

FEBRUARY NEWS

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We would like to begin this newsletter by saying Thank you to all of you who are helping your child with his/her homework each school day. The students who practice a little each night are the ones who are mastering their skills and show the most confidence in their learning. Fifteen minutes each night in review can really make a difference.

Reading: Reading is a step by step process and mastery of each step is critical when learning to read. Please continue to work on the following steps in the order listed.

1. Mastery (immediate recognition) of both letter names and the sounds they make as they are introduced in class (both upper and lower case).
2. Smooth blending together of sounds when sounding out words and then reading the words the “fast”.
3. Phrase and sentence reading for fluency.
4. Comprehension: ask questions about what is read to make sure your child is hearing and understanding what they are reading.

The above steps can be practiced as you work on the following during regularly scheduled homework time:

1. Daily reading paper: go over the sheet each day with your child that they bring home from school.
2. Word list sheet; practice these during homework time. Send the paper back signed when child is ready to pass it off to teacher.
3. Little readers: practice these during homework time. Have your child touch each word as he/she reads it to you. Ask comprehensive questions about what is being read to you. Keep the readers for future practice and review.

Penmanship: We are very proud of the children who have been working harder with the neatness and accuracy of their work. This is an area needing a lot of practice and concentration and we are happy to say we are seeing some better efforts. Please continue to encourage “personal Best” with all school work. When practicing at home, it is helpful to use kindergarten lined paper (found at the dollar stores or school supply stores) so correct size and form can be properly practiced. Red marks on daily take home papers indicate an area needing practice.

Math: Your child should now have mastery of number concepts using the numbers 1-10, adding 1-10, subtracting 1-10. This month we are working on the teen numbers 11-20. Please work with your child to count, write and count objects to 20. Work with your child to count to 70 by themselves with no mistakes. We will continue to add and subtract to help keep it fresh

in their minds. Keep working on the math homework papers each night, these papers help with the concepts being learned at school.

Units: Our main focus this month will center on American Patriotism. We will be talking about early colonial days, the American flag (reinforcing the Pledge of Allegiance), Presidents George Washington and Abraham Lincoln, our current president, and some of the important historical facts of the USA. February is also Dental Health Month, and we will have activities related to Valentine's Day.

Homework Packet: It is nice to see many of the children working on their Monthly homework packets and turning them in at the end of the month.

Self- Discipline/Responsibility: We have reached the point in our academic program where the children really have to work and put forth some extra effort to master the skills being taught in class. It is at this time we sometimes hear the comment that a child seems to be bored with the seat work or reading practice, etc. However, generally the child is not bored, he/she just does not want to put forth the effort to work hard enough to master the skill or complete the assignment. This gives us, as adults, a great opportunity to teach a little life lesson about life. "We all have things we don't want to do, but we have to do them anyway. Once the work is done, we have the fun choosing time to do later. We believe it is important to have goals and work towards them and we feel this pattern for life can begin in kindergarten.

Thank you: Thanks so much for your terrific support in sending needed items for our classroom. As always we can use a box of Kleenex now and then with Clorox wipes. Extra craft items we could use for our art center, yarn, buttons, sequins, glitter, feathers, stickers, etc. To help us in math we could use cereal for counting and graphing and eating too.

*Students are in need of new crayons in their boxes at school.

Sincerely,
Kindergarten Teachers