



LAKE'S LINES



St. Thomas the
Apostle
Grand Rapids, MI

September 17, 2010
Volume 6, Issue 3

Mrs. Lake's Classroom Newsletter

Fantastic First Graders

WOW! I am so impressed with this WONDERFUL first grade group. They are really growing up and are already learning so much—they WANT to learn so much, it's fabulous. They have conducted themselves so well, are such good listeners and are very bright! We are rolling right along!

Thank you so much to all of you who grabbed notes of items we need. We really appreciate it! I am also looking for a volunteer or two to pull pages out of math books. Now that we don't have our own desks, it is really time consuming to pass out books, tear out the pages and put them back. I'm hoping someone can do chapters for me ahead of time. Let me know if you can help. THANK YOU!

Please call me if you have any questions or concerns, or just want to chat about your wonderful child! My extension is 335. My email is hlake@stthomasqr.org

We will have our Field Trip planning meeting on THURS. September 23 at 3:15 in the classroom. Please come and plan our field trips for the year!

Farmer's Market

We are going to the Farmer's Market on FRIDAY, OCT. 1. I have attached a permission slip form to be returned. Please sign up at the bottom if you are able to come with us. We will walk over there and back.

Don't forget to send a couple dollars with your child if you can for them to purchase some fresh fruits or vegetables. We are also going to purchase some fresh fruits and vegetables for measuring in a science lesson!

Young Explorer

I am so excited about the National Geographic Young Explorer magazines that we ordered for the 1st graders. In the September issue we will read about bright colored animals, parties around the world, and shapes we can find in nature.

There is a new policy for the diocese that requires that all school volunteers get background checks EACH year. Please fill out the form that came with your last Pieces if you want to help in the classroom!!

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

Reading/Writing

We have continued to work on one **name a day** in our Working With Words and also our writing. They are really enjoying both of these activities. First we look at the shape of each name, and the sounds and then we see what words we can make with the letters in each name. Then during **writing** we make a web of the things that child likes and **each person writes about them.** This is made into a book. It will take us a another couple weeks to finish all the names and then we will do some activities with all the names.

During the Guided Reading block this week we read **"Mrs. Wishy-washy"** which was great fun! She did come in for a visit today! We acted it out and sequenced and read together. Next week we will do a story called **"The Meanies"** which is really a blast—the kids love this story. After that we will read some stories out of our reading books and practice comprehension strategies.

Math

We are working in Chapter 1 still this week. Based on the pretest, the children that already understand a particular lesson are doing some enrichment about the same concept that is being taught. We will continue in chapter 1 next week with **comparing numbers and some pattern concepts.** We will soon take a break from the book all together so I can briefly teach them **touchpoint math**: a system where each number has a dot to help them with adding and subtracting. There will be more on this later.

Science and Social Studies

This week we went to the science lab and learned in our science book about **what scientists do.** They sort and they observe and they make inferences and they make models. We made a model airplane to see what it does to illustrate how scientists make models to study things. The children learned that **they are scientists too!** We also finished learning about germs by making a little book and reading some more about how germs are spread.

In Social Studies we talked about the **Constitution** today for Constitution Day. We colored a book and watched a power point and the School House Rock song, "Preamble." Next week we are going to talk about the **purpose of government** and how we need good leaders to help us **follow rules** both at school and in our country.

Religion

We are working on Chapter 1, **"God Loves Us."** At prayer service this week we talked about our theme this year and sharing the gifts God has given us. Next week we will present prayer service on our theme again and read **"God Made Something Out of Nothing to do... and So can You!"**

Upcoming Events

Andrew's Birthday!!

Wednesday, September 22

Field Trip Meeting

Thursday, September 23, 3:15 PM

Picture Day

Monday, September 27

NON-Uniform Day

Monday, September 27

Farmer's Market

Friday, October 1, 1:00 PM