

March Newsletter

Dear Parents/Guardians,

The long awaited month of the arrival of spring is finally here! Just as the weather will fluctuate between “lion and lamb”, the behavior of the children seems to fluctuate between settled and unsettled, too. Please remind your child that there are still three important months of school for learning. We will be talking a lot now about getting ready for first grade. Any encouragement, practice and reinforcement you can give at home will be very beneficial for your child.

READING: Most of the children are doing very well with smooth blending of sounds when sounding out their words. Please remember that if individual sounds are not firm, it breaks up the fluency of the reading process. The skill we are stressing now is fluency with sentence reading. **This is a skill in which practice, practice, practice is most important.** Memorization (three seconds or less per word) of the word sheets being sent home will also help fluency in sentence reading. **Reading material for daily practice can come from your child's reading notebook.** Hopefully, you have been putting the following into the notebook.

1. Words/stories from daily reading worksheets
2. Word memory sheets
3. Little Readers/Small Books
4. Homework packet pages each night

Changes are occurring in your child's Little Readers take-home Books. The books sentences are getting longer now, please help your child check for understanding of the story. The sight words from our reading lists will make the reading easier if your child can fluently read them by themselves.

Starting this month the students will be able to choose a short reading book for home reading every day. These books are special beginner reader books. The children need to keep track of them. To be able to exchange the book each day they need to bring the book back in its little plastic sack to keep it safe and clean. Then they will be able to choose another book for home reading practice. These little books cost about \$5.00 a piece to replace because they are leveled readers. **Please help your child take care of them and have lots of fun reading them with success.**

PENMANSHIP/NEATNESS: We have been working very hard in this area all year. When they apply themselves (personal best), the children do a nice, acceptable job. If your child is receiving poor marks in neatness, it is due to lack of effort on his/her part. **Our goal in this area is for every child to apply him/her self to do his/her personal best every day, every worksheet.**

MATH: We have now covered the numbers 0-20 and are working on 20-30. **The children should be able to recognize the number 0-20 out of sequence and correctly write them in proper order.** By the end of March they should have mastery with writing 0-25 in sequence, recognizing 0-25 out of sequence, counting sets of 0-25 objects, and completing dot to dots from 0-25. They should also have mastery with counting orally from 1-80 (no assistance and no skipping numbers). We are working on counting to 100 by 5's and 10's and 2's to 20. We will continue to work on addition and subtraction. We will continue to work on the concepts of weight & measurements, estimation, fraction, and time.

UNITS: During the month of March our unit of focus will be Family job and Neighborhood helpers. We have scheduled several speakers from our community to come in and speak to our classes (policeman, animal control, nurses, landfill & recycling etc. If you would like to share your field of expertise (Job) with us please let us know!

Classroom needs: We could use this month large white paper plates (the cheapest ones), stickers, band-aids, and crafty things for the art center, cereal (fruit loops cheerios etc.) for counting and adding and other math activities. **Please remember jacket even with the warmer weather, in the mornings it is cold and we have recess every day.** We could use some fun outdoor chalk and bubbles, the children really enjoy using these items at recess. Teachers can still use Clorox sanitizing wipes for the tables and chairs to keep germs down.

Sincerely,
Kindergarten Teachers

