

Mrs. Tropf's Newsletter

January 10, 2013

Dear Kindergarten Parents,

Happy New Year to each of you! I trust the Christmas break was refreshing and gave you many opportunities for making happy memories with your child. Since January is the month for New Year's resolutions, we have some goals in kindergarten as we move through this new year of 2013. We want to become better listeners, be more obedient, and be more loving and kind to our classmates. Please pray that the Lord will help us all to work on these goals daily and meet them.



I am "rewinding" to December for a moment, but your children probably told you what a great Christmas class party we had on December 21. Mrs. Seiler and her committee did a wonderful job planning and organizing the activities for the morning. A big thanks to all the helping hands that day and all the donations for the terrific party. Everything was truly appreciated!!!

Bible

In Bible next week we will learn about God's promise to send His Son Jesus to be the Saviour of the world. (Yes, we are having the Christmas story again in January!!) *The memory verse for this week is Matthew 1:21: "She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus."* Your child should be prepared to recite the verse and reference to me on Thursday.

Language Arts

This week has been fun as we have met Miss W (Wonderful Words), Miss Y (Yodeling Yawn), and Mr. R (Rainbow Ribbons). Tomorrow the children will meet Miss J (Jingle Jingle Jacket). SSSHHH!!! It's a secret!! Next week two new Letter People will meet the class: Miss U (who has an Unusual Umbrella) and Mr. X (who is really different!). In our Open Court curriculum we will finish Unit 4 and read more Decodable story booklets. Please

send the sight word ring back on Monday and I will add new words for next week. Continue to drill and review all the words on the ring because I will be testing the children in the near future. Don't forget to work on the monthly sight word list as well. Please review the digraphs th, sh, ch, and wh with your child. These sounds are tricky for the children to remember but we'll continue to work on them in class.

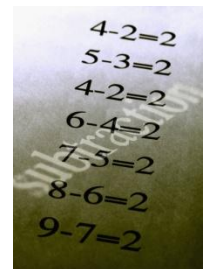
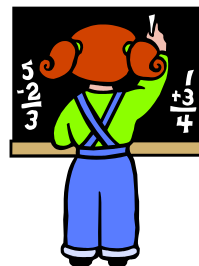
Sight Words

Sight words to learn for January include the following:

NO OR ALL BY HER GOOD COME
MRS. COMES OUT DOES SAYS MR.

Math

Math lessons next week will focus on finding differences (the answer to a subtraction problem), completing subtraction sentences, and problem solving using objects. On Friday the class will take a chapter test.



Handwriting

I am noticing that some of us are still not writing first names correctly. Please work on this skill at home and go over corrections and red marks on writing papers. Refer to the writing sample alphabet given to you at the beginning of the year. Overall, the class has improved greatly since September, but correct writing of letters, numbers, and names is an ongoing process and requires steady practice for improvement. Thank you for helping your child in this area. Pencil grip is also important. *The pencil should be held between the thumb and long middle finger, with the index finger resting on top of the pencil.*

Report Cards

Since report cards will be coming out on January 24 I have been doing evaluations of various skills to see how the class is doing. You will receive general evaluation sheets soon. Before Christmas break you received the phonics evaluations. Some of us still need to learn to tie shoes and zip coats. Others need to learn their address (including zip code) and phone number (including area code). In general the class is making good progress academically. I am amazed at how far we've come since September and how exciting it is each day to work with these young minds. Each week brings change and improvement. Perhaps the biggest room for improvement overall is in the area of being good listeners. I still have to remind the children, "When Mrs. Tropf is talking you are listening." Our other rule in the classroom is that one person talks at a time. It's very hard for some of us to raise our hand and wait patiently to be called on before starting to talk. I will be calling each family before the end of January to discuss your child's report card and progress academically and socially. Feel free to ask any questions or address any concerns you may have at that time. Your child's report card will come home in paper form and will not be posted on MY TCS.

Science

This week I have been doing a differentiated instruction unit on living vs. nonliving things. I planned videos, learning centers, and differentiated learning activities for your young scientists. Next week we will have a differentiated science unit on plants and animals. Your children will watch bean seed begin to sprout and grow, learn about animals growing and changing, and participate in a variety of hands-on science activities to reinforce concepts we learn about in this new chapter.

Outdoor Recess

Now that winter and cold weather are officially here, let me share some important information for you to remember in the coming weeks and months. Girls may bring pants or leggings to wear under their jumpers for cold days. The children go outside for recess if the temperature and wind chill are 20 degrees and above. No one is allowed to play in the snow without snow boots. Dress boots are not sufficient. They must be regular snow boots so little feet are kept warm and dry. If children want to play on the snow piles they must wear snow pants and boots. Children without boots are confined to the blacktop area for recess.

Announcements

Our next Kindergarten Star of the Week will be Faith Townsend.

Today you will notice a new paper stapled to my newsletter. I'm excited to share this resource with you on a weekly basis. Look for a parenting newsletter to come home each week with my letter. It offers ideas on a variety of topics related to child rearing and has helpful suggestions for dealing with the challenges of parenting young children. I trust you will find it helpful and encouraging.

Please continue to send in Box Tops for our winter contest. Also send in clean water bottles with labels removed and any old, dark pennies we can use for our Family Science Night on January 24.

If any of you have magazines you can give me I would greatly appreciate it. I need pictures of people, children, objects, nature scenes, animals, and simple things that begin with the alphabet letters we learned via the Letter People. I use the pictures for phonics, math, science, and other projects. Any donations would be appreciated, but I need mostly pictures, not the printed word. Thanks so much for your help with this special request.

Every child needs a shoe box for a Bible project we are doing in class the week of January 21. Please send one for your child ASAP and an extra one if you have some to spare. I appreciate it!!!

Enjoy this January weekend and have a wonderful day of worship in God's house on Sunday!

Winter blessings,
Mrs. Tropf



