



LAKE'S LINES



St. Thomas the
Apostle
Grand Rapids, MI

December 2, 2011
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Mrs. Lake's Classroom Newsletter

Fantastic First Graders

I hope you enjoyed your Thanksgiving break! I really enjoyed seeing you all at conferences! It is so much fun to talk about your beautiful children! I just can't believe it is December already! This year is flying by!

The play was fantastic! The kids did really great and I was so proud of them. Thank you so much to all of you who came and all of you who provided a treat. It was a wonderful time to give thanks! Send me pictures if you have them! Of course my camera had a dead battery. So please email me a picture if you have it.

We are going to have our **Birthday Party for Jesus on Tuesday, December 20 from 1:15 - 2:00.** I just need someone to make (or order, that's what I do) a birthday cake for Jesus and someone to send in some apple cider and we'll be all set! We will have a game or two and stories and some cake for Jesus. We want to keep the treats under control. ☺

I'm sending book orders home that are due on Monday, December 12 and then we will have them in by Christmas break. Our code is GVW64 online.

School: 458-4228 X335

Email: hlake@stthomasgr.org

Worship in SPIRIT and
TRUTH!!!!

Family Haven Christmas

We are planning our tags for our Candy Canes and we will have them done by **Wednesday, December 7 after school so we can all get together to attach them to the candy canes.** We still need families to sign up to come on the evening of the 13th. **Please let me know right away if there is a time slot you can be there to read the Christmas story and enjoy the fellowship and Christmas activities.** Zondervan has donated Christmas books to give the families and there will be crafts and carolers a professional photographers. We have spent a lot of time in the classroom talking about wants and needs and how those are different when you don't have a home or need help finding a home. They have really been thinking about these families and praying for them. I hope you all can join us for some time on the 13th. **Thank you to those who have already signed up for a time to come.**

Boots and Slippers

The first graders are welcome to bring their **slippers** to change into now that it is boot season. They can even leave a pair here at school. Just make sure they have **regular shoes on Fridays for gym**, and make sure their slippers have a rubber sole so they don't fall down in the hallway!

Reading/Writing

This week's word wall words were: **make, old, this, were, be.** Next weeks word wall words will be: **when, they, was, by, his.**

For Guided Reading this week we read a story called "**Moving Day.**" Next week, we will be reading "**Catch Me if You Can.**" We have also been reading about holidays in other countries and reading some **Christmas stories** for Guided Reading.

We have been talking a lot about the different things we see in words. We have talked about **contractions** and **compound words** and also **word chunks** and **blends** and **digraphs**. I hope your children are making those same observations and connections in their reading at home. Feel free to point them out!

Upcoming Events

St. Nicholas Day

Tuesday, December 6

Candy Cane tag attaching

Wednesday, December 7, 3:15

Feast of the Immaculate Conception

Thursday, December 8

Mass at 12:30

Christmas Party at ICCF

Tuesday, December 13, 4-8 PM

Christmas Vespers

Wednesday, December 14, 7 PM

All School Christmas Mass

Friday, December 16

Jesus' Birthday Party!

Tuesday, December 20, 1:15

11:00 Dismissal/ Christmas break

Wednesday, December 21

Science and Social Studies

This week we learned about **seasons.** We kept track of the weather during the month of November. We had the opportunity to see all the different kinds of weather in one month! Welcome to Michigan!!

In Social Studies this week we started learning about **Christmas celebrations** around the world. We will talk about **Germany, Holland, France, Italy and Sweden.** This week we talked about Christmas customs in **Germany.** Next week we will talk about **Holland and spend lots of time talking about St. Nicholas.** Please let me know if you have anything to share about **Christmas traditions** in those countries or any other! We would love to share in those traditions!

Religion

This week we have talked a lot about **Advent.** We made some great Advent paper chains to count down the days until Jesus' birth. We also read in our religion book about the **First week of Advent.** This year we are doing a **Jesse Tree** on the first floor. Each day the students color an ornament for the tree and one child from each class gets to hang theirs on our tree in the hallway. They also have their own tree that will come home when we are done. We all gather in the hallway at the end of the day and **read from the bible about that ornament for the Jesse tree.**

Math

This week we started **Chapter 4: Strategies for subtraction facts to 12.** They are getting the hang of subtraction. We will finish that chapter and work on fact families the rest of the month so they can understand the relationship between addition and subtraction facts.