

LAKE'S LINES



St. Thomas the
Apostle
Grand Rapids, MI

December 14, 2007
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MRS LAKE'S CLASSROOM NEWSLETTER

Fantastic First Graders

Can you believe it is nearly Christmas?! Time has flown by!

Please join us for a **Christmas Party on Friday, December 21 at 9 AM**. We have to go to mass at 9:55 AM, so we are having an early party. Our distinguished room dad is/has contacted those of you who volunteered to help with this party with a treat or craft. Please come—the more the merrier! We'll cram as many as we can into our little room. Then you are welcome to join us after for mass.

Our auction item turned out **FABULOUS!** Thank you so much **Marie Strickland** for all your HARD work. Thank you to **Stephanie LaVoie** as well for her help. Check out our project at auction!

May the light of Christ shine especially bright in your hearts this Christmas season! Thank you for sharing your son/daughter with me. They are some of God's most wonderful gifts!

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Home (before 8 PM): 554-3339

ALIVE in the POWER of
the Holy Spirit!!!!!!

Family Haven Christmas

Thank you so much for your support of our two families from Family Haven we are sponsoring this year. For the first little girl (3-years-old) we have a coat and boots and some clothes and toys, and for the second family we have a coat for the little boy, underwear for both the kids and socks for the mom and sweatshirts for both the kids. **Please prayerfully consider helping these families if you are able to do so.** We are going to Family Haven to deliver the gifts to the families on **Wednesday** next week. We will wrap the gifts in the morning and head over in the afternoon. I am **attaching the list of items again to this newsletter.** Please send the items in unwrapped and if you can donate any wrapping paper, tags or bows we would appreciate that too. Please call or email me if you have any questions.

Gifts coming home!

Your first grader will soon bring their special **Christmas gifts** home that they made during our field trip. Please be advised that they are **fragile!** We'll do our best to make sure they get home in one piece. **Don't open until Christmas!**

A note about homework:

Please know that I am attempting to differentiate when I send home a homework choice board. The assignments are at different levels and cater to different interests. Please help your child choose the activities that are closest to their level and feel free to adapt or "tweak" any assignment to better meet their needs—that's what I'm all about!

Reading/Writing

Our Word Wall Words this week were: when, they, was, by, his. Next week we will have Jesus, God, it, in, go.

For Guided Reading this week we read a story called "**Catch Me If You Can!**" about a big scary dinosaur! Ask your first grader about the surprise ending! Next week for guided reading we will be reading **Christmas books** and doing comprehension activities with them.

Religion

We have been talking about **Advent** and **Christmas**. We presented the story of Jesus' birth at **Prayer Service** this week and next week we will read the chapter about Christmas in our books. We have an **Advent calendar of books**, so we read one each day to hear the Christmas story!

Upcoming Events

Non-Uniform Day

Monday, December 17

Celebrate Cassidy's ½ Birthday! (June 15)

Monday, December 17

Christmas Vespers

Wednesday, December 19, 7PM

Deliver Gifts to Family Haven

Wednesday, December 19, 12:30 PM

11:00 Dismissal, Christmas Party (9 AM), Mass (9:55 AM)

Friday, December 21

School Resumes

Thursday, January 3

Science and Social Studies

Our main focus for Social Studies this week has been on different **Christmas traditions throughout the world**. Last week we learned about Christmas in **Germany** and made **paper lanterns** and we celebrated **St. Nicholas Day**, which is a **Holland tradition**. This week we talked about **France**. Next week we hope to learn about Christmas in **Italy** and **Sweden**.

We missed our **Soil** lesson this week due to the snow day, so we will push that into next week. We did have a VERY exciting week for science, though, as we introduced our **worms into our bins**. So send those fruits for snack so we can put the skins and cores into the worm bins to make wonderful soil for the habitat!

Math

We worked on **counting backwards** in math this week so that we will be good at subtracting. Next week we will learn how to do **touch math subtraction**.

After we return from Christmas break, we are going to start work on addition facts. **First graders need to memorize all their addition facts** from $0+0=0$ to $9+9=18$. We will start with adding zero and work our way up. We are also going to start having timed tests to see if they have **immediate** recall.

