

# LAKE'S LINES



St. Thomas the  
Apostle  
Grand Rapids, MI

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## MRS LAKE'S CLASSROOM NEWSLETTER

### Fantastic First Graders

Merry Christmas everyone!!!!

Don't forget about our Birthday Party for Jesus on Tuesday at 2:00 PM. All are welcome to join us! If you can help or provide a treat in any way, please call Michelle Figueroa at 977-5774. We have two full days next week Monday and Tuesday and then we are off until Monday, January 4!

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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We are ONE Body in  
CHRIST!!!!!!

### Family Haven Christmas

Thank you so much for your support of our family from Family Haven we sponsored this year. We are so excited to deliver these presents and we had great fun wrapping them yesterday! Thank you for everything you sent in and for all your prayers. I will be sending home those service logs so you can log the amount of money that your family spent to convert to points for service. I am logging the time we spent as a class wrapping and delivering. These families are so thankful! If ever you are looking to donate items somewhere, I encourage you to support this wonderful ICCF ministry.

### Gifts coming home!

On Monday, your first grader will bring home their special Christmas gifts that they made during our field trip. Please be advised that they are **fragile!** I hope they made it home in one piece. Please read the instructions included. Don't open until Christmas! ☺

Homework will resume after Christmas break with a big push on knowing addition facts. Don't forget to read!

## Reading/Writing

Our Word Wall Words this week were: Jesus, God, it, in go. After break we will have with, will, eat, play, said.

For Guided Reading this week we read **Christmas books** and did comprehension activities with them. They took home a couple of their own little books to practice reading. After break we will be reading the story, "Later, Rover" and doing some sequencing and fixing sentences.

## Religion

We have been talking about Advent and Christmas. We have really been enjoying reading in the bible and adding an ornament to our Jesse Tree in the hallway each day. They will bring home the rest of the ornaments and their tree so you can continue at home if you choose.

## Upcoming Events

### Advent Reconciliation

Monday, December 21

### Jesus' Birthday Party!!!

Tuesday, December 22, 2:00 PM

### Christmas Break!

December 23 to January 3

### Francesca's ½ Birthday!!!!

Friday, January 8

### Vocations Week

January 11-15

### End of 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter

Friday, January 15

## Science and Social Studies

Our main focus for Social Studies this week has been on different Christmas traditions throughout the world. This week and next (for 2 days) we are learning about Christmas in Italy and read the story of Old Befana and made finger puppets and we learned about Christmas in France. We ate some "Yule logs" (or cake rolls—thanks Little Debbie!) and we talked about their focus on the nativity. We are also talking about Christmas in Sweden and St. Lucia.

After break we will continue our study of weather and talk about severe weather.

In Social Studies after break we are looking at time and making a calendar.

## Math

We finished Chapter 3: Strategies for Addition in math this week and took the test. They did very well on that. We are beginning Chapter 4 this week and next: Strategies for Subtraction. We will practice counting backwards and learn touch math subtraction.

After we get back from break, we are going to be working on Fact Families. This is typically a very difficult concept, but once they understand it, they are set for life! Well, at least as far as that goes. 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. The homework the first 2 weeks back will be to make and practice flash cards. We are also going to start having timed tests to see if they have immediate recall.