



LAKE'S LINES



St. Thomas the
Apostle
Grand Rapids, MI

January 4, 2008
Volume 3, Issue 10

Mrs. Lake's Classroom Newsletter

Fantastic First Graders

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!

It is just so wonderful to be back in my classroom with all these wonderful children. I hope each of your families had a blessed and magical Christmas!

We are scheduled for a Teaching Touching Safety lesson in first grade on Tues. Jan 22. The letter and information will be sent home to you next week. Please let me know if you have questions. Return the form if you **DO NOT** want your child to participate. This is a very low-key lesson that focuses on keeping kids safe.

The end of the semester is just three weeks away already, January 25. This is our halfway point, it is just amazing how they have grown and how much they have learned! Please contact me with any questions or comments or issues.

School: 458-4228 X335

Email: hlake@stthomasgr.org

Home (before 8 PM please): 554-3339.

Vocations Awareness Week

Next week is Vocations Awareness Week. We will be blessed with special prayers from different vocations (single, married, religious) and we will have a guest speaker. We will be talking in class about how God has a special plan for each of us and has given us all different gifts that we can use to praise Him and do what he wants us to do with those gifts. We will focus on the consecrated vocation this week, and talk about single and married vocations the following two weeks.

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**FLASHCARDS,
FLASHCARDS,
FLASHCARDS**

The homework for the next two weeks is to make flashcards and practice them.

Please make sure you practice a LOT the facts so the kids are ready for one minute math starting after next week. They need to know them almost instantly, not just be able to figure them out. This is memorization. It takes lots of repetition to get it into the permanent part of their brain for recall the rest of their lives! Don't worry, we will start one-minute math with two minutes. ☺ The sooner they can memorize them, the better off they will be when we move on and when they move on to the higher grades. Let me know if it is a problem getting index cards and I will get you some. It is VERY important that they write their own cards, rather than using store-bought, as it will help them remember. You can keep these at home as they make them. Turn it into a game and they'll love it!

skittle Count
105

Alive in the POWER
of the Holy Spirit!!

Reading/Writing

Our Word Wall Words next week will be: **with, will, eat, play, go.** I will be assessing them on Word Wall Words before report cards. Please go over these whenever you can at home!

I am very impressed with the **writing** the first graders are doing in their journals! Many of them have filled an entire **notebook**. Will you please ask your child if they need a new one and send it in if that is the case? Thanks for your help. I am encouraging them to write stories and modeling that for them, so hopefully at February conferences you will have some great stories to read!

For Guided Reading next week we will read a story called **"Later, Rover"** We will do some sequencing to aid in comprehension.

Religion

This week we read a story about the fruits of the **Holy Spirit** and read the chapter in our books. We will tie in with our discussion on Vocations next week how we can **SERVE others and God** with our special gifts and love from God.

Subs available for Centers:

Andrea Hess
Lisa Wolf
Marie Strickland
Joanna Kovarik
Sue Edgerly

Science and Social Studies

In Science next week we are going to continue our study of **soil and other natural resources** including water. We will wrap that up next week and move on to **landforms** the following week.

In Social Studies , we are going to spend a little time beginning work on our **mapping skills**, which will be a lot of fun to start making maps of our own!

Math

See the section on the front about

FLASHCARDS!

Next week I am going to begin by assessing where the students are in their experience with **fact families**. I will then set up some math teams for this section. We will work on fact families for the next couple of weeks. We are trying to do **addition and subtraction without the dots** on the numbers now.

We are starting to work on some of the **money** concepts. We do it on the mathbox warm-up sometimes and also at calendar. It helps if the kids have real money to use. **Please put in a baggie 10 pennies, 5 nickels, 5 dimes and 4 quarters for the kids to put in their pencil box to use to practice counting money.**

Upcoming Events

Vocations Awareness Week

January 7-11

Sam DeBruyn's Half Birthday!!!!

Monday, January 7

Christian's Birthday!!!!!!!

Wednesday, January 9

Vocations Week Mass

Friday, January 11, 9:55 AM