



Kindergarten Highlights



A Look from March to April

Happenings

As the children return from Spring break, we will be keeping them busy with many new topics and concepts! The pace is picking up and we are expecting their attention spans to be lengthening as we prepare for the transition into first grade. We would like you to support your child's efforts as we ask that work be done accurately and neatly. Extra letter and number formation practice at home is always beneficial as those common reversals tend to disappear with repeated use. Just keep it short and fun and remember that compliments go a long way with five and six year olds! "I'm noticing that you are more careful about your printing now. Good for you!" Or you might try "I'm impressed with how much your printing/number writing has improved over the school year! Keep up the good work!" Kindergartners tend to be in a "want to please" mode so take advantage of this opportunity to encourage a good work ethic and a healthy expectation towards doing well!

"KABOOM" cans will be introduced. This is an exciting game that allows children to practice vocabulary and sight words. I'm sure you will be hearing more about this game from your child soon!



Language

We have been introduced to the letters Aa, Ee, Ii, Oo and Uu and are *heavily* focusing on the short vowel sounds! There are such subtle differences in those short vowel sounds and we need lots of practice in order to use them correctly!

The "Try A Little Riddle" board will be up for this month as children are asked to read the daily clues and make appropriate guesses with the given information. We are working on building patience and accepting wrong answers from ourselves while involving a bit of suspense! The children adjust their daily answers or keep their previous answer if it matches with the next clue. We use kindergarten spelling to label our guesses each day.

The children also seem to be enjoying the games and activities occurring during Reading Team time. Keep encouraging your child to make progress in his/her individual reading folder as they are available to use during settling in time and choice time each day.

Books We've Read

Too Many Leprechauns, Sylvester and the Magic Pebble, Tom and the Clever Leprechaun, Silly Sally

Math

Subtraction, or "take away" will be our next math venture and we'll be doing lots of equations, or "math sentences" in the coming weeks. The children have been introduced to this concept and we will continue to use number lines to understand the importance of moving to the right or left when adding or subtracting.

We will continue to revisit several math concepts and begin to challenge students to attempt some of these activities independently. For example, earlier in the year we introduced the students to "Day Play". For this activity children are given the same number of snap cubes as the date (on the 17th they would have 17 snap cubes) we would then, as a group generate a set of number sentences equaling 17. At this time of the year students are independently working with their own stack of snap cubes to generate their own number sentences in their pencil books. They are very proud, as are we, of their success with this hands-on math activity!



Special Thanks!

Kindergarten would like to send a special "Thank You" to:

Tierra Faulkner for reading to the class

Edith Flenory for doing a craft project with the kids

Nisa Tamarree for teaching us about Thailand and making Thai custard

Extras

It was a very busy and exciting week in the Kindergarten classroom! The excitement included activities both inside and outside the classroom.

On Tuesday it was very exciting to see some of our eighth grade buddies in the 7th & 8th grade musical "Bye, Bye Birdie". The musical was fantastic and we all enjoyed the performance!

Your child may have told you that a mischievous leprechaun named "Paddy" visited our classroom and literally turned it upside-down! After we followed his clues and found his gold he zipped through our classroom turning tables and chairs over and tossing our belongings out of our cubbies. We presume he was in search of his gold coins we had found. "Paddy" left us a final note vowing to return to the Kindergarten classroom again next year!

To close our dinosaur unit we took a trip to the Carnegie Museum of Natural History to visit the dinosaur fossils and other exhibits. The children were fascinated by the fossils and enjoyed the entire trip! The "Discovery Room", which has many "hands-on" displays, was definitely a highlight of the trip! Ask your child about it!

Upcoming Events

Mon., April 5th : Students return from Spring Break!

Fri., April 30th: 2010 Great Event, "Magna Celebratio" at the Carnegie Museum's Hall of Sculpture

