



November Newsletter

Parent-teacher conferences will be taking place November 7-9. We are looking forward to meeting with you. Thank you for your continued support!

Science, Social Studies & Health

Science:

This month, the students will be delving into a unit about air and weather through hands-on exploration. They will be learning about how air is matter that we cannot see and that it can move objects. A second focus will be about phenomena in the sky. The children will learn about how the Sun, the Moon, and the clouds move while tracking their patterns. Then, they will be learning about air in motion through observing wind speed, strength, and direction. Finally, students will observe, measure, record, and discuss weather patterns and seasonal changes.

Social Studies:

The students will be learning about their roles, rights, and responsibilities at home, school, and in the community. Students will learn about rules and why they are important. Finally, we will be ending with discussions about citizenship.

Health:

Our classes will be acknowledging the hard work of our country's Veterans by learning about Veterans Day. Thank you to all our Veterans!

Math

This month, our students will continue working on subtraction strategies. After completing Chapter 2, students will return to learning about addition. In Chapter 3, students will explore a variety of addition strategies such as counting on, using doubles, and using a ten frame to add.

Language Arts

Phonics:

This month, we will be continuing our short vowel work while incorporating digraphs wh, ch, sh, th, and ck. As your child continues learning about short vowel sounds, we encourage you to explore words in environmental print.

Environmental print is the words around us on a daily basis (signs, labels, logos, etc.) Exciting ways to explore and discuss environmental print with your child are included with this newsletter.

Sight Words:

Sight word information will be coming your way during parent-teacher conferences. Stay tuned!

Reading Workshop:

This month, your child will be learning good habits for solving hard words. They will learn strategies such as looking at all parts of words, listening for meaning, checking illustrations, and getting a running start.

Writing Workshop:

Our students have embraced writing about their own "Small Moments" and will continue to write these personal narratives this month. Your children will be learning craft moves by studying the work of mentor authors. They will be encouraged to add some moves to their own stories to spruce them up and sound like authors, too! At home, continue to discuss events of real life experiences with your children and encourage them to tell these moments in "itsy bitsy steps."

Following our small moments unit, we will be moving onto how-to writing which is all about breaking a process down and writing it in specific steps. We encourage you to help your children brainstorm things that they know how to do well so that they can write out the process in steps (how to make a snowman, how to tie shoes, how to make pizza).

Environmental Print

Help your child interact with letters, sounds, and words

Environmental Print - the print of everyday life - symbols, signs, and colors found in our everyday life. Examples of environmental print would be the signs used for Wal-Mart, McDonald's, LEGO's, Barbie, and Cheerios just to name a few.



Resources for environmental print:

Books, billboards, calendars, catalogs, comics, containers, coupons, flyers, greeting cards, grocery stores, labels, magazines, menus, newspapers, posters, recipes, and road signs.

Suggested Activities:

- Cereal boxes are colorful and interesting to look at. Ask your child to find the first letter of his name somewhere on the box. See if they can find other letters from their name, too. Challenge them to search for sight words, too!
- Choose a simple sign to focus on during one car trip (example: stop sign, pedestrian crossing, one way). Have your child count the number of signs seen along the way. Have your child read the sign, noticing that the same sign says the same message each time. Talk about the sounds of the letters you can hear.
- Use a digital camera to take pictures of different signs: speed limit, stop, do not enter, exit. Use these pictures to make a small book for your child to "read."
- Cut out familiar words from cereal boxes, labels from soup cans, and those from yogurt containers. Use these individual words ("Cheerios," "tomato," "Dannon") to talk about capital and lowercase letters. Discuss the sounds of letters. Encourage your child to read the words you have cut out.
- Take an outdoor word walk. Children write words they find on a notepad or clipboard.

Good Habits for Solving Hard words

Check the picture.



Look at ALL the parts of the word.

pl ays

Get a running start.



Check it!
Do a double-check!



Try it 2 ways.

