

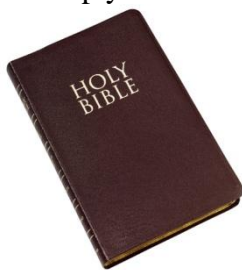
Mrs. Tropf's Newsletter

February 7, 2013

Dear Kindergarten Parents,

We've had a busy, fun week of learning as I have been doing a differentiated instruction mini unit on the 100th day of school. The children heard stories like Miss Bindergarten Celebrates the 100th Day of Kindergarten, The 100th Day of School, 100th Day Worries, One Hundred Days of Cool, and One Hundred Hungry Ants. We wore special badges and crowns, made 100th day glasses, made pictures of our favorite foods to eat in groups of 100, shared our bags of 100 items, did special writing and stamping projects, worked a lot with hundreds charts and counting patterns to 100, and enjoyed our Heavenly 100th Day Hash together at snack time. Our counting skills are improving as we now have over 100 days of school on the counting line in our room.

Next week in Bible we will be learning about prayer and the children will study some of Jesus' prayers. We will discuss four types of praying: giving thanks, asking, praying for others, and praising God. our new memory verse is **II Samuel 22:4 "I call to the Lord, who is worthy of praise."** Parents, please work with your little ones at home and help them memorize the weekly Bible verses. This is a weekly graded assignment and the grade will be on the report card at the end of the year. The main reason for memorizing Scripture, however, is to hide God's Word in our hearts. Please be faithful to help your child do this. Thanks!



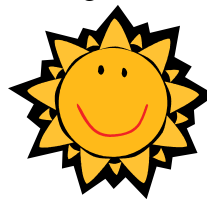
Continue to drill the sight words on the sight word ring and see if your child knows all of them by now without making errors. He should be able to read the Decodable story books to you aloud and that will be extra practice with sight words and words to sound out using the Letter People. Keep practicing the monthly sight words as well. Here's the list again for February:

**RUN AWAY THREE MAKE BUT
BLACK BROWN HELP DOWN THERE
WHERE WHAT WHY WHO ONE TWO
PUT**

Next week in math it is review and catch-up week. Quite a few of us are struggling with concepts from the last two chapters, so I want to review the concepts and do more sample problems from our review workbook. We'll work with counters and ten frames, and hopefully master the material before moving on the following week.

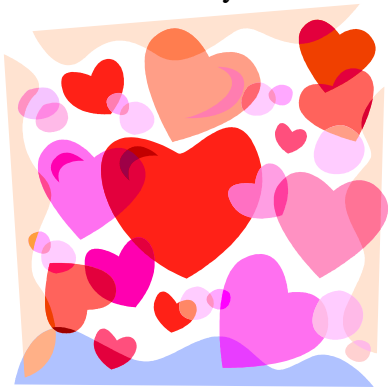


We will soon finish a life science unit on living things. Did you like the habitats your child made for land animals? I think they did a great job on that project. The class enjoyed my differentiated instruction unit in science, with the learning centers and special activities centered around plants and animals and their habitats. Next week we are moving from life science to a new unit on earth science. In this unit the children will observe objects in the daytime and nighttime sky, observe daily changes in the weather, and learn about seasonal changes in the weather. It should be an interesting and fun unit of study.



Next Tuesday morning Mrs. McIntyre, a TCS parent and pharmacist, will be our special community helper and classroom visitor. She will talk to the children about medicines and some safety precautions since young children often confuse medicines with candy. Her presentation will be educational and very interesting. Don't tell your child about this guest yet! I'd like the class to try to guess her occupation when they see her uniform.

Next Thursday afternoon from approximately 1:15-2:30 we will have our class Valentine's Day party. Remember to have your child bring **19** valentines, but do NOT put names on the outside envelopes. It will be easier to pass out the valentines without names. Just have your child sign his name on the card. Contact Mrs. Seiler or sign up online ASAP if you can help in the classroom or donate goodies or supplies. Some items have been donated already. We will be celebrating God's love for each of us next Thursday!!



Please be inviting friends and neighbors to our Open House on Saturday, February 16, from 1:00-3:00 P.M. It's a great opportunity to tour the facility, speak to teachers and staff members, and discover what makes our school different from all others. TCS---Building strong minds and strong faith.

Since we are in the month of February now, your children will learn about Abe Lincoln, George Washington, Presidents' Day, and black history month. I'll be sharing videos and special stories throughout this month in honor of some famous Americans. Hopefully this will spark some great discussion at the family dinner table!

Last Wednesday your kindergartner had a wonderful learning experience with author Diane Terry and illustrator Rachel Ackerman. The children have heard about authors and illustrators all year in our language arts curriculum, but it was very exciting to meet these ladies in person and hear them share the background to two books I read the class. Mrs. Terry inspired the children to use their imaginations and creativity to make their dreams come true and reach their goals in life. It was an outstanding program and one the children will remember for a long time.

Congratulations to Zakary Zipfel for passing Level 2 of the Reading Eagles program. Way to go, Zakary!

Our next Kindergarten Star of the Week will be Rachel Donkor.

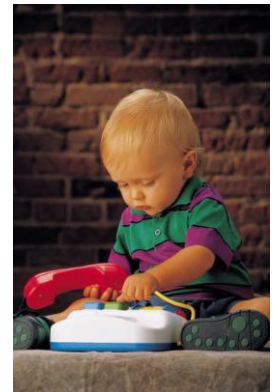
Congratulations to the February recipients of the Principal Pal Award. Grace Fortney is receiving the award for Self-Control and Isaiah Seiler is receiving the award for Confidence. Both students will be treated to lunch with Mrs. Gioiella on February 22.

Social Studies Project---I NEED YOUR HELP!!!

Soon the children will be making special booklets called "All About Me". This booklet is part of the chapter on the passage of time and how time changes things and people. I need you to send me a photocopy of photos or photos that I can use and keep for this project. **I need a photo of your child as a baby, a toddler, a preschooler, and kindergartner, plus a family photo. PHOTOS SHOULD NOT BE LARGER THAN 3" X 5"**.

This will be a fun visual project to help your child see how he/she has changed over time. Please send me all the pictures by Monday, February 25.

Thanks for all your help with this project!!



Have a restful weekend and enjoy some winter relaxation and fun with your kindergartner who is "practicing for first grade".

Winter blessings,
Mrs. Tropf

