

KINDERGARTEN HAPPENINGS

November/December Newsletter

From the desk of Mrs. Zamudio:

I hope that all of you and your families are doing well and staying as warm as possible. The weather is definitely changing – for the colder- and once again I would like to remind everyone to dress for the cold. If possible, it is a good idea to send a sweater with your child to leave a school or in their backpack. In addition, I would like to send a reminder that the children will be going outside for recess as long as the temperature is above 20 degrees. Please be sure to have your child wear a warm coat, a hat, and gloves. It is very important that they stay as warm as possible during this time.

In the last newsletter I sent a brief reminder of the Kindergarten dress code. Thank you to all who are keeping with this dress code. There seems to be some confusion regarding denim pants. Denim jeans, of any color, are not an approved dress for our Kindergartners. As I stated before, it is essential that all students follow the approved Kindergarten dress code at all times. If you need another copy of our dress code, please let me know and I will send one home with your child.

In the last newsletter I mentioned that the Kindergartners would be visiting St. Catherine's Nursing Home. Unfortunately, we were unable to schedule a date that was good for all of us. We still wanted to do something special for the residents during this giving season even though we couldn't go visit with them. Therefore, the children decorated fall leaves and signed their names to the "leaf cards." Our hope was that receiving this sign of love from the children, we would give the residents a happy heart. A lot of love went into each leaf we sent.

Our first quarter conferences went well. It was great to finally have the opportunity to sit down and talk with you. It is always important for the teacher and the parents to have open communication when it comes to the children. I feel these conferences provided us with the chance for me to express my concerns, as well as for you to express your concerns or questions. I am proud of the way the children are progressing and am confident that the progression will continue. Thank you for showing the interest in what and how your child is doing in school. Keep up the good work with your children at home.

On December 14th, the Kindergartners will be participating in the Christmas program. I am very excited for the children, especially since this is the first time that the kindergarten has been included in the Christmas program. They have been practicing really hard and I know that they will do a wonderful job!

The children and I have been discussing the importance of the holiday season. We are talking about how giving to others not only makes them happy, but it also makes us feel good in our hearts. They are learning that it is more satisfying to give than to receive, and at this age this is a hard thing to understand. To enforce the teaching, we are preparing to give a gift. I can't tell you anymore than that (for obvious reasons) and if you ask your child (which I hope that you don't), he/she will tell you that "it is our little surprise." In order for the children to make these gifts, we do need to ask parents to help us out. As with anything there is a small cost. The cost, per child, to make these gifts is \$5.00. We feel that this is a small fee to see a smile on the children's faces and in their hearts when they have finished and given the gift to that special person. We are asking that each child pay his/her \$5.00 by Tuesday November 28 (at the latest). If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me as soon as possible. Thank you.

A quick reminder that my door is always open to you – whether you have questions or concerns. Please don't hesitate to contact me.

Things Needed in K-Z:

Quite a few of you have been asking if the classroom is in need of anything. It is wonderful to have families who are so giving and helpful, especially when it comes to their children's needs. Following is a list of items that we need in the classroom:

- * Clorox Ready Mop liquid
- * Freezer/Storage zip lock bags
- * Sandwich zip lock bags
- * Tissues
- * Disinfectant/Cleaners
- * Play Dough
- * Dry-Erase markers

I am sure that I am forgetting something, but this at least gives you an idea for now.

During conferences, I had the snack sign-up sheet out. Thank you to those of you who took that opportunity to sign your child up for a week of providing snack. Posted outside of the classroom door is the sign-up sheet. Please take a few minutes to sign your child up if you haven't already done so. As a special treat, I like to give the children juice with their snack. Juice boxes work the best, as opposed to me having to make juice ahead of time. Donations of juice by anyone at anytime would be greatly appreciated by me and the children.

What have we done?

The months of October and November have kept us quite busy. However, we have still found time to have a couple of celebrations.

In October, we had our Pancake/Pajama Party. The children had a good time wearing their pajamas all day, making and eating pancakes, and participating in some fun morning activities. This was also a great learning experience, as the children got to measure, mix, and make their pancakes prior to eating them. Thank you to Mr. & Mrs. Harris and Mrs. Schreiner for your help at our Pancake/Pajama Party!

With November came our Fall Festival. This was both fun and educational. The children did a wonderful job dressing as a character from the fiction/non-fiction book that they shared. The children in the other grades, as well as the teachers, enjoyed the kindergartners sharing their costumes with them during our parade. It was nice to mix the two kindergarten classes together for the festivities and see just how well they all get along. We are fortunate to have such wonderful groups of children. Thank you to Mr. & Mrs. Harris, Mrs. Statham, and Mrs. Escobar for your help at our Fall Festival!

In addition to thanking those parents who were at our celebrations, I would also like to thank those parents who donated supplies/treats, etc for these celebrations. As a working parent, I understand that it is not always possible to be in the classroom to help out. If you are one of those parents, please know that your donations of supplies or your time spent cutting, gluing, etc. is equally appreciated. Thank you for all of your support!

We were very fortunate to have some high school Speech students spend time with the children. They came one afternoon and read stories to the kindergartners. The children really enjoyed spending time with the “big kids” and it was a great opportunity for them to hear others read to them besides me.

The children had a wonderful field trip experience. They participated in the Simply Science activity and watched an Eric Carle presentation. The kindergartners were inches away from butterflies and a chameleon – how exciting! They watched three of Eric Carle’s books be acted out through puppets. During the presentation, the children were allowed to participate in the story. This really helps keep their attention and makes the whole experience that much better. The children appeared to have enjoyed themselves. Thank you for giving them the opportunity to experience such a wonderful, exciting, and learning time!!

Busy learning...and learning...and learning:

Language Arts: We have been working on our popcorn words. Right now, our popcorn words are the color words. We will continue to practice and master these popcorn words throughout December. When we return after Christmas break, the children will be getting new popcorn words. These popcorn words will consist of words that the children see everyday and should know on sight (i.e. the, a, I, etc.). We also continue to do our Letter of the Week. So far the children have learned the letters Cc, Ff, Mm, Pp, Rr, Ss, Tt, and Aa. You can refer to your December calendar for what letters are coming up.

Blending of sounds is a very important concept and helps to develop the skills needed for reading. All of the children have “traveling” flashcards that go from school, to home, etc. everyday. The reason, as previously stated, for them to go home with the children is so that you can work with them on letter sounds and blending sounds to make words (even non-sense words). It is essential for us to work together to develop these blending skills. Thank you for helping with this at home.

Math: We have finished our patterning chapter. The children did a great job at picking up the patterning concept and developing it. We have since moved on to our numbers chapter. Earlier in the year we worked on numbers briefly. Now, we are working at mastery of the numbers. Counting, recognizing numbers, and writing the numbers are all tasks that can be worked on at home. Although it seems like an easy concept, the more the children work at it the more proficient they will become.

Religion: The children have been learning about giving thanks and being thankful for what God has given us. We are coming into the Christmas season, and therefore the children will be learning about Advent and what the season is truly about. We have attended Mass two times so far. I am proud of the way the children adjust themselves to be a part of this sacred experience. At this time, we are only going to Mass on special Holy days. However, when we return from Christmas break the children will be attending Mass every Friday with the rest of the elementary.

The children have been practicing their prayers during school. I have sent home copies of these prayers periodically with the children. I ask that you pray these prayers on a daily basis with your child. I am looking forward to when all of the children can say each prayer with me. Thank you for your help with this at home.

What’s left?

I apologize for making this such a lengthy newsletter. Don’t worry, they shouldn’t all be this long, but I felt there was a lot of information to pass along to you this time. With that said, I would just like to leave you with one final thought.....

... I would like to take this opportunity to ask you to remember all of the wonderful things that God has given to us all. We are all fortunate to have such wonderful things, especially God’s love for us. His love for us is everlasting. Please keep those who are less fortunate than you in your hearts and your prayers. Give thanks to Him today and always.

May God bless you and your family.

Mrs. Tammy Zamudio



