

October 1, 2013

Dear Parents,

Thank you for a wonderful first month of school with your child. You have been so diligent returning forms and reinforcing morning routines upon arrival. We encourage the children to unpack their book bag, empty their folder, take out snack and then use one of the Learning Centers. You are welcome to watch and direct if needed. Many children do walk in on their own and are welcome to do this whenever the time is right! Please know you are always welcome. The children love to show you their art work that decorate our halls!

Our trip to Whitehouse Apple Farm is tomorrow, October 2nd. Thank you for enabling us learn outside the classroom. It looks as though the weather will be on our side!

It has been a very busy month in Kindergarten. Please continue reading about the many "teachable moments" we have shared with the children.

Religion We discussed that we are all gifts of God and learned that our name is both holy and special. We continue to practice calling each other by name each day. This is so important to begin to build our community together. Hopefully, the books we made that are being sent home help this! We learned about Noah's Ark and how God had the animals enter the ark "two by two." God wants us to always have friends, like the animals. We got new tables and new table friends today. The first of every month brings us a new beginning in Kindergarten.

Phonics The children have been introduced to all of the letters of the alphabet. We do many different activities to reinforce matching upper and lower case letters. We recently created a book, "Our Alphabet Book" to help us learn the letter, sound and a word that begins with that letter. We recently did many activities with the letter "**Mm**" and the sound of it at the beginning and end of a word. The children also practice making the letter "**Mm**" correctly. They need to be able to tell if "m" is at the beginning of the word or at the end of the word.

Reading The Reading series is excellent and challenging! The children continue to learn "Star Words" which are the basic sight words. These are added to our Word Wall in our classroom as they learn them. The children should all know: **I am the a little to.** The children have learned about: characters and setting. Please encourage them to tell you the setting (where the story takes place) and the characters in the books that you read them. The children will also begin to do a "Daily Fix It" where they identify what is wrong with how the sentence is written. We know each sentence begins with an uppercase letter and ends in a period, question mark or exclamation mark. I encourage you to reread the take-home readables with your child often. Also, to write sentences for them to read to you with the Star Words included.

Math The children have been busy learning basic math terms such as: over, under, middle, on top, behind and below. They practice printing their numbers to 20. We learned how to make the correct numbers for: 1,2,3,4,5. The other numbers are soon to follow. We always go "top to bottom" because of gravity, of course! As you know we have struggled through graphing! This has been difficult for many of the students. We will be graphing the weather during October. I will send a graph home for you to do as a family. We are getting better each day at this.

Science The children learned about the growth of apples. They knew all the answers at the Apple Farm. We have been talking about the signs of fall, which are certainly easy to spot on these cold rainy days! We recently did a SKIT Kit working with seeds. The children had to classify, sort and count them.

Social Studies The children have been discussing a community and the many helpers in our community. The children will be introduced to Christopher Columbus in the days ahead. We learn a new American song each month. In September we sang "Yankee Doodle" and in October will be "America, America" a folk song.

As you can see, this past month has been filled with many wonderful moments shared together. On Tuesdays, Mrs. Mary Assion helps us and shares her many gifts with us. She taught Kindergarten in the Boardman School System for many years. We are looking ahead and busy planning for "Grandparent/Special Adult Day" on October 23rd. We will be sending information home soon. Our 50th Carnival Celebration was a wonderful experience for all. A special thank you to all the parents that helped to make this happen!

The children have improved in so many ways since those first days of school. We are learning "life skills": respect others and their property, do not interrupt when someone is talking, raise your hand, share, be a kind friend, remember your manners, and thank God and our parents often. Mrs. Miller and I look forward to many more teachable moments with your child. Both of us thank you for being so kind and prompt with turning papers in. We will begin the Star of the Week. Each child will have an opportunity to be Star of the Week, information will be sent home. November food orders will soon be sent home. The children that have ordered Hot Lunches are loving them! If you have any questions or concerns, PLEASE ask. Together we will make great things happen in Kindergarten.

Sincerely,



Mrs. Mary Ann Critell

Children are the living messages we send to a time we will not see. J.W. Whitehead

Grandparents/Special Adults Day
Halloween

Wednesday, October 23rd
Thursday, October 31st (9:00-11:30)*adjusted schedule