



# Gehlen Gazette



## What's Happening

November 20, 2009

*Forest Hills  
Lutheran  
School*

Dear Parents,

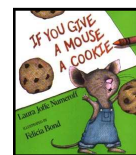
It's hard to believe that Thanksgiving is just a week away. If you haven't already, be sure to stop by our hallway to see our turkeys in disguise. This project always puts a smile on my face as the imagination of first graders shines through their work.

Our poetry anthologies grew by three poems this week. Using the poem, "November," we practiced reading with expression. In doing this we heard how our use of expression can have an affect on our understanding of the text. We also learned, "The Scarecrow," and listened to the story, The Little Scarecrow Boy by Margaret Wise Brown. This story taught us what it means to be persistent. And finally, we added the poem, "Mr. Duck and Mr. Turkey." We used this poem as a springboard for working with a Venn Diagram which we used to compare and contrast the characteristics of ducks and turkeys.

Daily Five time continues to be a favorite part of our day. Everyone has a CAFÉ goal and strategy to be working on. This week we touched upon (F) Fluency when reading our "November" poem and talked about how and why reading with expression is a strategy for being a fluent reader. As I shared with you during conferences, we are learning many different strategies to use in our reading, however, your child has one right now in particular that is his/her focus.

Another exciting thing that happened this week was the beginning

of a new Author Study. We are celebrating the works of Laura Numeroff, who is most well known for writing the series of books beginning with If You Give a Mouse a Cookie. We are enjoying listening to and comparing these "circular stories" and will mainly focus on this series. Ms. Numeroff has a website that we visited together to learn more about her.



[lauranumeroff.com](http://lauranumeroff.com)

In math we are having fun with "Frames and Arrows" and I am very impressed with how quickly this group is catching on and even making up their own "rules" for frames and arrows they create. We are also beginning to work with time to the 1/2 hour, programming calculators to use as "counting-by" tools, and combinations of coins including dimes.

Our Integrated Studies time has been focusing on traditions. We enjoyed the Magic Treehouse book, Thanksgiving on Thursday, as a read aloud and spent time discussing life as a pilgrim versus life today. We will do more comparing next week using nonfiction texts and making Venn Diagrams.

Your child is bringing home the last set of Scholastic book orders before Christmas. If you choose to order anything as a gift, just note that on the order and I'll get it to you "quietly." Orders are due next Tuesday, Nov. 24th.

Have a wonderful weekend.

—Mrs. Gehlen

### Sharing Assignment

Our next assignment will be due the week after Thanksgiving.

This assignment is described in more detail in a separate note that came home today in your child's homework folder.

It is a school-wide project, however, we will use it as our next sharing assignment. It will involve your family and even extended family so thinking ahead to your Thanksgiving gatherings is important.

