



# Gehlen Gazette



## What's Happening

September 23, 2011

Dear Parents,

This week we have really put Habit 2 (Begin With the End In Mind) into practice. As we've worked to get ready for Back-To-School Night we've had several tasks to accomplish. The most important of these tasks was to compose our class Mission Statement. It is one of your child's responsibilities this evening to share that statement with you.

I'm excited for you all to come and see our **Self-Portraits** tonight. Your child will be sharing with you what he/she learned about facial positioning and proportions. It's always amazing to me just how much these portraits truly resemble the kids! They have also shared which of the 7 Habits is their favorite and you will find their quotes under their self-portraits.

**This evening Back-to-School Night begins at 6:30.** Your child will have specific things to show and share with you. We will be gathering at 7:00 in the gym for a short program. Please have your child sit with you on the bleachers. When it is time for us to sing our 7 Habits Song towards the end of the program, they will be called down to the floor with me. Your child will stay with me until after the closing prayer at which time you can come for them— I will not release them back into the crowd.

**Daily 5 Literacy** has us nearly fully functioning. Next week we'll add "Listen to Reading" but this week we started "Word Work" which helps us with the spelling and word building component of reading and writing.

During **Daily 5 Math** we discovered how calendars and weather relate

to math. By tracking days and weeks and learning about thermometers, we learned how math is present and important in our everyday lives. We have been collecting data almost every morning using a variety of methods. It was also exciting to add our first **Strategy Game** to our menu. We learned how to solve 2-D and 3-D puzzles with a game called "Kanoodle." This is even a fun "brain game" for grown-ups!

Next week we'll have our first **Sharing assignment** which will be an "I Am Special" graphic organizer. We sometimes use this technique during the pre-write stage of Writer's Workshop. Your child will need to fill in each cloud with a picture and/or words that describe him/her. I've included a sample to help spark ideas. Although this sample includes full sentences, students may choose to draw pictures and label them. Students should bring their sharing on the day that it's been assigned and be ready to present it to the class. The goal of these assignments is to work on using a clear, strong voice and gain confidence speaking before a group. We also work on our active listening skills as an audience.

In **Religion** we talked about how nothing is too difficult for God and that He fulfills all His promises. We listened to the story of Abraham and Sarah.

Our **September** issue of National Geographic Young Explorers is coming home today. We read through it in class and now your child may keep it. We will receive issues each month!

See you tonight!

Blessings,  
Mrs. Gehlen

Forest Hills  
Lutheran  
School



School pictures  
are on Monday!  
Come with a smile!

The  
**Leader in Me**<sup>™</sup>  
great happens here

With our first sharing assignment being given for next week this is a wonderful opportunity to help your child put Habit 3 into practice (Put First Things First). Help them to prioritize and to think about "work first, then play." And celebrate when they are successful!

**Gift Card Fund Raiser ends on Monday.** Please return the money you raised along with any left over cards. Thank you for helping to support our school!