



Gehlen Gazette



What's Happening

January 22, 2010

**Forest Hills
Lutheran
School**

Dear Parents,

It was nice to come to school after a long weekend and get back into our learning routine. We started off the week with a look into our country's past as we talked about the life and legacy of Martin Luther King Jr.

During our Daily Five time, when students are doing "Work on Writing," our goal is to be working on writing complete sentences. The best way to catch those natural stopping points is by rereading what we write. We are also learning how to *elaborate* on our ideas. After writing one sentence, we ask ourselves, "What else can I say about that?" In the next few weeks we will also be learning how to write a friendly letter so that we can begin our Home-School Journals.

Our Author Study had us reading several more of Jan Brett's books. We enjoyed Trouble With Trolls, The Owl and the Pussycat, and Armadillo Rodeo.

In math we began Unit 5 and are excited to be learning about place value. We used our place value blocks to manipulate the exchanges between ones, tens, and hundreds digits. This is a wonderful, concrete way to see how and why numbers change and is helpful later when it comes time to "carry" and "borrow" in addition and subtraction. We also had fun with an introduction to "greater than" and "less than." We used our white boards

to create problems for each other and solve them by making the $>$, $<$ and $=$ symbols.

We integrated science, literature and writing this week in a brief study of snow crystals. We read the book, The Story of Snow; the Science of Winter's Wonder, and learned how snow crystals form and fall. This was followed up with our latest issue of *National Geographic Young Explorer!* which had a great article and pictures of snow crystals. After reading and recording the information we learned together, everyone had to write down 4 important facts of their choice. Next week's sharing is an extension of this theme. See the sidebar box for more details! By the way, the animal "research" sharing that was brought in this week was WONDERFUL!

Religion this week focused on God's unconditional love for us and related it to how Jesus' chose Matthew (a tax collector) to be his disciple.

Report cards came home today in your child's folder. Please be sure to look at them and celebrate with your child the progress he/she has made. I've also written a narrative describing in more detail what's been happening for your child in their academic and social development. If you have any questions or concerns please don't hesitate to contact me.

Have a fabulous weekend!

—Mrs. Gehlen



Sharing Assignment:

We learned a poem this week called, "Like a Snowflake" which talks about how everyone is unique like a snowflake. Your first grader needs to use the page included in the homework folder to write about the ways he/she is unique. In class we are working on writing complete sentences. Please help your child write one complete thought in each box on the page.



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