



LAKE'S LINES



St. Thomas the
Apostle
Grand Rapids, MI

September 7, 2007
Volume 3, Issue 2

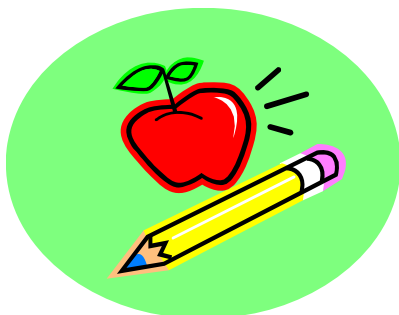
Mrs. Lake's Classroom Newsletter

1st Grade is super!

The children are really adjusting SO WELL to first grade! You all must have had so much fun this summer, they are rested and ready to learn.

We will not be starting homework until October. You will get more details on how that will work at the end of the month and at the open house.

This is such a wonderful class! They are very well behaved and



getting along just fabulously! We are talking a lot about treating each other with respect and love and they are doing a fabulous job!

Please email or call me if you have any questions or concerns. My extension is 335. My email is hlake@stthomasqr.org and my home number (before 8 PM please) is 554-3339.

Snacks and Recess

Next week we are back down to 2 recesses and one snack. We will not be having recess in the afternoon or a snack. They should make it through the day now that we are more used to the full day of school.

Stoplight

You may have heard about our stoplight at school. It is located on my closet door and is very large. It has all the children's names on clothespins on the green light. When they break one of our rules, first they get a warning, then if it happens again their name is moved to the yellow light and if it happens again, they will go to the red light. I have told them that a visit to the red light will result in a phone call home. We have four rules in first grade.
1. Respect and love JOYfully (Jesus Others You) 2. Tell the truth 3. Try your best 4. Be a friend. So far I haven't even had a student on the yellow!

Alive in the
POWER of the
HOLY SPIRIT!!!

Reading

This week we have been very busy reading. In first grade we do a program called **4 Blocks**, which I will explain more in depth for you at the open house. The four blocks are **Guided Reading, Writing, Self-Selected Reading, and Working With Words**. We have been learning how self-selected reading is different than looking at a book and they are finding books that they can read some of the words, which they love! Our Working With Words (phonics component) and Writing portions of our days have been spent with a name of someone in our class each day. We spend some time with the name itself, then we see if we can make some words with it. During writing we are writing a book about that classmate. We are having a lot of fun with that. We will continue with that until we finish all the names in the class. In Guided Reading next week we will work on an ABC book about our classroom. We also read several books a day together!

Math

I am so excited to start a new math program this year! In an effort to reach more students at their level I am going to **differentiate instruction in math**. We will be covering the same skills that are the **first grade curriculum**, but I will be giving students different activities based on their comfort with that particular skill. We will be working in **smaller groups** and have an opportunity to move in and out of the groups. You won't see pages coming home from a math book that everyone has, I will be using a **variety of resources**. Thank you for your support in this new endeavor that will really be a benefit to your first grader!

Science and Social Studies

We will start next week some Science talking about **Germs** and do an experiment with glitter lotion to see how we pass germs and how difficult they are to get off! We will learn to sing Row, Row, Row Your Boat two times as we rub in the soap to get our hands clean and to sneeze into our elbows and hold our elbow with our other hand. We will read a great book about Germs too. We will get into our Science books soon.

Religion

We are taking time after lunch recess every day to **read the bible** and **pray together**. We are also praying each morning, and before eating. We will start in our Religion book next week. They have a book we read together and a Faith Journal that we will do each week.

Upcoming Events

Family Open House

Wednesday, September 12

Andrew's Birthday!!!!!!!

September 12

Attachments

- Book Orders—due Monday, Sept. 17 (there are 2 different ones but you can write one check to Scholastic, they are both the same company)

Don't forget gym shoes on Monday!!