

September 7, 2018

Dear Parents,

So much has happened since my brief note to all of you last Friday. The children in a week's time have settled into our routine and are really learning about a full day of kindergarten at White River School. Some are sad in the morning, but quickly get over that once they see their friends. We have learned about our three rules at White River School: Be Safe, Be Respectful and Be Responsible. We have talked about these a lot throughout our days and what they will look like. We made lists as well. We will begin using our behavior chart on Monday so you should begin looking for the colored slips of paper to come home at the end of the day. This is described in the parent handbook, but if you have questions please feel free to reach out to me.

We practiced our first fire drill and clear the halls drill which we are required to do each month. We did very well with our first drills. We continue to practice and improve anything that is causing a problem so the children and staff are safe in case of an emergency.

The children are doing well learning their pin numbers to make the lunch line go a little quicker. We have had a few children confuse their lunches, but will figure all of this out. Try to help your child through this time. We also did not start our fruit program this week, but I have heard that it will begin this coming Monday.

We are establishing our daily routines which is very important over the first few days and weeks. We are learning how to greet one another during our morning meeting and how to sit for short amounts of time (which is long for a kindergartener). We are learning about each other as well.

Thank you to everyone for getting your paperwork back so quickly to us. Also thank you to those of you who have paid for the Friday snack/cooking. This helps to make this program continue.

During our number corner and math time we are learning about keeping track of our days that we come to school, counting, looking for different attributes of something(i.e. shoes), learning how to use our manipulatives properly.

In our readers workshop, we are learning about how "we are all readers". We are learning about strategies to use: We can look., We can think., We can read., and We can learn. We practice looking around our school and classroom for words that we can read. We also learned about different kinds of books: storybooks and learning books. It is very exciting to see the children become excited about reading.

In our phonics program, Foundations, we are learning how to sit correctly when we are at a table, pick up and hold a pencil correctly. We are learning where to begin to write letters: sky line, plane line, grass line and worm line. We begin by learning to write the lowercase letters as

these are the letters that we see in print. We have already learned about t and b. We learn about the letter with a key word, sound and motion to go with the letter. I will add the letters each week that we do so you will know what letters to inquire about.

We have already had one birthday this week which is very exciting for the children. I know many of you like to send treats in for this special day, but we can't allow food treats this year to come in from home. Some ideas that people have shared for non food treats to celebrate birthdays are stickers, pencils, goodie bags without food, a book donated to the class with a note from the child just for a few. Please contact me if you have any questions.

I am sending home the first book order for the year. It will be due back by September 21 or you can also order online. The code for our class is GXJYC. There are always some good books to get as a special treat or tuck away for special occasions.

I will send home towels next week to be washed.

Upcoming Events:

Thursday, Sept. 13: PTA- 6:30 in our school library

Wednesday, Sept 19: Kindergarten Apple Picking trip, \$3.00

Thursday, Sept. 20: School Open House- 5:30

Friday, Sept.21: Picture Day, Book Orders Due

Have a great weekend and enjoy the cooler weather in the forecast after the heat we have had this week.