

Kindergarten News

October 2020

Important Dates:

October 2nd: Brown Crate/Box Return
October 9th: Brown Crate/Box Pick Up
October 15th: Student Led Conferences
October 16th: No School/Student Led Conferences
October 20th: Student Led Conferences
October 30th: No School
November 6th: Brown Crate/Box Return

Reading:

During reading in the month of October we will continue to go over book handling skills, the direction we read and how the text flows, and reinforcing the idea that books teach us new things! Additionally, the children will be put into smaller groups to hone in on specific skills, such as, letter identification, letter sounds, and blending short words.

Writing:

During writing for the month we will focus on the letters O,A,D and G. Each week we will place a strong focus on one of the letters, going over the letter sounds in a variety of ways; songs, stories, rhymes, etc. The teachers will guide the children as they practice tracing and writing the letters using the correct grip. The teachers will encourage the children to explore fun and unique ways to replicate the letters using other materials that will awaken other senses, such as play dough, sticks, tracing in sand, etc.

Math:

This month we will be working on the following skills.

- Continuing to practice using 10 frames
- Different combinations to get 10
- Building and using Number Racks
- Counting by 5/10's and using tally marks
- Working more with shapes like triangles, trapezoids, rhombuses, and hexagons

Content:

This month we will explore the following topics:

- Night animals (bats, owls, etc)
- The Farm (animals at the farm, how it operates, what we get from farms, food)
- We will also do an author study in each of the classrooms. Students will get to know an author on a deeper level and explore many of their works.

Skills to Practice:

- Tying shoes
- Using the restroom independently. When we get to the classroom as teachers we are not allowed to help students with any bathroom needs. It is expected that they are independent with that.
- Opening and closing food containers while eating. Having them help prepare meals or open items on their own is great practice.
- Operating a zipper on a jacket, sweatshirt or backpack.
- Using buttons on shirts and pants. There are different types of buttons and each is used in a different way. It is important that students know how to button their pants if that is how they close. For example some snap shut, and others the button has to pass through a small hole.

Mental Health:

Just a friendly reminder that when your child is very frustrated or sad please don't hesitate to encourage a break. The kindergarten team is mindful that the student's need frequent breaks from the screen, however, as the days go on it is common for the children to get burnt out. The teachers always record their sessions, so they will be available for anyone to go and rewatch at a different time if needed. A frustrated or extremely sad child is not a child that can absorb new information and make it meaningful. To support the whole child, we must support their mental well being too.

4K News:

In 4k, we are working through the Alphabet using our ZOO PHONICS animals and learning each sound and signal. I will be introducing one a week to teach the letters shape and sound. Kids have completed aA and bB and will complete cC-gG during October. Please help your child stay on the same letter of the week in the Zoo Phonics activity folder during October. We will be focusing on the seasons changing and we will learn a song about the leaves that fall from the trees. I will be teaching counting to 10 and reading number sets to 6 as well as reviewing shapes and colors. I appreciate all the help with keeping microphones off until it is their turn to talk. Thanks for all of your home support and sharing feedback with me. crkelly@gbaps.org

Don't forget that you will be able to drop off your crates at school on October 2 and I will refill and send home again on October 9. Keep your Zoo Phonics folder at home with items you were already given so that we can continue to have our hands on tools at home.