

Mrs. Tropf's Newsletter

September 20, 2012

Dear Kindergarten Parents,

Last week your children learned lessons about patience (the character quality for this month) and the way God answers prayer. All week we prayed in our class prayer time about our field trip to Erie Orchard, asking God for good weather, safety in traveling, and protection from the bees. He is a faithful God who hears and answers prayer, though sometimes not in the way we expect. Everyone was kept safe and the bees were not a problem at all, largely due to the rainy weather. God had a creative way to keep the bees from bothering us! Despite the weather, the children still had a good time at the orchard enjoying the new play area, hay barn, live animals, and picking apples in the orchard. They learned that God even has a job for the bees in His plan to make apples. It was a wonderful learning experience for the children. A special thanks to all the parents and guests who braved the rain and chilly weather to accompany us at the orchard for the day. Their help was greatly appreciated!!

Last week we completed our second “normal” five day week and the children are working hard every day on academics, routines, and procedures. I’ve had to remind the class of our rules, routines, and procedures, but overall the children are making progress in keeping their green slips. Continue to stress the importance of being a good listener and not talking when Mrs. Tropf is talking. Also stress the importance of obeying “ZIP AND GRIP!” and “GIVE ME FIVE!”. These are the main procedures we are working on in these early weeks of kindergarten. Thanks for your support at home.

Next week in Bible we begin Lesson 5, which will focus on the sixth day of creation, specifically the creation of land animals. We will play a special animal game, make an animal collage, watch videos about pets and animal groups, and learn about proper pet care. Next Thursday, September 27, as a culmination to our study of the animals God created, we will have Pet Day in our class. I am inviting you parents to bring your family pets to the classroom from 1:30-2:15 for a special pet “Show and Tell” time. If your child does not have a real pet at home, he/she may bring a favorite stuffed animal to school that day for our pet presentation time. **If you plan to bring a live animal to the classroom, please notify me by Wednesday. Dogs must be on a leash and cats must be in a carrier.** We’ll share our favorite pets with our classmates before preparing for dismissal that day. It will be lots of fun and hands-on learning!



Our new memory verse for next week is Psalm 104:24: "In wisdom you made them all; the earth is full of your creatures." Your child needs to memorize the verse and reference and be prepared to recite it to me by next Thursday. Thanks for your help at home to accomplish this weekly goal of hiding God's Word in your child's heart. It is well worth the time and effort!!!

Are you helping your kindergartner learn his September sight words? Here is the list for this month:

THIS ON IT THE LOOK THAT A I HIS AT AS IS IN

Please help your child learn as many of these as possible.

In language the children have learned that a NOUN is a naming word and names a person, place, thing, or animal. The pre-decodable story books introduced your child to the high frequency words **a** and **the**. Soon they will meet the words **and** and **go**. In next week's lessons we will continue to develop listening skills, work with rhyming words, hear and discuss the story *Chrysanthemum* by Kevin Henkes, and continue to learn new vocabulary words. I'll be sending home a fun and easy project for you to do with your child about his/her name. It's related to the story *Chrysanthemum* that we'll be reading. Please fill out the questionnaire and return it to me the next day, so we can share it in class. Thanks so much!

Our color unit theme shifts to celebrating the colors of the rainbow with "Rainbow Week". The children will participate in a math lesson about graphing colors of Fruit Loops, then we'll eat our math lesson! (smile) In conjunction with our rainbow celebration we'll do a short science unit on the rainbow. We'll learn about the color spectrum and how prisms help us see the colors of the rainbow. The children will put on their "rainbow glasses" to see how light is broken up into the color spectrum. Our science unit ties in with our color unit nicely. In a very short time we will enjoy the beauty of the leaves changing color and see God's handiwork all around us. The children will learn to appreciate the colors in nature as summer turns to autumn. As our color unit concludes next week the class will work on a special Color Birds story booklet to bring home soon.



Today I am sending home the form for Level 1 (Macaw) of our Reading Eagles program. You can get started recording the 25 books required to pass this first level. When your child has finished the 25 books, send the form to me and I'll make a copy for my records at school, then return a copy to you. The September calendar for nightly reading for 15 minutes is for my class and will be turned in to me on October 1. Please initial each picture on the calendar when you complete the required 15 minutes of reading time with your child.

Just a reminder to some of you: If your child attended TCS last year, the summer reading of two chapter books was a requirement. Your book list must be turned in to me before the first quarter ends on October 19. Thanks!

This week we've been secretly preparing some surprises for our guests coming to Grandparent's Day on Monday. I am looking forward to meeting those special grandmas and grandpas who bless the lives of my students. We pray Grandparent's Day will be a wonderful time for your child and his/her grandparents to share and build happy memories together. If your child's grandparents aren't able to attend, please invite a special friend, neighbor, aunt, uncle, or other relative to be your child's guest on Monday. I'd like all my students to have someone special visit them on Grandparent's Day. Remember: Monday is a half day of school with dismissal at noon or earlier if guests are done visiting classrooms, so students can leave with grandparents at that time. **Please note: Students will come to school in uniforms on Monday and arrive at the normal starting time.**

The TCS Bike-a-Thon is next Friday, September 28. Are you helping your child get sponsors and raise money for the Bike-a-Thon? Our class would LOVE that extra day off school for Thanksgiving break, so please be diligent and give that final push to get sponsors for the Thon. In next week's newsletter I'll have a detailed letter of information about the Bike-a-Thon, which will be particularly helpful to families who are new to TCS this year. Pray for good weather next Friday!!!!

In closing let me share some important reminders:

1. If you have not yet sent in a photo of your child for Star of the Week, please do so ASAP. I'll be starting this feature very soon.
2. Beginning October 1 the children will not be allowed to wear shorts until the month of May. Since we are heading into autumn, please be careful to dress your child for the weather. A jacket or sweater feels good at recess time when it's chilly outside.
3. Continue to teach your child how to tie his shoes, zip zippers, buckle belts, and button buttons. Independence in these areas helps a little one feel very proud and confident, and saves the teacher precious time in class.
4. Please go over your child's papers when he brings them home. Corrections in red should be noted. Tell your child that my marks show him how to do it better the next time. Stress the importance of trying harder and improving, rather than stressing perfection or hinting that the red marks are "bad".
5. Help your kindergartner learn the words to the three pledges, which were passed out at Open House in the packet of information.
6. Send in your Box Tops for Education. We want to help our school get free materials.
7. Remember to send library books back every Wednesday for our library time. If the book is left at home that day, send the book and five cents on Thursday.
8. **SCHOLASTIC BOOK ORDERS AND PAYMENTS ARE DUE TOMORROW. MAKE CHECKS OUT TO SCHOLASTIC BOOK CLUBS OR SEND CASH IN A SEALED ENVELOPE WITH YOUR CHILD'S NAME ON IT. THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP WITH THIS REQUEST.**

Thank you for taking time to read this newsletter. Good communication is high on my priority list so I want to keep you informed about what is happening in kindergarten. Your children are precious and a joy to teach each day. Keep me in your prayers, as I keep them in mine.

In the Master's service,
Mrs. Tropsf