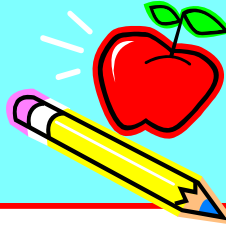




LAKE'S LINES



St. Thomas the
Apostle
Grand Rapids, MI

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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.

Just a reminder... the snack you are sending with your child should be something **healthy** that gives them proper nutrients to make it through the day. Try a good combination of carbohydrates and proteins. **No chips, cookies, candy, or sugary foods please.** Sugar will just give them a quick high and then drop their energy level.

Upcoming Events

Book Orders Due

Monday, October 12

We are ONE BODY
in CHRIST!



Centers

A center schedule is on its way home next week for those of you who volunteered to help out. We will **start regular centers this week** with small reading groups, so we really need you! **Thank you for your help.** Please arrange for a sub if you can't make it by calling someone else on the schedule.

Homework

Homework this year will be in the form of **Choice Boards**. Please read the instructions carefully, but for a regular two-week period the kids choose **6 things to do** (Mon. through Wed.) along with **10 minutes of reading** Monday through Thursday. Turn these in signed on the second Thursday. Please let me know if you have any questions. We started homework with a fun project, and those instructions came 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 two weeks.

Attachments:

**Book orders Due on
Monday, October 12, 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! On the **attached handout** 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 in Science we learned all about **measuring and comparing**. We took some vegetables to the science lab and put them in size order. Then we learned about the market to get ready for our trip to the Farmer's Market Friday. Next week we will learn about **worms!** First grade is going to be in charge of some worm bins! We will be saving scraps and making some great soil!

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.