

Mrs. Tropf's Newsletter

September 27, 2012

Dear Kindergarten Parents,

We've had a very exciting week in kindergarten! The highlight of the week, of course, was Grandparent's Day on Monday. That was another special kindergarten memory and hopefully was a blessing to all the families involved. I was pleased with the excellent attendance and I know the children were proud to have their grandparents and special guests present. I enjoyed getting to meet these wonderful people who have had such an impact on the lives of my students. It was a great morning of fellowship and I was proud of my kindergartners for showing good behavior in the midst of all the excitement. They also did a terrific job singing their songs with Mrs. Smith for the opening program in the gym.

BIKE-A-THON INFORMATION

Tomorrow is the TCS Bike-a-Thon, a fun and exciting day for the whole family. Information was sent home in your packet and a detailed information sheet is attached to this newsletter. Here are some final reminders:

1. Check your child in as soon as you park your vehicle. Look for my table in the main shelter house and sign him/her in with me. **YOU MUST ALSO CHECK YOUR CHILD IN WITH ME BETWEEN 11:00 AND 12:00 SO EVERYONE IS ACCOUNTED FOR. THIS IS A SAFETY REQUIREMENT!**

2. Please do not drop your child off at the park and leave for the day. I am asking that every kindergartner have an adult stay with him/her at the Bike-a-Thon. If you cannot stay the entire day, you will be permitted to leave around lunch time with your child. Parents staying for the day should plan to sign out their children no later than 2:00 in the shelter house. **EVERY CHILD MUST BE SIGNED OUT BY A PARENT BEFORE LEAVING THE PARK AT THE END OF THE THON.** Sign out at our kindergarten table in the shelter house. This is very important!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

3. Dress your child in layers to handle weather changes throughout the day. It will probably be chilly in the morning, but warmer by afternoon, so prepare your child for warming temperatures. Tennis shoes are safer to wear than sandals or flip-flops.

4. **DO NOT BRING MONEY OR SPONSOR SHEETS TO THE PARK.** They are turned in at school next week. All Bike-a-Thon money must be turned in by Friday, October 12, to count for prizes and the day off school.

5. Check your child's bike for safety and don't forget the helmet!! Helmets are mandatory for all bikers!

6. Please remember to either bring money for your child to buy lunch at the park or have your child bring a sack lunch and drink for the day. (Mark the sack lunch with your child's name, please.)

There will be food and drink items available for 25 and 50 cents at the shelter house.

In Bible next week the class will learn about God's "best" creation---people. The children will learn how special and unique they are and how much God loves them. On Monday the children will see a little baby and marvel at God's handiwork. Our new memory verse for next week is Genesis 1:27: "So God created man in his own image." The children should be prepared to recite the verse to me on Thursday.

Next week in language arts we begin Unit 2 in our Open Court curriculum. The theme for this unit is "Patterns". Your child will explore patterns in shapes and colors, which we will be doing throughout the year and in our math curriculum later on. Some new concepts we will cover include the following: the idea of a sentence, words that are opposites, putting story events in the sequence of first, middle, and last, and using the comprehension strategies of asking questions and making connections. Our Pre-Decodables (story booklets) have introduced the high frequency words **a, the, and**. New sight words next week will include **go, had**. Please review these sight words frequently so your child becomes comfortable saying them quickly on sight. We will see and use them throughout the remainder of the year.

Sight words for the month of October include the following:

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Next week we add two more components to our curriculum: science and social studies. In social studies the children will learn about being a good citizen, which includes following rules. We will be discussing the reason for having rules at home and at school and discuss the importance of everyone obeying the rules in our school and classroom. In science we will begin Chapter 1, "The Nature of Science" and find out what science really is. The children will learn how to use their senses to observe objects and record information about them. They will also learn how important it is to work together to ask and answer questions in science.



Next week begins the new month of October. One of my favorite things about teaching in the month of October is doing our Community Helpers unit. Throughout the month your child will get to meet several community helpers “up close and personal” in the classroom. I am hoping to have a firefighter, a highway patrol officer, a doctor, a nurse, a pharmacist, and a dental hygienist come to visit the children and tell about their jobs. Our classroom will be buzzing with community helpers, so watch my upcoming newsletters for details. If any of you parents are community helpers and would be willing to come and do a brief presentation for the class, I would welcome your participation and ask that you contact me ASAP. If you have connections to any community helpers, I’d appreciate hearing about them to see if we can arrange a visit to the classroom. Children love to see community helpers who are kindergartners’ parents (and grandparents), so let me know if you’d like to be a part of this exciting unit of study.

As part of my community helpers unit and to further extend our learning during National Fire Prevention Month, our class will take a field trip to the Toledo Firefighters Museum on Sylvania Avenue on Friday, October 12, in the afternoon. Mrs. Harvey will be contacting parents to drive. Please sign and return the attached permission slip to me before October 10. Thanks so much! The children will wear school uniforms that day and we will be back at school in time for dismissal. We will eat lunch in our classroom before we leave at noon, so you’ll need to send a sack lunch and drink for your child on October 12. We will leave at noon and return to TCS between 2:00 and 2:30.

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. 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.
3. Don’t forget to sign and return the last page of the parent handbook, showing that you have read the entire handbook and are familiar with the information provided therein.
4. Please turn in your September nightly reading log on Monday, October 1. Thanks!

Have a restful autumn weekend with your kindergartner and may God bless your family!

In the Master’s service,
Mrs. Trof