



St. Thomas the
Apostle
Grand Rapids, MI

December 4, 2009
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MRS LAKE'S CLASSROOM NEWSLETTER

Fantastic First Graders

I hope you enjoyed your Thanksgiving break! I really enjoyed having my family at my house this year for the first time! I love this time of year for the wonderful focus on our families! I just can't believe it is December already! This year is flying by!

The play was fantastic! The kids did really great and I was so proud of them. Thank you so much to all of you who came and all of you who provided a treat. It was a wonderful time to give thanks! I'd love a picture if anyone has one. Of course I left my camera sitting on my desk. I seem to have that disease. So please email me a picture if you have it—especially of the group and I will pass it on to all the email addresses I have.

We are going to have our Birthday Party for Jesus on Tuesday, December 22 at the end of the day at 2:00 PM. Please call Michelle Figueroa if you can help.

I'm attaching a book order DUE FRIDAY, December 11! If you order online or send it in by Friday, I WILL have it by Christmas break.

School: 458-4228 X335

Email: hlake@stthomasgr.org

We are ONE body in
CHRIST!!!!

Family Haven Christmas

Over my years at St. Thomas I have enjoyed a relationship with the ICCF Family Haven, and Deb Armstrong, the director. One of the things I really like to do is sponsor one of the families staying there for Christmas. The families that Family Haven serves are homeless. They come there and can stay for a limited amount of time while they find for them permanent, affordable housing. It's a wonderful place and Deb is a beautiful gift from God for those people. I have talked to the kids about the family we are sponsoring. It is important that we teach the kids that homeless people can have any color skin that God gave them and have all different families and had all kinds of different jobs. The first graders are sponsoring a family. I sent home information last Friday about this family along with a permission slip for the 18th to go and deliver them. Please help if you can this Christmas to provide gifts for this family. Even a gift card for groceries or supplies would be helpful. Just send in the gifts unwrapped by THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17 and if you have any extra wrapping paper so that we can wrap them as a class for the family. Thank you so much for your help. At this point we have 2 pillows and a coat for the dad. THANK YOU!

Boots and Slippers

The first graders are welcome to bring their slippers to change into now that it is boot season. They can even leave a pair here at school. Just make sure they have regular shoes on Fridays for gym, and make sure their slippers have a rubber sole so they don't fall down in the hallway!

Reading/Writing

This week's word wall words were: **make, old, this, were, be.** Next weeks word wall words will be: **when, they, was, by, his.**

For Guided Reading this week we read a story called "**Moving Day.**" Next week, we will be reading "**Catch Me if You Can.**" We have also been reading about holidays in other countries and reading some **Christmas stories** for Guided Reading.

We have been talking a lot about the different things we see in words. We have talked about **contractions** and **compound words** and also **word chunks** and **blends** and **digraphs.** I hope your children are making those same observations and connections in their reading at home. Feel free to point them out!

Upcoming Events

Feast of the Immaculate Conception

Tuesday, December 8

Mass at 12:30 PM

Christmas Vespers

Wednesday, Dec. 16, 7 PM

All School Christmas Mass

Friday, December 18

Deliver Presents to Family Haven

Friday, December 18

Celebrate Ben's Half Birthday 12/19

Friday, December 18

Reconciliation

Monday, December 21

Jesus Birthday Party

Tuesday, December 22, 2:00 PM

Science and Social Studies

This week we learned about **seasons.** We are keeping track of the weather this entire week and we will do that for one week during each season so that at the end of the school year we can compare.

In Social Studies this week we started learning about **Christmas celebrations** around the world. We will talk about **Germany, Holland, France, Italy and Sweden.** This week we talked about Christmas customs in **Germany.** Next week we will talk about **Italy and France.** Please let me know if you have anything to share about **Christmas traditions** in those countries or any other! We would love to share in those traditions!

Religion

This week we have talked a lot about **Advent.** We made some great Advent paper chains that give the kids something to do each day of Advent to get their hearts ready for Jesus. We also read in our religion book about the **First week of Advent.** This year we are doing a **Jesse Tree** on the first floor. Each day the students color an ornament for the tree and one child from each class gets to hang theirs on our tree in the hallway. They also have their own tree that will come home when we are done. We all gather in the hallway at the end of the day and **read from the bible about that ornament for the Jesse tree.**

Math

This week we continued to work in Chapter 3 with **strategies for addition.** We learned about **adding doubles, counting on, and crossing out information we don't need.** Next week will finish Chapter 3 and have a **test on Thursday.**