

APRIL NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents,

Welcome to Spring! It's hard to believe we're into our last quarter of the school year. As mentioned in the March newsletter, please remind your child that the next two months are very important in firming up skills necessary for 1st grade. Below are the skills to work on to have a successful completion of kindergarten and an "on level" start in 1st grade.

Reading: It's exciting to see the progress being made with reading! Although a few of the students need to practice for firm letter name and sound recognition. This month we will continue sounding and blending words in short sentences. Our emphasis for the month will be on fluency in sentence reading. This is where the sight words being memorized really help in having fluent readers. Checking for understanding of what is being read is very important at this stage.

Keep the reading session short (10-15 min) but make them a priority and be consistent. It sometimes helps to read out loud right along with your child so that you control the pace. Then have your child try it alone. Your child should move his/her finger along under the words being read to help them stay focused and not guess at the words. Patience and lots of excited praise will be most helpful.

The best progress is made by those who give the most effort, both at home and at school.

Penmanship, Neatness and Accuracy: Most of the children are showing great effort and good improvements with their handwriting skills. Some are also doing their personal best each day with control and neatness in tracing, coloring, and cutting skills. True, some ability with neatness and control comes with motor skill maturity. However, every child has shown us they have the ability to do a satisfactory job if they just choose to take the necessary time to do so. Please take the star, smile, or frown seriously and expect the best of your child.

Math: We are working hard each day with our Go Math program. Please take the homework math sheet seriously and help your child complete them. This extra practice really helps the students with the understanding of the concepts learned at school.

Writing and recognizing numbers 1-30 out of sequence is expected. Counting objects in sets to 20 should be firm. Counting to 100 should be firm by May. We keep reviewing adding and subtracting along with our math chapters to keep them up on this new skill.

Units: We will continue our study of home, school and community helpers and will begin units on the season of spring and plants.

Earth Day: Earth Day is in April. During the month of April we will be working on some activities to encourage a clean, safer environment to help “save our Earth”. We will be encouraging, recycling and reusing in their own homes, neighborhoods, and community.

Items Needed: Markers, colored pencils, water colors, sidewalk chalk and bubbles or anything fun for outdoor play. Kleenex, Band-Aids, and sanitizer are always welcome.

Dates to Remember

April – Book Orders Due. (Last one of the year)

Looking ahead:

May 12:30 – 1:20 - Mrs. Handley’s class will be having a Mothers lunch activity. We would like the mom’s to bring a sack lunch and come eat with us. We are planning on eating outdoors like a picnic. Our class has been working on some songs we would like to share with you too. Please mark your calendars now so you can set this time aside for us. A note will come home when the date gets closer.

May - State Mandated Kindergarten Post Assessment. This assessment is similar to the pre assessment taken the first week of the school year. This assessment will be a 30 minute appointment for you, and your child with the teacher. All appointments will be made during the day. No evening appointments will be scheduled. It is imperative that you keep your appointment and be on time. **There is no school for kindergarten students during our testing days.**