

April 1, 2014

Dear Parents,

The month of March was filled with many fun activities in Kindergarten. The children have enjoyed becoming "Reading Stars" and continue to read books at home. As of March 26th, we have read 1,255 books as a class since we started this project. The children have also enjoyed taking home the "Book in the Bag." Thank you for helping and encouraging your child with these reading activities. I know it has helped the children to greatly LOVE reading!

Religion: We have been gathering each Monday and Tuesday as a school to pray and sing together during the Lenten Season. We have discussed that during these days before Easter we need to "change our hearts" and ourselves to be more like Jesus. I remind the children to also do this at home and to do extra things to help their family each day. We have discussed the importance of prayer, the various forms and people to pray for.

Reading/Language Arts: The children have been very busy sounding out short vowel words and long vowels too. The Star Words (sight words) are reviewed each day as they say the word and use it in a sentence. We continue to identify various word families and highlight the vowels in each word before sounding the word out. They have been introduced to blends and do a super job sounding these words out. We also do a "fix it" each morning. They need to put a capital letter at the beginning of each sentence, and punctuation mark at the end. The children are also beginning to write their own sentences. Encourage your child to write sentences for you at home.

Math: The children have been busy learning addition. We are working on mental math, giving them story problems orally. This is fun to do as we wait in line throughout the day. An example: "If I have one kite and Mrs. Miller has three kites, how many kites do we have together?" We continue to work with ten frames. The children do several of these each day. We also continue to review numbers 1-100 and what number comes "next" or what number "comes before?" A strong suggestion: make addition flash cards for numbers to five. As they get these, you can always add on to them. (example: $1+2=3$, $2+3=5$ etc.) We also enjoy using the dice to create addition problems. And also to get "snake eyes" too!

Science: The children continue to learn with the SKIT Kits and become Scientists. Recently we learned about the various textures and how items feel. We keep looking for changes in nature and await those signs of Spring. The soil is no longer frozen but muddy! Isn't it great to see mud?

Social Studies: The children have learned about the 7 continents and spent much time learning specifically about Antarctica. Many of the children are doing awesome learning the States. The United States floor puzzle is one of their favorite choices.

Thank you for your continued support and all you do for us. Mrs. Miller and I are so grateful for you. Your child's 3rd evaluation will be coming home on Wednesday, April 9th. There are no scheduled conferences this grading period. However, I am always available for a conference if you are in need of one. I would like to share with you "How a Child Learns" by F. Moffett, N.Y. Dept. of Education.

"Thus a child learns, by wiggling skills through his fingers and his toes, into himself. By soaking up habits and attitudes of those around him, by pushing and pulling his own world. Thus a child learns, more through trial than error, more through pleasure than pain, more through experience than suggestion and telling, and more through believing, through doing and through being. Day by day the child comes to know a little bit of what you know, a little bit more of what you think and understand. That which you dream and believe are in truth what is becoming that child. As you perceive dully or clearly, as you think fuzzily or sharply, as you believe foolishly or wisely, as you dream drably or goldenly, as you bear false witness or tell the truth, **THUS A CHILD LEARNS."**

Enjoy these spring days and pray for sunshine!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Mary Ann Critell

REMINDERS:

April 16th	Easter Party (lunch provided-sign up sheet posted)
April 18-25th	Easter Vacation
May 1st 1:00-2:00	Kindergarten Art Show (information to follow)
May 7th	Graduation Pictures (information to follow)
May 30th	Picnic/Pool Party (information to follow)
June 5th	Kindergarten Graduation (7:00 p.m.-info. to follow)

**Adjusted Schedules for weeks of April 28th and May 5th for Kindergarten.
Dismissal will be at 3:00 to make up time lost due to our snowdays.**