



# LAKE'S LINES



St. Thomas the  
Apostle  
Grand Rapids, MI

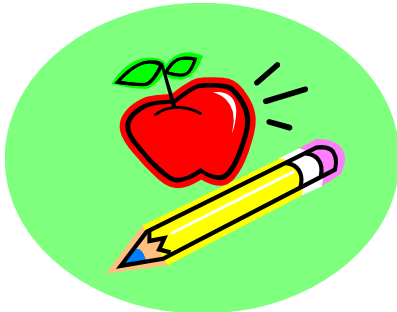
September 3, 2009  
Volume 5, Issue 2

## Mrs. Lake's Classroom Newsletter

### 1<sup>st</sup> 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. You will get more details on how that will work at the end of the month and at the open house.

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 that we are "One Body in Christ." We have different gifts, but we are all together part of the body of Christ. They are doing a fabulous job!

Please email or call me if you have any questions or concerns. My extension is 335. My email is [hlake@stthomasgr.org](mailto:hlake@stthomasgr.org) and my home number (before 8 PM please) is 554-3339.

### 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!

We are One Body  
in Christ!!!

## Reading

This week we have been very busy reading. In first grade we have a structure called **4 Blocks**, which I will explain more in depth for you at the open house. The four blocks are **Guided Reading, Writing, Self-Selected Reading, and Working With Words**. We have been learning how self-selected reading is different than looking at a book and they are finding books that they can read some of the words, which they love! 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 14. 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](http://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 4

### Colin's Birthday!!!!!!!!!!!!

Saturday, September 5

### Labor Day—No School

Monday, September 7

### Opening School Mass

Friday, September 11, 9:55 AM

### Family Open House

Wednesday, September 16, 7:00 PM