

News from Kindergarten

September 23, 2007

Dear Families,

Open Circle is a social competency program developed by the Stone Center at Wellesley College. During Open Circle, students learn to build a cooperative classroom community, solve people problems, build positive relationships, and deal with teasing and bullying. So far, we have agreed upon some classroom rules that will allow all students to be good learners: follow directions, use words to solve problems, keep your body safe, raise your hand - wait to be called on. We have also discussed behaviors that are dangerous or destructive (the double D's) and what you should do about them (tell a teacher).

In Writing Workshop, kindergartners have learned that they are writers with stories to tell, and that they can tell their stories by drawing pictures. It can help your child generate ideas if you remind them about things they have done over the week-end that could become a story. For example, I was very fortunate to be invited to go cruising on Buzzard's Bay this week-end, and could write a story about some of the things that happened.

Each week we will focus on a new letter of the alphabet, beginning with consonants and ending with vowels. Many kindergartners have already been exposed to the alphabet and some are already reading, but they all still benefit from exploring each letter and letter sound individually. This week we will explore the letter D.

In Science Workshop, kindergartners made careful observations of some objects from nature and practiced using a magnifying glass to study them even more closely.

In Handwriting, kindergartners sang "The Crayon Song", which is about good pencil grip; learned the names of the wooden pieces that the uppercase letters can be formed from; practiced drawing shapes; and sang "Tap, Tap, Tap Big Lines" to reinforce directional language such as high and low, behind and in front of, under and over.

Last week we had a Kindergarten Get-Together with all four classes. Kathy Horan and Lori Desjardin showed a short video about food allergies, talked about the importance of hand-washing, and explained some of the things that our nurses do and don't do. They **do** help students if they get hurt. They do **not** give shots!

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the fabulous CSA Luncheon last week. As usual, it was unbelievably delicious!

A gentle reminder: please send your child with both a morning and afternoon snack on the long days of kindergarten.

I look forward to seeing you at Parents Night this Thursday. Your child is very excited to have you come to visit and see some of the work they've been doing in the classroom. There will be sign-up sheets for volunteer opportunities throughout the school year as well as for December parent-teacher conferences. Of course, please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns about your child, and I will do the same for you.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Chandler