

Mrs. Tropf's Newsletter

September 13, 2012

Dear Kindergarten Parents,

We've had another good week of learning and new experiences in kindergarten. It's hard to believe we will soon have a month of school completed. The children are improving in their obedience and listening skills each week and I am encouraged with their progress. Your children are delightful and a joy to teach. I want to thank all of you parents for consistently following up at home when consequences are needed. Our teamwork will pay big dividends as we do our part in training these little ones, while trusting the Holy Spirit to work in their lives. Isn't it thrilling to influence young lives and watch them blossom? What a privilege parents and teachers have! Continue to pray that I will shepherd this little flock with God's wisdom, compassion, and insight. I am daily reminded of my dependence upon Him.

Tomorrow is our field trip to Erie Orchard. Dress your child in layers because the weather may be chilly in the morning but warmer by afternoon. Please send a sack lunch and drink (disposable) with your child's name on it. **DON'T FORGET TO SEND YOUR CHILD'S BOOSTER SEAT WITH HIS/HER NAME ON IT.** I will meet briefly with parents at 9:00 prior to our departure. Parents who attend need to pay \$8.00 in cash or a check **made out to Erie Orchard.** I'll collect the parents' money before we leave school. We have been praying this week for good weather, protection from the bees, and a fun time of learning at the orchard. We are looking forward to a great time enjoying God's creation as we learn about His plan for using bees to help grow apples. We have celebrated the color red this week in our color unit and the children have heard true stories about Johnny Appleseed in preparation for our field trip. Of course, no color unit would be complete without stories about Clifford, the BIG RED dog, and his adventures. The children also heard a story about a little rabbit who wanted red wings and got his wish, only to discover it was not a good thing. We discussed the idea that God made each of us just the way He wants us to be and we shouldn't try to be like anyone else. I told the children, "Just be the best you that you can be!" That pleases Jesus.

Next week in Bible we will review the first four days of creation week, then discover what God did on the fifth day of creation. The children will learn about God's pretty fish, bugs, and birds. As they learn about the fifth day of creation, they will also develop an appreciation of water in its different forms, and its role in sustaining life. Our new memory verse for next week is Psalm 42:2: "My soul thirsts for God, for the living God." The children need to be ready to recite the verse to me on Thursday.

Today I am sending home a list of sight words to work on each month with your child. I discussed these with you during Meet Your Teacher Night on August 27. These are part of our language arts standards for the state of Ohio. Help your child memorize as many as possible and we will be working on them in the classroom as well. The word list for September follows:

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This week your kindergartner brought home his first two pre-decodable story booklets. Please keep these story booklets at home and let your child "read" them to you on a regular basis. These teach a child about print and book awareness, so they are valuable tools for reading readiness skills. Keep a little library of these at home and your child may want to use them when playing school with siblings or friends.

As part of an ongoing effort to give our students a solid foundation in reading readiness and prepare them for learning this year in kindergarten, Mrs. Gioiella and I are asking parents to spend 15 minutes each evening reading to their children at home. As your child listens to you read, he learns about vocabulary, fluency, background knowledge, expression, comprehension, and many other skills that are critical for success in reading. As the year progresses and your child begins to read, have him read to you for some or all of that fifteen minute block of time. Research has proven that practice reading aloud improves a child's reading ability and soon success breeds more success. Make those fifteen minutes a cozy time just for you and your kindergartner. It will not only help to build reading readiness skills, it will also make some happy memories your child will cherish in years to come.

Next week in our reading curriculum we will continue to develop listening skills through playing various listening games, hear and recognize rhyming words, meet the alphabet letters Kk, Ll, Mm, and Nn, learn the sight words a and the, hear the story “Boomer Goes to School”, work on the reading comprehension strategies of clarifying and predicting, focus on event sequences to tell stories, read new pre-decodable story booklets, and work on classifying and categorizing. Please help your child find a picture, draw a picture, or bring in a word card dealing with the concept of school. Our unit theme in language right now is “Off to School” and the children will help me display items on our Concept/Question board. You may help them write a question they are wondering about school or send in newspaper articles about school. Thanks for your help with this “assignment”!

Math lessons next week will help us further explore concepts found in Topic 2. We’ll be working on the number 0 and the concept that zero represents a count of no objects. The children will practice reading and writing the number 0. We will continue practicing the concept of as many, more, and fewer. The children will count objects and color boxes on graphs to represent those objects. They will identify whether the number of objects in one group is greater than, less than, or equal to the number of objects in another group. Finally, next week the class will practice ordering numbers 0 to 5 and understand that each successive number name refers to a quantity that is one larger.

Next week we celebrate the colors white, yellow, and green for our color unit. We will have special stories, crafts, and snacks throughout the week as we learn about these two colors.

Now a word about the BEE folders: Please take time to review the papers that come home in your child’s pocket folder each day. Unless otherwise noted, the papers are kept at home so you and your child can talk about them together. If papers need to be done at home that evening as homework, I will note it on the paper and you should return the paper to me the next morning in the pocket folder. This is a wonderful communication tool if properly used. Also, please be sure to initial the behavior calendar on each day’s square so I am sure you saw the calendar. Thanks so much!

Please help your child memorize the words to our three pledges, which we do every day in our opening exercises. Most children struggle with the pledges to the Bible and Christian flag, so your help at home will be greatly appreciated. The words were given to you at Open House in the “Meet Your Teacher” packet.

Congratulations to three students receiving our first Principal Pal Award for this year. Sydney Handley is receiving the award for Patience. Israel Soto is receiving the award for Humility. Isaiah Mars is receiving the award for Contentment. They will be treated to a pizza lunch with Mrs. Gioiella on September 21. Congratulations to all!!!

Congratulations!



In closing let me share a few important reminders:

1. Please be saving your **BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION** and send them to school with your child. I will save them and we can all do our part to help our school. Thanks so much!
2. **PLEASE BE AWARE THAT GRANDPARENTS DAY ON SEPTEMBER 24 IS A HALF DAY OF SCHOOL. CHILDREN WILL LEAVE WITH THEIR GRANDPARENTS AT NOON OR EARLIER THAT DAY. MORE DETAILS ARE FORTHCOMING ABOUT THIS EXCITING DAY.**
3. Every family in our class will be receiving a class booklet with helpful information. The booklets will be prepared in the near future so they can be distributed to you within the next month.
4. Scholastic Book Club orders and payments are due to me by next Friday, September 21.
5. Don't forget to sign and return the last page in the TCS handbook, showing you have read the entire handbook and are familiar with the information provided therein.
6. Start getting lots of sponsors for the Bike-a-Thon coming up on September 28. If the class average is met we can get a day off school on November 20!! *That would give your kindergartner a six day Thanksgiving break!!!!Let's do our best to support TCS and earn an extra vacation day for the holiday weekend!!!!*



Enjoy this summer weather and do something fun outdoors with your kindergartner. Fall officially begins very soon, so sweater weather is just around the corner. God bless your family as you rest and play together this weekend.

In the Master's service,
Mrs. Tropf