



Gehlen Gazette



What's Happening

September 18, 2009

Dear Parents,

We have now completed our first **full** week of school. Some new things have happened and still more is yet to begin. This week your first grader was introduced to a color card system for self-monitoring and taking responsibility for behavior at school. Everyone starts each day with a green card which means behavior is on target. If a student is asked to turn their card to yellow, it's a "warning" or reminder to pay more attention to behavior choices. If a card is turned to orange, this means a consequence is given (e.g. losing out on a privilege). Finally, if a card should ever turn to red, this would mean a "conversation" would take place between school and home—a talk after school, a note home, an email or a phone call. We all agreed that our daily goal is to stay on green!

During our literacy time we continued to build our stamina in reading, and were introduced to the writing component of our Daily Five known as "Work on Writing." We brainstormed topics that we could write about and touched briefly on a couple of writing forms that we could use. Most of us are writing "snapshots" that tell the reader more about ourselves and our experiences.

Our focus on number awareness in math continued as we learned games using dice and number cards. We also did some work with tally

marks to organize data and predict outcomes.

In religion we are celebrating God's beautiful creation by making Creation Books. This week we wove black and white paper to represent day 1 when God said, "Let there be light." We used blue finger paint to create a page for day 2, showing the "separation of the sky from the waters below."

Weekly sharing begins next week. Your child's assignment is in his/her homework folder. Please see the specifics below on the assignment.

Please read the "Good Fit Books" note that came home today. It gives you a first look at what we will be starting on Monday when your child starts bringing home nightly reading homework.

Have a fabulous weekend!

—Mrs. Gehlen

*Forest Hills
Lutheran
School*



Back-to-School Night is coming up on Friday, Sept. 25 at 6:30pm.

School pictures are Monday, Sept. 21!



Sharing Assignment: Our first sharing assignment for this year is 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 have included a sample to help spark ideas. Please take some time to talk with your child about things that make him/her special. Although my sample includes full sentences, students may choose to draw a picture and simply label it. Students should come to school with their sharing on the day that has 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. Thank you for your help!