

OCTOBER NEWS LETTER

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We would like to begin this newsletter by saying "THANK YOU" to so many who have contributed so much already to our classes. Thank you for: the many treats for our color days (extras will be saved and used as snacks when needed), boxes of Kleenex, stickers, birthday pictures, PTA memberships, BOXTOPS for EDUCATION labels, and your attentiveness to notes, etc. that came home during the month of September. **YOUR SUPPORT IS GREAT** and it shows how much you really care about your child and his/her school activities! Some items we could use in our classes for the month of October are: Trix or Fruit Loops dry cereal (four boxes or two large bags), Halloween/Autumn stickers, white paper plates (both large & small and the cheapest brand), and art center items such as dry beans, macaroni all shapes, buttons, sequins, pom-poms, colored pencils, glitter, etc. (Anything the children could use for collages and other imaginative creations at the art center). Also, please send your child's picture for the Birthday wall if you have not yet done so; and please continue to save and send to school your BOXTOPS for EDUCATION labels (please see your child's teacher if you have forgotten what these are).

Reading: For many reasons, most of the children are beginning on the same reading lesson in reading. Divisions in reading groups will come as the reading lessons progress. **All children should now have visual and written mastery of the letter names and sounds for the letters Aa, -Nn.** They should be working on Oo-Zz.. Simple sight words have been appearing on the reading take-home sheets/books. **The sight words should be read to you daily by your child, with smooth blending when sounding out the words** (no breaks/pauses between the sounds of any given word). Please be excited with your child about his/her new reading skills so his/her desire to learn more will continue to grow! The sight words are on homework calendar for each month.

PENMANSHIP, NEATNESS, AND ACCURACY: **All children should be able to write their first name correctly (lower case letters and legible)** at this time. Most of the children are trying hard to use their best efforts with their handwriting/tracing skills. The area of greatest concern and needing better effort are in neat, accurate coloring and cutting (small muscle and eye-hand coordination skills). Some children need extra practice at home to improve these skills; others need to slow down, apply themselves, and do their best. The work habits they develop now, will affect their schoolwork for years to come. Thank you to those who are practicing a little each day

MATH: **All children should now have visual and written mastery of the numbers 0, 1, and 2, 3 (out of sequence);** the numbers 4, 5, and 6 will follow this month. **All children should also be able to count orally to 10 (no prompts).** We will be practicing oral counting to 20 this month. We are learning what sets are (a group of things) and are learning to identify sets by touching and counting objects within the set ($XXX=3$). **All children should have mastery on the recognition of the 8 basic colors** (red, blue, green, orange, yellow, purple, brown, black), **6 shapes** (circle, square, triangle, rectangle, oval, diamond), **and positional words** (over, under, beside, top, middle, bottom, in front of, in between, etc), **as well as words describing size** (short, tall, long, heavier, lighter, same, etc.). We will begin working with patterns during the month of October in addition to basic number skills.

UNITS: Zoo animals, safety, and the season of autumn will be the focus of our units this month. To help in practicing small muscle and eye-hand coordination skills and listening & following instruction skills, we will be making some fun Halloween projects, too. If you feel you have anything to share to enhance these units, please feel free to let us know or send them as show and tell items.

COMMUNITY OF CARING: Hunter Elementary is proud to be among the schools working on Community of Caring values that help us to be better citizens. **The values we will be working on throughout the school year are: caring, respect, trust, responsibility, and family.** Thank you for supporting us as you see home-school notes coming home from time to time!

BOOK ORDERS: Scholastic See Saw/FIREFLY are our book orders each. Please remember to make checks payable to: Scholastic Book Club. Do not add sales tax; it is already included in the price of the books. If your September books have not yet arrived, they will be at school shortly and your child's teacher will send them home as soon as possible.

MONTHLY HOMEWORK PACKET; **Thank you to those who took the responsibility to work a little each day on the September Skills with their child and then returned it to school at the end of the month.** If you have not yet done so, it is not too late. Remember, the homework packets are the skills we will be working on throughout the month with our goal to have **mastery of the skills by the end of the month.** A little practice and review each day at home (15 minutes or so) really does make a difference! Our school is participation in the Road To Success. Our homework packet is the way kindergarten is keeping track of reading points. Please turn them in at the end of the month. If your child returns the homework packet completed with their name on it they will be entered into the drawing for incentives throughout the year.

MISCELLANEOUS: (1) With the cooler weather comes more outer wear (coats, hats, etc). **Please work with your child at home so he/she can button, snap, zip, and tie** all things requiring such actions (even shoes would be a big help!). Let's make it a goal to have mastery of these things by the end of October. **THANKS!** Many students are having trouble snapping their pants after using the rest rooms. Teachers are not allowed to zip and snap pants for the students. This is to protect your student and the teacher on student's personal space. Please work with your child on this issue, it is very important. Another issue on personal space please talk with your child about not looking under the stall doors in the restrooms, this is becoming a game and we need it to stop or bathroom privileges will be very limited!

Thank you,
Kindergarten Teachers

