

Junior Kindergarten News

May, 2008

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Finally the warm temperatures seem to be here to stay! We are glad to see Spring arrive in our classroom, and we have had some wonderful time outside lately! As we head towards the end of the year, there are a few important things to remember...

Please remember that students will still be changing into indoor shoes when they arrive at school. If you send your child to school in sandals, they will need to have a pair of socks to use with their indoor running shoes. It is important that students still be wearing running shoes inside, as this is a safety concern inside the school.

We are officially out of Kleenex! Our school supply has run out for the year, and I am asking anyone who may have some to spare at home to donate a box to see us through the end of the year! I appreciate your generosity!

An important reminder about bringing toys from home... This is the time of year when students begin to bring toys to play with from home. This is fine, but there are a few guidelines. Students may bring outside toys only. Skipping ropes, special balls or sand toys that can fit in their backpacks are acceptable,

and the children will be asked to keep those toys in the coatroom until it is time to go outside. Toys for playing with inside need to stay at home.

I am finding that every day there are a handful of kids who return to school with their book bags, but minus the book. As you're busy with spring cleaning, please keep your eyes out for any books that might belong at school. All of the books that come home in their book bags are labeled with my name, so please take a look around for any that need to come back! I appreciate it!

Next week I will be sending home word/letter flip cards (for the Apple class) and updating some of those in the Star class. Each one will be labeled with their name, and needs to be returned in the bag for them to get a new card to add. Please review these cards with your child every night. It is important to review their letter sounds regularly in order for their decoding skills to become more automatic. Remember, we're looking for the SOUND the letter makes, not the name of the letter. Some students will have words on their cards. For these children, we are working on making these words more automatic, so that they no

longer have to decode each letter, but recognize the word by sight alone. The more confident the children become in learning these letters and sounds, the quicker their reading progress will be. Some children will also be bringing home leveled readers in the next week. These students should be able to read most of the words independently. If they are unsure of the word, encourage them to sound it out, or use the picture for a clue.

We are going to visit the Found Family Farm on Tuesday, May 13th and Wednesday May 14th. This trip will proceed regardless of weather, so please send your child in weather-appropriate clothing. We will have lunch at school, and will return to have snack at 3:00. This will be a wonderful way to provide hands on learning for the kids. They are very much looking forward to it.

Learning this month...

We will be learning about the Farm this month! We are learning about the animals and the jobs they have as well as the things farms do for us.

We will be starting a unit on butterflies and bugs, and will be doing many hands-on investigations! In math, we will be learning about taking tallies, and Canadian coins.

We will also be working on asking good questions to help us understand what we read.

This year, I plan on offering "exit interviews". This will be a time close to the end of the year for parents to meet with me to discuss their child overall progress throughout the year, and establish some goals or ideas to

continue working on over the summer. This way, I will be able to provide you with any resources or materials that may help you support your child's continued learning over the summer months. More details will follow on the scheduling of these interviews.

Scholastic Forms are due on May 26th and 27th. *This is the time to be ordering books you may want to be using over the summer.*

My recommendations this month...

ELF

#1 - Look at me! The newest story from Robert Munsch, and a definite classroom favourite.

#19 - Hooked on Phonics Kindergarten Pack - This is a great program that will support the phonics knowledge your kids have been working on all year. It's not just for Kindergarten though, it will provide lots of support and fun activities that are relevant all the way up through grade 2.

#29 - No David Pack! Funny and repetitive, our kids loving reading these stories at school.

#33 - Alphabet Bingo - A fun game to help reinforce letter and sound knowledge

#38 - Sound-out-the-word super set! Another good resource for helping support phonics knowledge.

SeeSaw

#11 - Butterflies and Caterpillars - A great addition to our unit on butterflies and bugs!

#32 - Word Family Tales pack - This a fun way to help your child increase their understanding of spelling and rhyme.

Some dates to remember for next month...

June 11th and 12th - Our class trip to the Bowmanville Zoo.

June 18th and 19th - Our end of year concerts - Just the Kindergarten students will be performing at 2:15 in the gym.

June 25th and 26th - The last days of Junior Kindergarten!

As always, please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.