn and do some leaf sorting.

In Social Studies we talked about Christopher Columbus and the mistake he made when he was looking for a new route to the Indies.

Next week we will have fun role playing how to be a good citizen. The class will be broken up into small groups and they will be given a scenario to act out. We will also be doing a good citizenship/bad citizenship activity.



Cool Weather

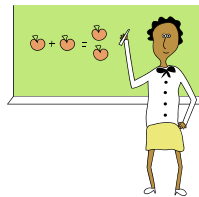


Please make sure your child has something to wear outside when the temperature is **below 60 degrees**. From day to day we don't know what the weather will do these days!



Math

In math we are learning the **meaning of addition and subtraction through the use of stories and modeling and introducing the vertical format for writing an addition or subtraction**



Reading/Writing

Our Word Wall Words this week were: **who, do, you, what, am.** Next week our Word Wall Words will be: **are, went, jump, on, little** to go along with our story for Guided Reading, **"Five Little Rabbits."** This week our story was **"Sometimes."** This story focused on **opposites or "antonyms."** We each wrote a page to continue the story using our own antonyms. The focus of Guided Reading is comprehension so we do things like take **picture walks, predictions, mapping and acting it out.**

In Phonics we are working on the short "a" sound and building three letter words with short "a" in the middle.

The students have also begun **writing in their writer's notebooks.** They are writing **sentences with their Word Wall Words** and writing about things they like. We continue to **work on good handwriting, spacing between words, capitalization, and punctuation.**

Religion

This week and next week we will focus on **Mary and understanding the Rosary.** We went through the Rosary together, learning **what the beads stand for and explaining the Mysteries.** We will also discover Mary's faith in God and the ways we can show our own faith.

Dates to Remember

Oct. 15	Oct. Book orders due
Oct. 17	Library Books due
Oct. 21	No School/Teacher Inservice
Oct. 24	Library Books Due

