

KINDERGARTEN NEWSLETTER

September 2020

Welcome to Kindergarten! I am so happy to have you all in my class. So far, we have gotten off to a great start with this new, and hopefully temporary remote learning. We will be busy this month working on virtual & in person learning routines, getting to know one another & building our classroom community, while also learning a bit of technology while we explore Google Classroom together.

MATH: In Math we are jumping right into our math workbook to cover basic concepts. Although some children might breeze through this work, it serves to build their listening skills, and their ability to follow directions. We will also be working on the calendar and using circle time to count, gain number recognition, talk about the seasons, weather, and days of the week. Calendar based math routines help students see patterns, develop algebraic thinking, and explore math relationships. In math, as in other Kindergarten subjects, we are looking for comprehension and listening skills, not simply counting and mathematic ability.

LITERACY: We will integrate literacy and writing as we get started with our ABC Bootcamp (introducing/reviewing upper- and lower-case letters, sounds, and practicing writing letters, one letter a day for the next few weeks). We will be practicing writing first and last names with the first letter of names always beginning with an uppercase letter and the rest lowercase. On our cohort, in person days, we will launch our Daily 5 routine, introducing one of the five practices every other week. We will gain stamina in listening skills, explore new books, learn to think like an author and illustrator, and relate pictures to stories to words. We will assess reading and writing abilities in order to begin to set up small reading groups. ****Daily 5** introduces reading strategies in mini-lessons and allows the student to then practice those lessons and become more proficient readers through 5 different activities including Read to Self, Read to Someone, Listen to Reading, Work on Words, Work on Writing.

WRITING: In Writing, we are building skills to think like an author and illustrator. Encouraging your child to draw out their stories and thoughts is the basic first steps to launching what we call Writers' Workshop. Few students at this age and stage have many words to write, but instead tell their stories with pictures. As they discuss their drawings, your children tell their story verbally, and eventually are able to formulate some words to describe their work. This month we will continue to develop the habits and processes needed to dive into Writers' Workshop.

SOCIAL STUDIES: In social studies we continue to build classroom community - our first step in learning about each other, and the community around us.

RELIGION: In religion we will learn that God is our Father, Jesus is our Friend, and The Holy Spirit Helps Us.

ART: Art will be incorporated into our in-person lessons, with creative art activities assigned throughout the week as well. Art is an expression of your child’s creativity and will be process-based, focusing on the child’s enjoyment of the process and not the outcome. There will be many opportunities to use art in our daily work, as well as several whole school projects throughout the year.

SCIENCE: Our science work will be done via *Mystery Science*, a great online program that I will introduce you all to in the next few weeks. In class we will have time for STEM building with manipulatives as hands-on building is so important to the development of these young learners. We will also have some “extra/optional” activities throughout the week that will offer a creative science or art activity that your family can do together in the evenings or you can fit in whenever you have time, or not at all.

HOMEWORK: PLEASE READ WITH YOUR CHILD AT LEAST 20 minutes a day! Help them build schema for academic success by playing, imagining, creating, and exploring the world around them. Get outside and off the screens in the afternoon. Be sure to get outside at least 20 minutes ***twice each day***; this will help your child be more engaged during their learning sessions.

Dates to Remember:

- Sept. 10: Spirit Day – Crazy Hat Day