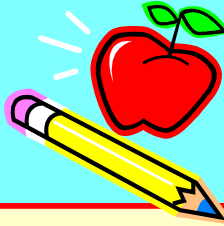




LAKE'S LINES



St. Thomas the
Apostle
Grand Rapids, MI

September 1, 2011
Volume 7, Issue 2

Mrs. Lake's Classroom Newsletter

1st Grade is super!

The children are really adjusting SO WELL to first grade! You all must have had so much fun this summer, they are rested and ready to learn. We will not be starting homework until October in order to give them some time to adjust. This is sure a long day already and the last thing they need is to have homework to do when their tired bodies get home.

This is such a wonderful class! They are very well behaved and getting along just fabulously! We are talking a lot about thinking of others before ourselves and being good listeners and following directions. They are doing a fabulous job! I have really enjoyed each of them!

I want to clarify some uniform rules for you before you buy too many of a certain item. First, students MUST wear socks each day that are PLAIN white or navy. There cannot be any embellishments or stripes. Also, any shirts also much be PLAIN, with no embellishments or sleeve gatherings. They must be polo style or button down blouse style. If you have any questions about an item, please let me know right away so I can clarify for you.

We are **SO** excited to welcome Mrs. Marian Russell-Pelia as a student teacher from Aquinas for the first 9 weeks of school. Please see her attached note.

Please email or call me if you have any questions or concerns. My extension is 335. My email is hlake@stthomasgr.org.

Snacks and Recess

Next week we are back down to **2 recesses and one snack**. We will not be having recess in the afternoon or a snack. They should make it through the day now that we are more used to the full day of school.

Stoplight

You may have heard about our stoplight at school. It is located on my closet door and is very large. It has all the children's names on clothespins on the green light. When they break one of our rules, first they get a warning, then, if it happens again their name is moved to the yellow light and if it happens again, they will go to the red light. I have told them that a visit to the red light will result in a phone call home. **These are our classroom rules: 1. Listen when others are talking. 2. Follow directions. 3. Keep hands, feet and objects to yourself. 4. Work quietly and do not disturb others. 5. Show respect for school and personal property. 6. Work and play in a safe manner.** So far I haven't even had a student on the yellow!

Worship in Spirit
and Truth!!!!

Reading

This week we have been very busy reading. In first grade we have a structure called **Daily 5**, which I will explain more in depth for you at the open house. The Daily 5 are **Read to Self, Read to Others, Listen to Reading, Word Work and Work on Writing**. We have been learning how to choose a "good fit book." This is a book that is interesting to them and they can read **most** of the words. We are also learning about Read to Self and what that looks like in the classroom. Each of them have their own book box to keep their good fit books in and a paper to keep track of the books they are reading. Our Working With Words (phonics component) and Writing portions of our days have been spent with a name of someone in our class each day. We spend some time with the name itself, then we see if we can make some words with it. During writing we are writing a book about that classmate. We are having a lot of fun with that. We will continue with that until we finish all the names in the class. In Guided Reading next week we will work on an ABC book about our classroom. We also read several books a day together!

Math

We are going to start in our math books next week. I am excited to continue differentiating instruction in math this year. I will pretest each chapter and see where each child is with that set of skills. I will either enrich their learning or teach them what they need to know specifically out of the chapter. So don't be surprised if you see different materials from a variety of resources coming home.

Book orders are attached and due back on Monday, September 12. You can also order online, and instructions for that are attached as well. Please help us earn bonus points for classroom materials!

Science and Social Studies

We will start next week some Science talking about **Germs** and do an experiment with glitter lotion to see how we pass germs and how difficult they are to get off! We will learn to sing Row, Row, Row Your Boat two times as we rub in the soap to get our hands clean and to sneeze into our elbows and hold our elbow with our other hand. We will read a great book about Germs too. We will get into our Science books soon.

Religion

We are taking time after lunch recess every day to **read the bible** and **pray together**. We are also praying each morning, and before eating. We will start in our Religion book next week. Our religion book this year is called "Faith First." It has a wonderful website I encourage you to check out at www.faithfirst.com. There are kids activities and information for families. You will be able to reinforce at home the lessons I am teaching at school!

Upcoming Events

No School

Friday, September 2

Labor Day—No School

Monday, September 5

Opening School Mass

Friday, September 9, 9:55 AM

Homecoming

Wednesday, September 14, 7:00 PM