

LAKE'S LINES



St. Thomas the
Apostle
Grand Rapids, MI

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MRS LAKE'S CLASSROOM NEWSLETTER

Fantastic First Graders Merry Christmas everyone!!!!

Don't forget about our **Birthday Party for Jesus on Tuesday at 2:00 PM**. You are welcome to join us! We are going to have cake and a little activity to celebrate. We have two full days next week Monday and Tuesday and then we are off until Monday, January 3!

May the light of Christ shine especially bright in your hearts this Christmas season! Thank you for sharing your son/daughter with me. **They are some of God's most wonderful gifts!**

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The gift you have
received, give as a gift!!!!!!

Family Haven Christmas

Thank you so much for your support of our family from Family Haven we sponsored this year. We are so excited to deliver these presents and we had great fun wrapping them yesterday! Thank you for everything you sent in and for all your prayers. Deb from Family Haven is coming on Friday afternoon with the mom from the family to pick up all the beautiful gifts and to talk to the first graders about homelessness. Mrs. Donohue's class purchased gifts for the other 3 members of this family. This family is so thankful! If ever you are looking to donate items somewhere, I encourage you to support this wonderful ICCF ministry.

Gifts coming home!

On Monday, your first grader will bring home their special **Christmas gifts** that they made during our field trip. Please be advised that they are **fragile!** I hope they made it home in one piece. Please read the instructions included. **Don't open until Christmas!** ☺

Homework will resume after
Christmas break with a big
push on knowing addition
facts. Don't forget to read!

Reading/Writing

Our Word Wall Words this week were: **Jesus, God, it, in go.** After break we will have **with, will, eat, play, said.**

For Guided Reading this week we read **Christmas books** and did comprehension activities with them. They took home a couple of their own little books to practice reading. After break we will be reading the story, "**Later, Rover**" and doing some sequencing and fixing sentences.

Religion

We have been talking about **Advent** and **Christmas**. We have really been enjoying reading in the bible and adding an ornament to our **Jesse Tree** in the hallway each day. They will bring home the rest of the ornaments and their tree so you can continue at home if you choose.

Upcoming Events

Celebrate Katie's Birthday!!!

Monday, December 20 (12-19)

Non-Uniform Day

Monday, December 20

Jesus' Birthday Party!!!

Tuesday, December 21, 2:00 PM

Christmas Break!

December 22 to January 2

Celebrate Anthony's Birthday!!!!

Monday, January 3 (1-2)

Celebrate Sophia Herold's Birthday!!!!

Monday, January 3 (1-2)

Science and Social Studies

Our main focus for Social Studies this week has been on different **Christmas traditions throughout the world.** Next week we will learn about Christmas in **Italy** and will read the story of Old Befana and make **finger puppets.** This week we learned about **Christmas in France** and we talked about their focus on the nativity. We also talked a lot on Monday about **Christmas in Sweden and St. Lucia on St. Lucia day December 13.**

After break we will continue our study of weather and talk about **severe weather.**

In **Social Studies** after break we are looking at time and making a calendar.

Math

We finished **Chapter 4: Strategies for Subtraction facts to 12** in math this week and took the test. They did very well on that. We will continue to practice **fact families** through the short week next week. This is a hard concept to understand, but once they really get how subtraction and addition are related, it all makes so much more sense to them.

After we return from Christmas break, we are going to start work on addition facts. **First graders need to memorize all their addition facts** from $0+0=0$ to $9+9=18$. We will start with adding zero and work our way up. The homework the first 2 weeks back will be to make and practice flash cards. We are also going to start having timed tests to see if they have **immediate** recall. This is just pure memorization, and has to be practiced one-on-one, so most of the homework will be to practice facts. We will also start **Chapter 5: Geometry and Fractions** when we get back.