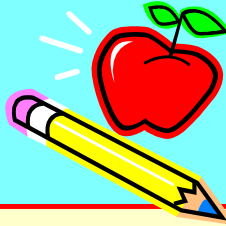


LAKE'S LINES



St. Thomas the
Apostle
Grand Rapids, MI

October 28, 2011
Volume 7, Issue 6

Mrs. Lake's Classroom Newsletter

Fantastic First Graders

Now that we are getting more into the season when kids can become sick, PLEASE have your child change clothes when they get home from school, it really goes a long way in stopping the spread of germs!

Watch for information soon about our Thanksgiving play and also send back the permission slips for Pottery, Pizza and Pictures November 9.

THANK YOU to those of you who have helped provide things we have needed for our classroom. All we still need are gift cards to Meijer. We use these to buy supplies for Fun Friday. So if you ever have an extra \$5 when you are there, we would appreciate any help. It adds up for the teachers when we just add supplies to our weekly groceries.

**My multitude of contact options are:
458-4228 X335, and email
hlake@stthomasgr.org**

Worship in
Spirit
and Truth.

The Pilgrims Came

The big thing to get on the calendar NOW is our **Thanksgiving play!** You will receive invitations, but our play is called, "The Pilgrims Came" and we are performing it on **Monday, November 21 at 9:00 AM in the lower level of church.** We would like to enjoy refreshments together following the play, so **if you can help us provide something or help set up or clean up afterwards, please call Amanda Kwiatkowski or Melissa Greene our room moms.** The play is only about 15 minutes and the first graders will be all together for the performance. Please make arrangements to come if you can.

Upcoming Events

All Saints Day

Tuesday, November 1

Mrs. Pelia's Birthday/Last Day

Wednesday, November 2

Amelia's Birthday

Saturday, November 5

Pottery, Pizza, and Pictures

Wednesday, November 9

Report Cards available on-line

Friday, November 11

Reading/Writing

Our word wall words this week were: **did, saw, look, at, to.** We read "**I Went Walking**" in our reading books. Our word wall words next week will be: **if, out, because, and, is.** To remember "because" we sing the spelling to the tune of Mary Had a Little Lamb. Our story next week is called, "**Popcorn.**" We will be making a sequence book and reading some other books about popcorn. Our Guided Reading story is our opportunity to practice various **comprehension strategies.**

For writing we have been practicing writing complete sentences and **writing stories.** They can't wait to show you their journals at conferences!

Math

This week we finished **Chapter 2.** We worked on stories about separating, using counters to subtract and using numbers to subtract. We worked on zero in subtraction, vertical subtraction, and choosing an operation. They seem to have a very good grasp on the concept of addition, but subtraction is a little bit more difficult, especially when **comparing numbers** (You have 8 spoons and 6 forks, how many more spoons do you have? $8-6=2$). You can always practice memorizing addition facts with your first graders, that's the next step! Next week we will start **Chapter 3: Strategies for Addition facts to 12.**

You will have instructions soon on how to access report cards online November 11!!

Science and Social Studies

This week for science we spent some time doing some **pumpkin science.** We guessed how tall the pumpkin was, how big around, what it weighed and how many seeds it had. Then we measured all of those things and wrote a sentence about what we learned. We also read several books about **how pumpkins grow.** We learned the names of the **parts of the pumpkin** as well. Next week we will do some fall experiments and observe, measure and make predictions.

For Social Studies we talked about **natural and managed consequences.** Next week we will talk about **justice and solving conflicts** by reading some books and then the next few weeks we will be focusing on learning our play, "**The Pilgrims Came**" and making costumes!

Religion

This week we talked about celebrating life. We had a guest reader come in and read stories to us about being born and how we were made in the image of God. Next week we will start Chapter 5 in the book: "**Jesus Shows God's Love.**" We will learn how Jesus loved us so much that he gave his life for us, God raised Jesus from the dead, and that Jesus returned to His Father in heaven.

For Prayer Service last week we read "**The Pumpkin Patch Parable**" all about how God changes us and gives us a new face with his light shining through us just like we do to a pumpkin at Halloween.

Next week on Tuesday is a very special day: **All Saints Day.** Here at St. Thomas, on Holy Days we have parent catechists come to the rooms from 9-11 AM and the whole day is worship, service, and recreation.