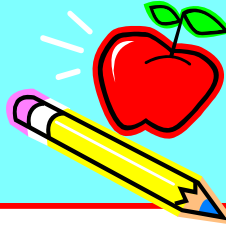




# LAKE'S LINES



St. Thomas the  
Apostle  
Grand Rapids, MI

October 1, 2010  
Volume 6, Issue 4

## Mrs. Lake's Classroom Newsletter

### Fantastic First Graders

We are really rolling now in First Grade! We will finish all the names in the class early next week and **we have had a blast making words with names and writing about each other.** The book everyone made about your child will come home next week. They are really proud of those.

If anyone has some old **camp chairs** or some small camp chairs they are not using, I would love to have those available to kids to grab and find a spot when doing Read to Self. Also, I am working on a **prayer table** in the room and need various **religious items**. If you have anything you'd like to contribute I'd appreciate that too!

### Upcoming Events

#### **Book Orders Due**

Monday, October 11

*The Gift You have  
received, give as a gift!*



### Volunteers

I sent home a calendar this week for those who volunteered to come in and listen to children read and also for Fun Friday. I can only have volunteers that have completed the background check form and Virtues training, so please make sure you do that if you want to be in the room. Thanks so much for your help!!!

### Homework

Our homework survey was very interesting to read. There are such a wide variety of opinions on homework! We are copying and sending home the results, just so everyone becomes aware of the preferences people have. **We will have homework that comes home each Monday and is due at the end of the week.** Right now the students are expected to read 20 minutes a night for the Book It program (info. came home earlier this week). We started homework with a fun project, and those instructions will come home on **Monday for a project due on Friday.** These are due next Friday. The regular homework will come home the following **Monday.** All materials needed will be in the folder every week.

### Attachments:

**Book orders Due on  
Monday, October 11, please  
see the attached note on how you can  
order directly on-line and still give us the  
credit!**

## Reading/Writing

We will start work next week on our **Wonderful Word Wall Words** notebooks. Each week we learn **5 new words**. We **chant them and spell them and frame them and write them many times**. Finally on Fridays we get to write them in our notebooks. This week we put all of our names in our books, along with **"I"** and **"a."**

We are just getting started using our **journals**, and as we start I will be teaching them "mini-lessons" on thinking about what to write, how to sound out words and how to use complete sentences with capitals and periods. We are working hard on remembering our **handwriting skills**. Please help with this at home, following the guidelines I handed out for Handwriting Without Tears, and above all, **make sure they start their letters at the top!!!**

## Math

We are starting **touch math** next week. This incorporates **hearing, seeing, speaking and touching numbers** so that children with all learning styles can be **successful** learning addition and subtraction. This is just another tool they can use-- some may use it all the time and some may choose not to, and that's ok too! Wednesday I sent home a **handout** so you can see the touch points for the numbers. The **double dots are to count twice. In addition problems, the child says the bigger number and continues counting while touching the smaller number to get a sum.** For example  $8 + 3 = 11$  the child touches 8, says, "8" and continues counting while touching the three touch points on the three (eight... nine, ten, eleven). This way they can even do the higher numbers:  $25 + 8 = 33$  (twenty-five... 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33). Eventually, as your child learns the touch points, he/she will feel as if the dots are present even when they are not, and then they won't need them at all! Some of the first graders already know how to add, but I am teaching them all the strategy, then will differentiate instruction according to their readiness levels.

## Science and Social Studies

This week for science we continued our study on **nutrition** which we will cap off with our trip to the Farmer's Market on Friday. We made our "Foods I Like" book using grocery ads and also did a song and book "Eating through the Week." The kids seem to have a really good understanding of what is healthy food. Next week in Science we will do some **comparing and measuring**.

In Social Studies we talked about **Johnny Appleseed** this week and worked on some mapping skills.

## Religion

This week we worked in Chapter 2, **"God is Our Father and Creator."** We learned God created us in His image and that he created the world because he loves us. We learned we are to be caretakers of the wonderful world God created. Next week we will talk about **"Jesus is the Son of God"** and talk about all the things Jesus taught when he was here with us.