

September 16, 2009

Dear K Parents,

We have had a great start to the year! In the ABCs of Kindergarten that I passed out on Visiting Day I mentioned that I would send out a newsletter every Friday. I should have sent one out last Friday (to let you know how well all of the children did!) but I did not, and I should not have kept you all in the dark!

I am SO impressed with how well the children are all adapting to the morning routine of getting off the bus, or being a parent drop-off, walking down the hallway to our classroom, hanging up their backpacks and coats, putting their clear folder in the straw basket and and going directly to the rug for circle time. Every morning at 8:45am the teachers in the school stand in the hallway by their doors to direct children. On the first day of school I told the teachers to look out for the Ks but after that I found that they were all so great in making their own way to the classroom. What a class!

A newsletter will come home every Friday **via email**. I will, hopefully, have the class website up by the end of October, after my training. If there is another email address that you would like to add please let me know and I can add it. The email address that you provided will also be used by the room parents when organizing events, etc.

The children have had several opportunities to get to know each other through working together in partners and small and large group activities. We've been singing songs (some favorites: Bubblegum, Hello Neighbor, Days of the Week and Tooty Ta). During our first week together, we took a grand tour of the school and played on the playground, learning the rules for equipment use and appropriate hallway behavior.

We also had a classroom tour learning about all the "centers", the areas of play and learning, and what the rules were for each center. We had a great visit from Anne Chabot, the nurse, who taught them about handwashing, using sanitizer and sneezing into elbows.

Some of the books we have read are: Chicka Chicka Boom Boom, The Kissing Hand, The Pledge of Allegiance and 10 Black Dots. We also read First Day Jitters, where the children learned about Sarah, who was so nervous about the first day of school, only to discover at the end of the story that Sarah was not a student, but the teacher!!!

The first unit of the math program is exploration of certain math materials. This includes geoblocks, unifix cubes and pattern blocks. We used the unifix cubes to help with our 1:1 counting of objects, the pattern blocks to explore hexagons, trapezoids, rhombuses, squares and triangles and with the geoblocks we talked about each shapes' characteristics.

Other things that we have done include practicing what to do when there's a fire drill, starting Open Circle, our social competency program, and meeting Echo the Owl who is a part of our phonics program, called Foundations. The phonics program is integrated with the handwriting program, called Handwriting Without Tears. We also started working on our pencil grip. It is important to keep an eye

on your child's grip.

All of this will be discussed at Open House which is next Thursday, 9/24, should you be able to make it. If not, I will be providing handouts that I will send home with your child the next day.

To get your child talking more about their day, here are some questions that you can ask to, hopefully, get them talking....if this proves to be helpful, let me know and I can provide a few questions with each newsletter.

- 1) What is your helper job this week? What do you have to do?
- 2) Have you used the red cups? What are they all about?
- 3) What are some of the rules during a fire drill?
- 4) SHOW me how to spell WOWand mom.
- 5) Show me how the class sets off fireworks (big and small), how a seal and a chick say "good Job"and what the marble jar is about.

Mrs. Gaw
Mrs. Murdock

p.s. I am sending this via email as well as a hard copy this first time. If you did not receive this via email as well, then please let me know.