

MAY Newsletter

Dear Parents/Guardians,

It is hard to believe we are sending out our final newsletter for the _____ School year. Watching and listening to the children work and play has made us aware of how much the children have grown and developed this year. We are going to miss them when school is dismissed for summer break!

Although we are getting near to the end of the school year, please remind your child that **school is not over yet**. We will continue to work hard until the end with some fun days and activities planned, too. While at school **the rules still apply** and we need the cooperation of every child to have a nice completion of our school year. It is not fair to those children who are trying to work hard and learn to be constantly distracted by those who are choosing to goof off and misbehave. The neatness of work should be improving, not sliding. Therefore, **please take behavior and /or work habit notes sent home from school seriously**. If your child is continually bringing home incomplete seat work, this is a good sign he/she has wasted work time! **Incomplete seat work should be finished at home and returned to school the following day**. Thank you for your support and help in this area during this last month of school.

READING: The final emphasis in reading will be on immediate word recognition and fluent sentence reading with accurate comprehension. **Fluency and comprehension will only come with practice**. This does not mean long practices each day, but rather consistent practices. **The daily 15-20 min. Reading sessions at home will be vital now as well as this summer**. Hopefully you and your child have made a Reading Notebook and are saving (1) weekly reading stories, (2) word memory sheets. Many of the children can now read easy readers as well. When practicing, encourage your child to touch the words as he/she reads them to you, pausing at commas and periods. They should also sound out only those words unfamiliar to them (sight words will make their reading more fluent). The children who are passing off their word memory sheets and are reading at home are really showing nice progress and improvements!

PENMANSHIP: We are very proud of the children who are working hard on their penmanship, tracing, coloring, and cutting skills. **We are now working hard on proper spacing** (finger spacing) between words and numbers, Plus the letter formations (correct size and shape) of letters and numbers in the line spaces. Your child should be able to read his/her own writing and should practice doing so. Please remember that "smiley" and "Frown" work is not a child's best effort and encourage "star" work instead.

Spelling: **reinforce spelling at home** by (1) dictating single letters to be written by your child, (2) dictating simple words from the word memory sheets, and (3) dictating simple sentences using words from the word memory sheets. For an extra challenge, some children are enjoying making up their own little sentences from the words they are learning. This is an excellent skill for future creative writing practice.

MATH: **By the end of May your child should have mastery of the following math skills:** (1) count orally to 100 without prompts, (2) recognize out of sequence 0-30, (3) write numbers 0-30 in sequence using correct written form, (4) dot-to-dot 1-30, and additions and subtraction 0-10. This school year we have also introduced the concepts of shapes 2D and 3D shapes, patterning, visual perception, weights & measurements, estimation, fractions, time, and money. Please watch your child's papers to see how we are doing our subtraction at school.

UNITS: During May we will be continuing with activities related to the season of spring and will studying plants and baby animals.

MISCELLANEOUS ACTIVITIES: Other activities this month will include a walk to the park, Teddy Bear Day & end of year party, and field day. Check "Dates to Remember" at the end of this newsletter for dates.

THANK YOU: to each of you who have done so much both at home and at school to make this year a successful one. The children are special, each in his/her own individual way. We love them all!!

Have a great summer together and don't forget to read together, too. The children who read during the summer on a consistent basis will be current and ready to start first grade in the fall. Those who do not will fall behind in the new skills they have worked so hard to learn this year. Take special note of the article concerning a reading experiment done at a Granite District elementary school.

PROGRESS IN JUST FIVE MINUTES A DAY

Carla Wonder, an assistant principal at Bacchus Elementary, decided to try an experiment aimed at improving students reading abilities. She listened to each third grader read. She then selected students who were having reading fluency problems that could be corrected without teacher intervention.. Most parents of eligible children agreed to participate. They were asked to **have their child read to them for just five minutes a day** during February.

"At the beginning of March, the students read for me again as did those students whose parents chose not to participate in the experiment. **The difference in reading fluency improvement was dramatic: 2.75 words a minute for non participating students and 30'17 words a minute for participants, Carla report "It is clear that parental support does have a direct impact on the success of a child's education."**

What an impact summer reading could have for your child!

THANK YOU AGAIN FOR A WONDERFUL COOPERATIVE YEAR!

WORKING TOGETHER WE HAVE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN THE LIFE OF A CHILD ... YOUR CHILD!

Sincerely
Kindergarten Teachers

****May - Mrs. Handley's class is having a Moms son/daughter picnic day. Please come join our class for lunch and a few songs. The students will get their lunches at the kitchen and bring them outside to eat with you picnic style (please bring your sack lunch to eat with your child). Time is 12:30 - 1:30.**

