

September

Dear Parents/Guardians,

This is the first of your monthly newsletters keeping you informed of the activities and studies going on in your child's class. Please read it carefully and keep it in a safe place for the month as it has some important information in it for you.

The over-all emphasis this year in kindergarten will be to develop a good self-concept in each child. Self-awareness, self-esteem, and the value of being special and important will be integrated into all we do: discussions, unit work, songs, games, etc.

Our units for September are: school helpers and getting along at school, shapes and colors, and zoo animals. By the end of September each child should be firm on the recognition of a square, circle, triangle, rectangle, oval, and diamond (rhombus) plus should be able to readily identify the colors, black, brown, blue, red, yellow, green, orange, and purple. Many tracing, coloring and cutting activities relating to shapes and coloring skills, will be done. These skills help to exercise and strengthen the small muscles in the hands and fingers to advance writing skills. To highlight our unit on zoo animals, we will be taking a field trip to the Hogle Zoo (hopefully in October).

Our math skills this month will include a review on the concepts of long/ longer/ longest, and big/ bigger/ biggest. We will also be working on the numerals 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, (recognition, identifying sets, and correct written form). By the end of September each child should be able to count to 10 with no prompting.

Our reading skills this month will be a variety of review with pre-reading activities and with the visual and written recognition of the Alphabet letter names and sounds. In time, children will be grouped according to ability level. However, such grouping is limited until the children are developmentally ready to do so. Most weeks, reading lessons are presented Monday – Fridays.

Each month we will be saving samples of your child's seat work. These samples are kept in special folders in our classroom to be used for reference and conferencing. The folders will be given to you at the end of the school year.

"Grading" will take place on nearly all work papers (some papers are for practice only and may not have a written mark even though the teacher has seen the paper). Please take notice daily of your child's work so you will know if they are having any difficulties, and needing extra practice at home. The following grades will be used on your child's papers:



very good: Fair/okay: poor/ incomplete.

Any incomplete work should always be finished at home the day it comes home and returned to your child's teacher the following day for checking by the teacher. This will help your child learn the importance of school work and will help in responsibility skills.

Pencils, crayons, scissors and glue are on tables for use in the classroom. (If any of these come home with their work please send them back to school for we do not have extra's to keep replacing them).

Please do not send items that are like toys to use for writing or coloring. Your child will need to know they are responsible for the things they bring to school (it is helpful if you put your child's name on every item). If your child is irresponsible with the items provided by the school, he/she would need to replace those lost/damaged items.

This month you will notice your child will talk about new friends being made at school, and about rules and behavior that they will help to make up to follow in class. They are also very eager to try all of the new items in center areas. Areas needing extra practice by most of the children are:

1. Listening and following instructions the FIRST time they are given.
2. Cutting accurately on a given line (small muscle coordination)
3. Printing names in LOWER CASE letters.

Our days are fairly flexible and will fluctuate from day to day.

Daily: Table activity time, rug time (attendance, calendar, sharing news, songs/stories), discussion/listening time, unit/seat work instruction, reading centers, reading/math lessons/seat work, math centers, recess, sing/story, final clean up, evaluate day, dismiss

In addition: We will go the Media Center (school library twenty minutes each week, participate in P.E. activities and computers a little later in the year.

REMINDERS:

1. Please help your child and our school by joining the PTA. Thanks to so many who have already done so. The PTA volunteers are at school countless hours to help make our school a good place to be. They really need your support.
2. Please send your child's picture for the birthday wall as soon as possible. Again, thanks to those who have already done so!

3. Volunteer signup sheet: If you would like to help in your child's classroom this year, please sign the sheet by checking the boxes that best fit your needs and return the sheet to your child's teacher as soon as possible. Your child's teacher will work up a schedule and have it back to you. Classroom volunteers will begin in October.

