



Tuesday, January 3, 2012

Dear Parents,

Happy New Year 2012! We hope you and your family enjoyed the winter break and the holidays celebrated. Please help us get the year off to a great start by getting all our kindergarteners to school on time. The early morning instruction time works best when students are dropped off in the gym no later than 8:45 a.m. Students enter the classrooms together and morning work can begin immediately, without interruption. A great beginning helps the entire day run smoothly.

This month, we will be updating reading and math assessments. Assessment data will drive instruction for the 3rd quarter of our school year, and give current information for our first kindergarten report card. The first report card will be sent home on Wednesday, February 1<sup>st</sup>. Be sure to check your child's backpack.

In Math the children will continue to compare sets of objects: we will practice the concepts of more, less, greater than, fewer and equal. We will practice representing numbers to 10 in a variety of ways. We learn to use ordinal numbers first through fifth.

In Language Arts we will continue to read stories. We will discuss story elements, make predictions and retell important details in a story. We will read informational text and learn about text features and generating questions. We will introduce new vocabulary. We will continue to work on handwriting, word choices, editing and presenting our work.

In Science we will make comparisons between offspring and parents. We will study the life cycle of the mealworm.

In Social Studies we will learn how humans change and adapt to the environment.

We enjoy reading the entries in the Homework Journals. Please remember to return them by Thursday. If you finish the assignment early, you may return the journal sooner. We begin to present journals as soon as they are returned. It is helpful to spread out the presentations of the journals over a period of several days. Entries should be written in pencil. Illustrations should be colored.

Please take a careful look at this month's calendar. Note that school will be closed for Martin Luther King's birthday on January 16<sup>th</sup> and there will be a Professional Day on January 23<sup>rd</sup>.

If you have any questions or concerns that we have not answered for you, please call the school or send a note and we will get in touch with you as soon as possible.

May this New Year be one filled with love and laughter for you and your family.

Sincerely,

The Kindergarten Team

