

# St. Michael's Classroom News

October 29, 2009

## Down On The Farm



October has brought many wonderful experiences. At the beginning of the month we were blessed to be visited by Fr. Athanasios Haros and Deacon Nick Belcher. We all got sprinkled with Holy Water, sang songs and prayed together to bless our school, students, teachers and this wonderful new school year. Now things are in full swing and we have been settling into our daily routine with ease. Our class is enjoying putting together the number of the day (we are now up to number 34) and we have learned many new "Dd, Ee, Ff and Gg" words. **Ask your child if they can tell you a new "Gg word"**. While counting the number of the day, **C.** noticed that he had two stacks of 8 unifix cubes just by counting one and measuring the other one with the first. They are all amazing me with their understanding of numbers and letters.

Down on the farm, we enjoyed building our chicken coop. **D. and A.** loved using the screw driver at the exploration station to practice building and **M.** and **M.** loved pretending to lay eggs. We all enjoyed tasting the butter we made and watching seedlings sprout in our sensory table. We have been working hard writing our Farm Favorites Book. It should be ready to come home next week. Our first field trip of the year was to Drumlin Farm. We saw goats and cows. We felt the sheep, and chickens. Then we smelled the pigs...P.U.! There were 13 piglets (9 boys and 4 girls). Even though they were smelly they were very cute. Everyone had a wonderful time. What a great way to end our exploration Down on the Farm.

### Looking Ahead:

In **November** we will be thinking of H, I and J words; we will be counting colonies (12), and packing up passports for our **Journey to America**. We will also be thinking of thank you's, and practicing prayers for Advent.

### Best Bet Books:

This month my favorite book was *The Pumpkin Gospel* by Mary Manz Simson  
The kids loved *Pumpkin Town* by Katie McKy, and  
Next month we will be reading *My Grandmother's Journey* by John Cech

**Try this at home:**

Closest to 10 Game - Takes about 10 minutes to play

Using dice or regular playing cards take turns with your child. Roll two dice or flip two cards. Each of you count up your score. See who is Closest to 10, and flip or roll again. If you want an extra challenge have your child keep track of who wins each round, for five rounds.

Ex. 2 and 6 is 8...5 and 4 is 9.

Ask, who is closest to 10? Why?

You can use fingers, toes, pennies, a number line, or any other manipulative to help explain. The most important part, have fun with your child. Emphasize their correct answers and give praise. The incorrect answers will come less and less with patience and excitement to PLAY.

Enjoy!