

November Newsletter

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Thank you for your terrific support of our October activities! It's hard to believe we're already beginning our third month of school! During the month of November our units of study will be centered around (1) the Pilgrims & the Native Americans and some of their experiences together which led to the First Thanksgiving and (2) Our Healthy Bodies. As a highlight activity to our units of study, we will be having a little "nutrition feast" in our classroom before Thanksgiving. The moms who signed up to help with the Thanksgiving Party will be contacted to help with our "nutrition feast" when the time draws nearer.

Academically, we continue to work very hard on reading, math, penmanship, and neatness and accuracy with tracing, coloring and cutting skills.

Reading: At this time, **all children should have mastery of the immediate recognition and correct written form of the letters and sounds: Aa, Bb, Cc, Dd, Ee, Ff, Gg, Hh, Ii, Jj, Kk, Ll, Mm, Nn, Oo, Pp, Qq, Rr, Ss, Tt, Uu, Vv, Ww, Xx, Yy, Zz.** Now that several sounds have been learned, **the children should be practicing for mastery in blending the sounds together smoothly** (no breaks between the sounds) to sound out simple words. **This is a critical step in the reading program.** Please take time **each school day** to go over your child's reading papers with him/her and **have your child read the letters/sound and the words on the papers to you.** When reading words to you, your child should first sound the word out slowly (no breaks between sounds) and then say it fast. If your child is having difficulty doing this, follow these steps;

(1) pattern it for him/her by doing it the right way by yourself

(2) have your child do it with you

(3) have your child try it again alone

Continue this process until your child gets it right. Then, stop on the positive, successful try. **Word reading will only be successful with mastery** of individual sound recognition and **mastery** of smooth blending when sounding out words. **Daily reading practice is a must!**

MATH: All children should now have visual and written mastery of the numbers 0-6 (out of order recognition, correct written form, and counting & identifying sets/groups of six). **They should also have mastery with counting to 20 without assistance.** During the month of November we will be working on the numbers 6, 7, & 8, 9, 10 counting orally to 30, completing simple dot-to-dots to 10, and addition 1-10. Math is a step-by-step process, **every child needs to master the skills as they are taught.** This slow, deliberate process is important to success in math later on. Again, please **take a few minutes each school day to review your child's math papers and do the math packet each night.**

PENMANSHIP: All children should have mastery at this time with neat, accurate tracing skills and should be working on proper form and size with printing of the letters and words appearing on the reading papers. Letter, words, and numbers written incorrectly on your child's seat work will be circled and **should be practiced correctly on lined paper** at home for review. Most of the children can do very well if they apply themselves and should be encouraged to take the necessary time to do their best rather than rushing through their work with little effort. Also, some children are still holding their pencils incorrectly. Even though bad habits are difficult to break, please assist your child in holding the pencil correctly when writing at home. Many of the children are showing **good effort and great improvements** in their handwriting! **We are proud** of their hard work!

NEATNESS & ACCURACY: Besides the area of penmanship, the children should also be showing effort with neatness & accuracy in their coloring and cutting skills. Proper control in these areas is important in developing small muscle coordination in the hands and fingers and in developing good eye-hand coordination skills. We are working hard to develop neat work habits!

HOMEWORK: As you can see, there is a lot you can be practicing during your regularly scheduled **10-15 minute daily homework periods**. Don't try to practice everything every day. Instead, vary the review to prevent boredom. The only other homework your child will have is to (1) make up work that is missed when absent and (2) to finish work that is not completed in class for the day (**incomplete daily work should be returned the following school day**), (3) homework packet activities.

CHECKING PAPERS: Kindergarten children need immediate reinforcement of the work they do. Therefore, we **try** very hard to check every paper every day. However, there may be random occasions when we simply run out of time. In these situations, the children may ask you to check their work for them. This work does not need to be returned to school if it was completed in class. Be assured your child's teacher has seen the work, she just has not checked it with her pen.

MISCELLANEOUS:

(1) With colder weather fast approaching, **please help your child learn to do up his/her own outerwear**. It takes a lot of time for the teacher to do up all the coats, hats, mittens, boots, etc., but very little time for each child to do up his/her own. Also, if you choose to send shoes for your child to change into (from boots) on snowy days, please help him/her learn to tie, buckle, etc. them. Again, it takes a lot of time for the teacher to do several, but very little time for each to do his/her own. **Thanks!**

Another note regarding colder weather; **on rainy, snowy, or extremely cold days** the boys and girls do not have to stand outside before school begins. **The morning children** may go into the multipurpose room located inside the front of the building next to the main doors of the school. They should remain seated here until the bell rings and then come to class. . Be **aware** that noisy and /or disruptive children will be asked to wait outside. Finally, please be sure your child is dressed appropriately for the weather. In the past we have had children without coats on cold days and some children have been crying upon entering the school because their little hands have gotten so cold on the way to school. Your help and cooperation during the cold, winter weather days is very much appreciated! Thank you! We do go outside everyday for recess dress for the weather.

(2) **We would again like to encourage the use of school bags, back packs, folders, or even a plastic grocery bag for carrying notes and papers to and from school every day**. Children without a bag of some type have difficulty holding on to all of their things and some papers are being lost because of this.

(3) Thank you very much to those who have sent needed items during the last few months. Any time you feel you can donate, we appreciate your help! **This month we could use some fun November stickers, small individual M&M packs, small marshmallows, fruit loops (for math activities), salad macaroni (for stringing necklaces), glitter, and boxes of Kleenex. We can still use items for our creative art center (glitter, buttons, sequins, anything the children can glue to their masterpieces!)**

LOOKING AHEAD

December - Kindergarten Christmas Program during school hours, time will be sent later. Place is in the Hunter Elementary Multipurpose Room. **All** Hunter Elementary kindergarten children will be performing. More information will be coming home later, but please **mark** your calendars now for this important event!

Finally, thank you again for all you do to help us and the kindergarten children in our classes! If you have questions or concerns, please see us or give us a call.