



Gehlen Gazette



What's Happening

September 4, 2009

Dear Parents,

How wonderful to be back in school! The morning air is crisp, the breezes are picking up, and fall is right around the corner. It just feels like school!

We're off to a great start. This week was about getting re-acquainted, meeting new friends, learning routines and expectations and discovering what first grade is all about.

Our mornings begin with a "Morning Meeting" time where we gather as a class, read a message together, respond to a question or direction on the message board and then have community-building time with our "koosh talk." This is a special time that helps us get to know each other better.

Daily Five time has already begun for us in first grade. Daily Five is the structure we use for our morning literacy time. Included in this week's folder is a letter that talks in more detail about Daily Five. Please take some time to read it as it will give you a much better understanding as to what it's all about. This week we learned about the three ways to read a book and launched

"Read to Self." This is a critical period during Daily Five when we are working on building our stamina. Ask your child to explain what this means!

Math this week was all about exploration of materials. We discussed the ground rules for using various materials and then spent some time discovering ways to use them and learn with them.

During our afternoon Writer's Workshop we are starting a unit on poetry. Each first grader has a poetry anthology that will have poems added to it as they are learned this year. Next week we will begin to develop our own skills as writers of poetry!

In Religion, our puppet friends, Jake and Jenna came to visit and helped us learn about the amazing world God made for us.

We're off to a fabulous start in first grade. I'm looking forward to a great year. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to work with your children!

Have a wonderful Labor Day weekend. See you Tuesday!

—Mrs. Gehlen

*Forest Hills
Lutheran
School*

For your information:

- FHLS phone number: 503-359-4853 and my extension is 309
- My email: gehlenj@fhls.org



NOTE: Next week, chapel will be at 8:30 on Tuesday rather than on Wednesday.

Back-to-School Night is coming up on Friday, Sept. 25 at 6:30pm. This will be a special night as we perform our class songs with Aaron Meyer!