

Kindergarten Newsletter

January 2011

Literacy

During the month of January we read a lot of books by the author Mo Willems. We explored his books and talked about his "style" or how his books were alike. The students enjoyed his fun characters like the pigeon and knuffle bunny! We also began reading fiction and non-fiction books about winter topics. During the next few weeks we will read fiction and non-fiction books about bears and create an informational class book about polar bears, brown bears, and black bears. We will also continue to focus on hearing and indentifying middle sounds, sounding out simple words and nonsense words, learning word family spelling patterns, and adding more word wall words to our classroom word wall. This is the time of the year when we expect to see all the skills taught come together as your child reads and writes. We will continue working on writing with a focus on punctuation, capitalization, and proofreading to make sure what we have written makes sense.



Science

We have been talking some about living things and what a living thing needs in order to survive, especially in the cold winter. We are going to extend this concept and begin discussing and learning about habitats and what that means for animals. We will answer questions such as why do certain animals only live in one place.



Math

We are finishing up unit 2 and wrapping up exploring EVERYTHING numbers! As the children complete the unit 2 assessment we will begin to focus on standard and non-standard measurement. We will use length and weight vocabulary to describe an object. We will also measure objects using cubes, paper clips, popsicle sticks, and rulers to the nearest inch. You can practice this at home. Give them a pen or pencil and ask them to tell you how many "pens" long is the couch or the television. We will also describe when a activity happens by using time related vocabulary before, after, today, tomorrow, yesterday, and day and night. This also can be practiced at home as you ask your children about their day at school. Ask them what they did before or after lunch, what special they are going to tomorrow, and so on.

Social Studies

The children have enjoyed learning about maps and the symbols we use to read a map. We have discovered that maps are not used just for finding the pirate's treasure! As President's Day approaches, we will begin learning about American heroes and former presidents of the United States. We will learn all about the life of George Washington and Abraham Lincoln and many other great American heroes.



Report Cards



Report cards will be sent home on February 2nd with your child. The kindergarten report card assigns progress codes to each indicator your child has been working on. If an indicator has no progress code, it means that we have not yet introduced that skill. The report card will reflect your child's performance on the unit 1 and 2 math assessments and the M-Class reading assessment. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us.

Homework

Please remember that homework is due on Fridays. Please make an effort to get your child's homework completed and in their folders for school on Friday. Thank you for your support.



School Begins at 8:50!

Please try to get your child to school by 8:45 each day. This allows them time to get to inside their classrooms and ready for the 8:50 bell. If they are eating breakfast at school, they should be here by 8:40 **at the latest**. This allows them time to eat and get into their classrooms by 8:50.

Valentine's Day is Almost Here!

Our Valentine's Day parties will be held on Monday, February 14th at 2:00 in our classrooms. If your child plans to participate in the party he/she will need to bring a valentine card for EACH student in their class. Attached to this newsletter is a class list for you to use when preparing valentine cards. Families are welcomed to stop by during our party to celebrate the holiday with our class.

