

Mrs. Tropf's Newsletter

January 17, 2013

Dear Kindergarten Parents,

Your child is officially more than half way through his kindergarten year! Can you believe it? The time has passed by so quickly it's hard to believe. The second half of the year is going to stretch your child academically as we encounter more difficult materials in phonics and math. This is a crucial time to continue to develop foundational skills in reading and refine our handwriting skills. Please go over your child's handwriting papers regularly and review any missed questions on worksheets to be sure he/she understands the concepts and material. Be an encourager and cheerleader for your child as he attempts new skills and tries to improve in weak areas. The interest you display in your child's school work speaks volumes to him about the importance of education. Continue to stress the importance of following our classroom rules and being an attentive listener. Since we are preparing for first grade, I will expect good behavior without warnings and extra chances to obey. I look forward to seeing growth in each child in the areas of self-control and good listening skills. Please pray that God will help us to use our time wisely every day and accomplish all that needs to be done before the end of the year.



In our Bible lessons next week we will learn about God's gift of Jesus to the world as a fulfillment of His promise to send a Saviour. Yes, we are having the Christmas story in January! Our new memory verse is *Isaiah 9:6 "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given."* Your child should be able to recite the verse by Friday for a grade.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO SEND A SHOE BOX TO SCHOOL FOR YOUR CHILD FOR A SPECIAL BIBLE PROJECT WE ARE DOING NEXT WEEK.

In phonics today we met Mr. X, who is very different. On Tuesday we will meet our final Letter Person, Mr. Q, who asks QUESTIONS. Then we will have completed the entire alphabet. Now is the time to work on blending sounds in three letter words, such as tip, hat, pop, hen, dog, sit, etc. Please help your child sound out words like these and go over phonics papers that come home. Blending is an important skill and one that will improve with practice. We have also been learning the digraphs th, sh, ch, and wh. Some of the children are still unsure of these, so extra practice at home would help greatly. Soon we will begin learning blends such as dr, br, tr, bl, sl, sw, sk, st, sp, and sn. Remember to have your child read the Decodable story booklets aloud to you on a regular basis. These stories contain the sight words on the sight word ring you have been using this year. Oral reading improves with regular practice, so take advantage of these dark, cold winter evenings and have family reading time. Your child will benefit greatly as he reads stories aloud to you. Try to take fifteen minutes every night to read stories to your child as well. The benefits are well worth the time and effort! **Sight word rings can stay at home until January 28. Practice the words on the ring.**



In math next week the children will begin a new chapter that further explores addition and subtraction. The children have learned that addition means joining two groups of objects and requires the plus sign. Subtraction means take away, or separating a part from the whole and requires the minus sign. Have your family members act out addition and subtraction stories at home or let your kindergartner use objects to show you a number sentence for addition or subtraction. (For example, three Cheerios plus two Cheerios equals five Cheerios. Three forks minus one fork equals two forks.)

Soon we will be celebrating the 100th day of school. The children have been anticipating this special day for quite some time as we discuss it each day during our calendar time and when we do the class counting line. Watch for details in an upcoming newsletter.

Our class Valentine's Day party is February 14 in the afternoon. The children do not need to bring a box or bag from home because we will be decorating bags that day. If you choose to buy commercial valentines, please use discretion. Making valentines for friends can be a great family project for these winter weekends. Please have your child sign the valentines, but **DO NOT** put names on the envelopes. We have a total of 20 students in our class.



Congratulations to the following students for receiving the January Principal Pal Award: Brittney Moore is receiving the award for Orderliness and Michael Paul is receiving the award for Efficiency. They will be treated to a pizza lunch with Mrs. Gioiella on January 25.

Congratulations to Grace Fortney for passing Level 1 (Macaw) of the Reading Eagles program. Way to go, Grace!



Our next Kindergarten Star of the Week will be Isaiah Seiler.

Kindergarten report cards will go home in the Thursday folders next Thursday, January 24. I will be calling each family to discuss the report cards and give an update on your child's behavior in the classroom and academic progress. Feel free to share any concerns or questions during our phone conference.

Remember that there is no school on Monday because it is Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

I still need donations of clean water bottles with the paper labels removed and old pennies for our Family Science Night, which is next Thursday from 5:30-7:00. Come and let your child be a scientist for a night of fun and learning! There will be a variety of hands-on science activities in all the elementary classrooms that night.

If anyone can donate magazines containing lots of pictures, I would appreciate it very much. I need pictures of people, animals, nature scenes, objects, and things that begin with the alphabet letters we learned via the Letter People.

Don't forget to send me your son or daughter's baby photo. I need it for a science activity next week. Thanks to those who sent photos in this week. I appreciate your prompt response!



SCHOLASTIC BOOK CLUB ORDERS AND PAYMENTS ARE DUE ON WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 23.

Have a wonderful winter weekend and enjoy the extra day off with your kindergartner!

In the Master's service,
Mrs. Tropic