



Gehlen Gazette



What's Happening

September 2, 2011

*Forest Hills
Lutheran
School*

Dear Parents,

How wonderful to be back in school! Forest Hills has been blessed with many new faces giving us a wonderful opportunity to make new friends. Welcome!

We're off to a great start building our classroom community. This week was about getting acquainted, meeting new friends, learning routines and expectations and discovering what first grade is all about.

Our mornings begin with a "Morning Meeting" time where we gather as a class, read a message together, respond to a question or direction in the message and then have a special, community- building time with what we call "koosh talk."

Daily 5 Literacy time has already begun for us in first grade. Daily Five is the structure we use for our literacy and math time. Included in this week's folder is a letter that talks in more detail about Daily Five Literacy. Please take some time to read it as it will give you a much better understanding as to what it's all about. This week we learned about the three ways to read a book and launched "Read to Self." We were introduced to the CAFÉ Menu where we learn strategies for reading: Comprehension, Accuracy, Fluency, and Expanding Vocabulary. This is a critical period during Daily Five when we are working on building our stamina.

Math this week was all about exploration of materials. In launching Daily 5 Math we discussed the ground

rules for using various math tools and then spent some time discovering ways to use and learn with them.

In Writer's Workshop we were introduced to our poetry anthologies. We will be celebrating poetry all year by learning and adding poems to this anthology on a weekly basis. Our poetry lessons are interactive and an important part of our language instruction. Next week we will begin a poetry writing unit.

Our first unit in Religion is about creation. We are learning about the amazing world God made for us.

We're off to a fabulous start in first grade. I'm looking forward to a great year. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to work with your children!

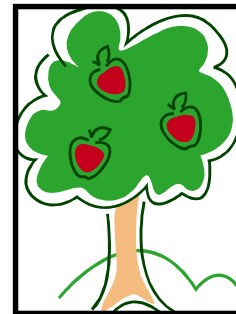
Have a wonderful Labor Day weekend. See you Tuesday!

—Mrs. Gehlen

For your information:

- FHLS phone number: 503-359-4853 ext. 309
- My email: gehlenj@fhls.org

FYI: There is a lot of important information coming home today! Please take time to read through it.



The Leader In Me

This week we learned some new vocabulary in our introduction to the "foundations" of The Leader In Me: Habits, Paradigms, and Principles. We learned how important a good foundation is, relating it to the Bible story (Matthew 7: 24-29) of the wise man who built his house upon the rock and the foolish man who built his house upon the sand. We discussed habits both good and bad and made a list of good habits we thought were important for our classroom. In discussing paradigms we learned that sometimes we see things differently than others. The song, The Greatest, helped illustrate this concept. Principles, we learned, are things like honesty, sharing and cooperation. After reading, The Giving Tree, we created our own trees. Next week we'll label them with the 7 Habits.