



St. Thomas the  
Apostle  
Grand Rapids, MI

January 6, 2012  
Volume 7, Issue 11

# Mrs. Lake's Classroom Newsletter

## Fantastic First Graders Happy New Year!!!

We have three weeks before the official end of the semester.

I am doing formal assessments of each child and am **amazed** at their progress! First grade is so much fun to see the amazing growth in their learning!

Please keep in mind that snacks for the morning should be a **nutritional snack** that will help your child focus on learning. Any kind of sweet or candy or chips is just mostly sugar or fats and not the protein, complex carbohydrates combination that really helps the brain. Cheese, fruit (not fruit snacks) granola bars, cereal mix, yogurt, these are all excellent choices. Also, please keep the school policy in mind when choosing birthday snacks. We have been getting away from this lately.

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Worship in Spirit  
and Truth!!!

## Catholic Schools Week

The week of January 30 through February 3 is Catholic Schools Week.

We will be able to participate in some great praise and worship opportunities that week and really celebrate this gift of Catholic Schools. **Mass on Friday, February 3 is for the children to invite special guests.** Please encourage your child to ask someone to be their guest at mass. Their special guest may also join them for a hot lunch.

## MMF

In order to assess the first graders retention of addition facts, we will start next week with the **one-minute math tests.** We are going to use the MMF program that is used in the other grades. It is systematic and as they pass each test and move up, it adds another fact to know. The paper has practice at the top that the kids say aloud and then they are timed for one minute. Before we begin, the kids will take a quick test to see how fast they write to get a goal on the number they need to have right. If they don't pass their goal that day, they bring home the sheet and are to practice the top section out loud, saying each complete problem. Then they will retake that level next time. **The goal is to know these facts instantly.** It should only be about 2 minutes of practice on the nights they have a test they do not pass, but that practice out loud will help them succeed. Please let me know if you have any questions.

## Reading/Writing

Our Word Wall Words this week were: **said, eat, with, will, play**. Next week our word wall words will be **fun, that, her, have, nice**

We read the story this week, "Later, Rover" and read a readers theater as well. Next week we will have a lot of fun with some penguin stories! First we will make the book, **"Four Little Penguins"** then we will make **"Five Little Penguins Slipping on the Ice."** We made our own books and practiced reading them and made finger puppets. We will also write some fabulous **penguin stories!** This week we focused on the comprehension strategies: "Back up and Reread" and "Predict what happens next." These are up on our Daily 5 CAFÉ board so we can remember to practice in our reading.

## Math

How are those **flash cards** going? We will start with our math fact testing next week (see MMF on the other side). **Don't stop working on them memorizing their facts.**

We have been working on **Chapter 5: Geometry and Fractions**. Some of this material the kids already knew, so we were able to skip some. It's the fraction stuff we start next week that will get kind of tricky! Any time you can cut food into fractions and point it out to your child will really help!

## Religion

This week we learned about Epiphany as we led the PK-1 prayer service. We also worked on **Chapter 8: Jesus Gave us the Church**. Next week we will talk about **vocations**. We will write about **"How will I serve God?"** and we will have speakers from the **Trinitarians of Mary** on Friday. We will also work on **Chapter 9: The First Christians Follow Jesus**.

## Science and Social Studies

This week for science we learned about **storms** and severe weather. We will make a mini-book for our weather unit. Next week we will take our Weather test and then learn a lot about **penguins!** We will learn about some of the different types of penguins and we will watch a power-point on the projector with video of penguins. We will make a mini-book of all the **penguin parts** and talk about how amazing God is to give them exactly what they need for their environment! God takes care of all of us so well! We will also practice our map skills and look at **where penguins live in the world!**



## Upcoming Events

### **Vocations Week**

January 9-13

### **Book Orders Due**

Monday, January 16

### **End of 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter**

Friday, January 27

We still need a small CD player to play music for the whole class and personal CD players for "Listen to Reading." We could also use some new white board markers if anyone could send some in. THANK YOU!!