

January Newsletter

Dear Parents/Guardians,

With the holidays behind us, things have settled down and the kindergarten classes are back on schedule. These next few months will be very important in your child's academic progress.

Reading: We cannot stress enough the importance of some daily reading for your child. The practice sessions should be kept short (10-15 Min.). To prevent reading practice from becoming monotonous and boring, use different strategies for practice sessions. Alternate them by reviewing letter names and sounds, practicing word blending skills (sounding out words slowly and then saying them fast). Practicing the word memory sheets, and reading the decodable books. As suggested before, some type of reading notebook is recommended for keeping reading materials together and organized for your child to review and practice.

Please try to be patient with your child's early learning reading ability. When you become frustrated, so does the child and very little learning will take place. Try to be positive with lots of praise and encouragement. Keep reading as fun and exciting as possible, but be firm and consistent, insist on effort, not perfection.

Our Little Readers will be changing now to decodeable words. The colored slip of paper that comes home with the decodeable book should be filled out and returned of Fridays. This lets teacher know how many times the book was read during the week.

Penmanship and spelling: Along with reading, we continue to work on proper penmanship and simple spelling skills. This is something you can reinforce at home as an alternative to word reading. You can dictate the individual letter/sound and /or words to your child. He/she can write and then read back to you what was written. All handwriting practices should be on lined paper with accuracy in size and form of the letters/words. Neatness and accuracy with tracing, coloring, cutting, etc. is being stressed. The children should develop pride in what they do and should always strive to do their individual best.

Math: We are still working on numbers, 0-12 should be firm. Numbers 13-20 are next to recognize and write. Counting and grouping items together and dot-to-dots to 20 (with no assistance) and counting to 60 are skills to be worked on. We will continue with adding and subtracting in our math program. Please do the homework sheets to help the new concepts become easier and not as frustrating.

Units: During the first part of January we will be reviewing the four seasons with an emphasis on the season of winter. The latter part of January we will study the Five Senses.

Homework packets: As in the past months, please go over the monthly homework packet with your child each day. Work especially hard on those areas that seem to be the most difficult for your child. The skills each day go along with our reading program. We would not send it home to do if we did not think it important to work on.

This month we could use: more Kleenex, hand sanitizer, Clorox wipes, small white paper plates, buttons, glitter, fruit loops for math, winter stickers for our sticker box, markers to use at our art table or colored pencils and glue sticks. Thank you for helping your child at home to learn how to do up their own outer wear(coats, hat, mittens, boots, etc) It is great to see so many mastering these skills!