

October 18, 2019

Dear Parents,

Many students have been sick with the weather being as tricky as it has been recently. Many are adjusting to the full day and with so many students in the room they share germs. We try to encourage washing of hands often and well. You might take a few minutes to encourage hand washing at home as well. We enjoy these last few warm days as we know what is coming, sadly.

In our Second Step lesson this week we learned about using our listening bodies. This is a review for us as we have learned this through Whole Body Listening which includes more body parts than Second Step does. It is always good to review.

In Number Corner the students continue to learn about preposition/direction words (i.e. left, right, up, down). We played a fun game trying to find Hap(a grasshopper who likes to hop) who had hidden behind a number. The students would have a turn to guess, we would count to that number and uncover to see if Hap was there. This was a fun way to practice our counting. We can change the numbers as the year goes on because we also need to practice counting from different numbers.

In math, we used our math centers to explore, practice counting and writing numbers and also using our manipulatives. We also learned a new game called POP. This is another counting game that students enjoy playing when we have a few minutes. We can start and end at any set of numbers. The children are in a circle and they count the sequence of numbers. Whoever ends on the last number says POP and sits down. The next student begins the sequence again and the game continues until there are two students left. They come to the center and continue counting the sequence until there is one student who is the winner. This game can be changed in many ways and it is always fun.

In Foundations, we have learned more about writing sentences. Students are learning that an uppercase letter needs to be at the beginning of the sentence, a space happens between each word and there is a period at the end of each sentence. We also got two new letters this week. We have learned the following letters: b,f,i,m,n,t,u. We have also talked about how our names are words and have added these to our word wall. Many students have learned to look at the word wall already if they want to write another student's name. This is great!

In Reader's Workshop, the students continue to learn about books and what makes them up by themselves and with their partner. We also learned about how letters make up words and how we look at words on pictures to help us read. They enjoyed picking letters to look for on pages in their books. They are also learning many other strategies before we begin to read books.

We are continuing our small literacy centers with different adults. This helps break down our instruction and meet each child's needs. We are focusing on name work, rhyming, and book skills. We are also going to begin doing a book once a week with an activity with that book. This might be a project or sequencing activity, for example.

We will begin our math groups next week. We will be focusing on number counting and writing numbers at different levels. We will continue to evaluate and change students into different groups.

I am trying to finish setting up the final few conferences of people who did not set up a time at our open house in September. I am including a notice today with students to confirm a time for our upcoming conference time. Please return as soon as possible. Contact me with any questions. Thank you!

We will do a small treat on Halloween. We have a rule of no costumes or makeup on Halloween. Sometimes parents have done goody bags to send home with the students. This is always nice. If you would like to send in paper goods, a healthy treat (popcorn, cheese/crackers, fruit or veggies), sweet treat or something to drink, please let me know through an email or note.

I am sending home towels today to be washed.

Keep the box tops coming! Every coupon counts.

Upcoming Events:

Oct. 18: Book Order due

Nov. 4: Early Release- Parent/Teacher Conferences

Nov. 5: No School for students- Parent/Teacher Conference

Nov. 15: Game Night 6:30, watch for more details

Dec. 7: PTA Craft Fair- 9-2

Dec. 18: Winter Concert 6:30