



# Gehlen Gazette



## What's Happening

September 9, 2011

Dear Parents,

First grade is off to a great start. We are tired by the end of the day— both from hard working brains and tired bodies from the hot weather.

This week during our **Daily Five literacy block** we continued to work on building our stamina in Read to Self. In launching the Work on Writing component we learned how to use our Writing Notebooks and the technique of "underline and go on" when we want to write words we're not sure how to spell. We also have a wonderful "spell check" resource in our writing notebooks that we are learning to use. As we prepare to "shop for books" for our book boxes and also begin our nightly reading homework next week, we were introduced to "Good Fit" books. This lesson is always fun as the kids get to see how choosing books for a specific reading purpose is like wearing certain shoes for different occasions. We also learned that a "good fit" for one person isn't necessarily a "good fit" for another. There was a lot of giggling as we traded shoes and realized that although we're all in first grade, our feet aren't all the same size! Along with this lesson we learned the "**I PICK**" system. This stands for **I** choose the book, **P**urpose (why I want to read it), **I**nterest (does it interest me?), **C**omprehend (do I understand it?), and **K**now

(do I *know* most of the words?).

**On Monday we will begin nightly reading homework**, bringing home the green homework folder and Book Bag each day. Please read the letter inside the homework folder on Monday as it explains this process in more detail.

During **Writer's Workshop**, after listening to poems in the book, Hailstones and Halibut Bones, we created graphic organizers as a pre-writing tool for our own color poems. We also learned the poem "I Can Read Colors" and added it to our anthologies.

In **math** we explored the number line and reviewed number formation. We were also introduced to our Math Boxes which contain our white boards, tool kits and Everyday Math journals. We are learning the structure of Daily 5 Math in which we have introduced Math Tools, Number Games and Paper Practice. An important part of our math curriculum is playing games. We will learn strategy games, number games and fact games throughout the year that help us strengthen our math muscles. Ask your first grade math wizard how to play Monster Squeeze, Penny-Dice and Bunny Hop!

In **Religion** we heard the stories of Cain and Abel and Noah and the Flood.

Have a fabulous weekend!

—Mrs. Gehlen

Forest Hills  
Lutheran  
School



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

This week we had an overview of Habits 1-4 and put hand motions to each as reminders.

Have your first grade Leader demonstrate them for you! We are also learning the "7 Habits Song" that I wrote for my class last year. Our class will be singing this song at Back to School Night!

Each month, as a school, we will focus on a specific Habit, beginning in October with Habit 1: Be Proactive. As part of our introduction of each Habit we are reading The 7 Habits of Happy Kids. We'll also incorporate children's literature and special activities to help us relate the 7 Habits to our every day lives.