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Dear Families,

It is hard to believe that October is here! This is a brief newsletter to keep you informed and suggest ways to support your child at home.

In language arts, your child is learning to produce and recognize corresponding sounds to letters. This skill is crucial as students move towards reading and writing words. We have gone over the following letters: t, b, f, m, n, i, u, c, o. a ,g. At home, ask your child to give you the sound for these letters or name the corresponding word. They are as follows

t-top-/t/ b-bat-/b/ f-fun-/f/ m-man-/b/ n-nut-/n/ i-itch/i/ u-up-/u/ c-cat-/c/ o-octopus-/c/ a-apple-/a/ g-game-/g/

This month we will focus on the following letters: d-dog-/d/ s-snake-/s/ e-Ed-/e/ r-rat-/r/ p-pan-/p/ j-jug-/j/ l-lamp-/l/ h-hat-/h/ k-kite-/k/

The sight words that were introduced in September were a. I, me, the, like, is. This month we will introduce sight words my, am, see, to can, we. Please add these words to the word ring. Please be sure to practice these with your child each night until they can read them with accuracy and speed.

During readers’ workshop, your child has participated in shared reading and independent reading. Shared reading involves a large book that is read by a teacher and students can participate in different ways. One way is to highlight the sight words and have students join in as those words are read. Another way might be for students to join in when there is a repetitive pattern in a story. An example would be from The Gingerbread Man where he says “Run, run as fast as you can you can’t catch me. I am the gingerbread man”. During independent reading, children use the pictures to remember the story or locate words they recognize or actually read words. Encourage your child to point underneath each word as you/they read.

Children “write” a story each day. There is a wide range of abilities in our classroom. Some children give a dictation about their drawings, others have begun to label their pictures and there are one or two students that try to form a sentence. I am very excited about the students’ accomplishments. I will be sharing their writing with you at our parent/teacher conferences. In the first unit *Launching the Writing Workshop* students were asked to write about things they know about. Students were encouraged to write about true stories from their lives. The next unit is called *Looking Closely: Observing, Labeling, and Listing*. In this unit, students will begin to experience the link between writing and science. This unit channels them to transfer and apply their knowledge of letters and sounds to labeling items and listing observations. Students might create booklets with simple sentences that revolve around high-frequency words. (for example a book on leaves-students might write “I see red. I see yellow.”).

For mathematics in September, students described objects using words like heavier, lighter, shorter, taller, smaller, larger etc. Students compared sets and determined which group has more or less. This month, students will learn how to form numbers (0-6) accurately. Often times, children at this stage of development form numbers reversed. This is developmentally appropriate and not a reason to be concerned. It takes time for students this age to correctly form numbers. Focus will be placed on writing numbers, representing numbers with objects, counting and recording objects, counting objects using one-to-one correspondence, when counting students will grab and slide objects, model addition and subtraction stories with objects, and showing different combinations for a specific number.

October 2 will be First Friday Family Read. Family members can come into the school and read with their children. It runs from 9-9:30. My suggestion is to arrive five minutes early because parking can be tricky. Younger siblings can attend. If you are unable to come to school, your child will join a classmate and their guest. Not every child has a guest. If you have two children in grades K though second grade, inform me that you are taking your child to the other classroom in order to be together.

Important Dates that are coming up:

Oct. 2-First Friday Family Read

Oct. 9- School Picture Day-You can send in envelopes early or complete an order form on line.

Oct. 12-Columbus Day-No School

Oct.-14-Fire Department Visits School

Oct. 16 & 20-Our class visits the Book Fair (1:30-2:00-time might change)

Oct. 20-Blood Drive 1:00-6:30

Oct. 21-Minimum Day-Professional Development

Oct. 22- Kindergarten Field Trip to Pumpkin Patch 9:00

Oct. 27-PTO Meeting 7:00

Oct. 28 & 29-Minimum Days-Parent Teacher Conferences

Oct. 30-Halloween Parade (2-2:30)

Thank you for reinforcing these skills and strengthening their handwriting ability at home.

-Kathy Sullivan with Kathy Lalikos & Kevin Dennis