

First Grade Fun!



St. Gabriel Catholic School
A Proud member of TCCES
*Centered in Jesus, St. Gabriel Catholic School is
committed to excellence in developing our faith,
academics and service.*
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Reading

The first graders have completed the Fountas and Pinnell evaluation process to determine their current reading levels. Each student read a text; the errors and self-corrections were recorded, and then we discussed the book. The questions ranged from simple recall to more advanced questions such as cause and effect and inferring new information from the information presented in the story. As the books become more difficult, the children are also asked questions about the author's writing style and what the author did to make the book more interesting or make his or her point. The students alternated between fiction and nonfiction books, as the two types of writings require different skills. The results of this evaluation will be shared at conferences.

It was wonderful to have the opportunity to sit down with each child individually, listen to them read, and then talk with them about the book. The students are learning so much and so quickly.

Math

The children have been learning to tell time. We started by reviewing telling time to the hour. Then we practiced telling time to the half hour or half past 8, etc. First graders also observed that there are five minutes between each of the numbers on the clock and learned to tell time in five-minute increments.

We are now working on numbers to 100 and recognizing the place value of the digits within larger numbers.

Science

The first graders had a great time exploring forces and magnets. They tested many different things in the classroom to learn what things would attract a magnet.

We are working on the simple machines at this time. Simple machines make work easier. The first graders have explored levers. They know the parts of a lever: lever, fulcrum, force and load. An activity in the class allowed them to discover that placing the fulcrum closer to the load requires less force to do the work.