

October 4, 2019

Dear Parents,

The students are really showing signs of settling in. One day this week the adults in the room turned and looked at each other as the students were all engaged in activities and there was a light buzz around the room. It was really showing that they are making a nice transition into our classroom. They are also showing that they are learning to care about one another and help each other if they need it. This is great to see so early in the year! They are really building a sense of community.

We continue to learn a new song each week to greet each other. We also learn a game and do a share by making a choice. This week we had to tell why we made the choice that we did. We are really getting to know each other this way. They also learn to listen to each other while others are sharing.

We played a game of BINGO using what they had learned about listening with Listening Larry. They also made a quilt (paper) to give to our janitor for national custodian day. They wrote the letters for the message to him. This is showing kindness to others. They were so proud to give it to him and see it hanging on the wall outside his office. We also did our first lesson with our Second Step program. This is a program that we will do once a week, but reinforce throughout the week. I have included a separate note about this with my letter today.

We are learning a new number corner routine. Last month we focused on shapes and counting. We will continue counting and learning about numbers, but will work on noticing directions of items. The students will be learning a poem to reinforce this. They will also begin to learn about simple number combinations.

In our phonics program we have learned about two new letters. We now are working with b, f, t, m, n. The students should be able to tell you the letter, key word, sound and action for each letter. They are really getting good with this. We trace the letter in our workbook one day and then the next day we practice writing the on our whiteboards. They are learning words to help them to know where to start the letters (skyline, plane line, grass line and worm line). We start all letters at the plane line or skyline. We also made a list of words that begin with each letter. You could try this at home.

In our Reader's Workshop the students continue to learn how to take time looking at each page in a book and how to share a WOW page. We also are working on rereading to learn more about a topic in a book. They aren't able to read the books that we are using, but are learning how to use books and use pictures to tell a friend about the book. This is a first step to moving into reading.

We also began our literacy groups this week. We are focusing on our names, rhyming and book skills. The students are in groups of 3 or 4 and work with an adult for a short period of time. The students move to a different adult each day, but stay with the same group of students. One day a week we are beginning to introduce interactive writing with the children. This is when we read a story and then try to write a sentence about the book. We have two of these groups running at a time so they are still in smaller groups and not the large group. These groups allow us to differentiate for the needs of the students. If some students need a little more practice we can give that, but if some are ready to move onto a more challenging skill we can do this as well.

The students will need to begin to bring warmer coats and dress in layers. The mornings are beginning to be chilly, but it is a little warmer in the afternoon. Our room fluctuates throughout the day. Please remember to label your child's clothes. We try to keep an eye on them, but sometimes they leave things on the playground. If your child cannot dress themselves in their outside clothes please try to get them to practice before winter comes. Have them practice pulling sleeves out and zipping those coats. It will help you, but it will also help us at school. Thank you!

I am sending home towels today to be washed.

Upcoming Events:

Oct. 5: PTA Fundraisers due

Oct. 10: PTA- 6:30 WRS Library

Oct. 11: Free Movie Night at WRS- watch for more details

Oct. 14: No School for students- Inservice Day for Teachers

Oct. 18: Book Order due

Nov. 4: Early Release- Parent/Teacher Conferences

Nov. 5: No School for students- Parent/Teacher Conference

Dec. 18: Winter Concert 6:30

Have a great weekend and stay warm with the cooler weather this weekend.