

October, 2009



Dear Parents,

We have just completed our first full month of kindergarten! By now the children are accustomed to the daily routines and general rules of the classroom and school. The adjustment to school has been one of excitement while easing into expectations of the kindergarten day. The children are also easily transitioning from the routine of the classroom to "specials" and checking out books in the LMC!

The students have successfully completed the study of friends, shapes, and colors. Our shape exploration included the circle, square, triangle, and rectangle and introduced the hexagon, trapezoid, and rhombus. We completed our color exploration with the book Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?

We have concentrated on developing listening skills as well as cooperative learning. Through music, games, stories, poetry, graphing, writing and the use of manipulatives, the students have been immersed in our topical studies and math activities.

### **Coming Attractions**

During the month of October we will begin our weekly letter and sound study. Each week one of the children will bring home the Letter Bucket to put items or pictures of items that begin with the letter of the week. Directions will be in the bucket to clarify the details. Other activities will include letter and sound identification, D'Nealian handwriting, journal writing, mini books and beginning reading activities. These activities will help children learn to identify letters, sounds, write words/sentences, and begin the reading process.

The sight words will be a, my, the and is. In addition, we will read many nursery rhymes that go along with our letter of the week. Nursery rhymes are excellent for working on phonemic awareness. There is a direct correlation between children's ability to recite nursery rhymes and their ability to read. The children who have already begun reading will continue to develop their writing skills through adding details to pictures and written work, exploring and applying basic writing mechanics, along with extended learning activities.

The Letter Characters for the month of October are as follows:

Mm--Molly Mouse

Ss--Sammy Seal

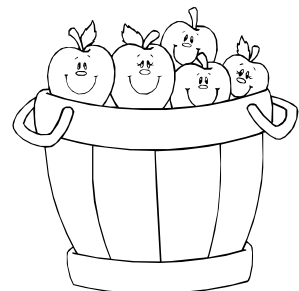
Rr--Running Rabbit

Tt--Tiny Turtle

Pp--Penguin's Party

The Reading Binders continue to grow in size with new poems and rhyming songs that the children can read or sing to you. More additions will come this month with poems to support the letter sound of the week. Please remember to watch your child for the appropriate tracking of letters and words, guided by his/her "reading finger". Enjoy this special time spent learning with your kindergartner!

In math, we will continue to work on counting, money exploration, sorting, graphing and patterning. Weight and measurement will also be introduced through hands on exploration. Finally, we will begin number stories with the use of manipulatives.



## Special Notes

Please remember to return all money to the classroom for book orders, field trips, PTA forms, etc. in a sealed envelope with your child's name and labeled contents. This will ensure a safe method of delivery as well as allowing your child the opportunity to responsibly manage these items. It is also helpful if you can remind your child to deliver notes.

It was wonderful seeing so many of you on Curriculum Night. We appreciate so many of you volunteering to help in the classroom. A big thank you is extended to all the parents who have already assisted with preparing materials and assisted with classroom activities. It is with your help that we are able to provide maximum learning in the classroom! In addition, we like to thank all parents who have donated items to our classrooms. We will put each and every item to good use.

Gym shoes should be worn on gym days. We do not have time to change into gym shoes during instructional time.

Thank you again for supporting our efforts in making the start of this kindergarten school year a safe, positive and successful beginning. Your involvement in the educational process is of great value to us. We look forward to a joint kindergarten endeavor as we journey through the school year ahead!



## Important Dates to Remember

October 8	Stuffed Animal Sleep Over
October 12	No School
October 14	No School PM
October 19-23	Book Fair
October 29	Keller's Pumpkin Farm
October 30	Fall Party!

Sincerely,

The Kindergarten Team

