

## News from Kindergarten!

October 14, 2007

Dear Families,

Our **Letter of the Week** will be G and we are beginning a weekly study of the numbers 1 - 9 with the number 1. Last week, we talked about zero, sang "5 Little Froggies Jumping on the Bed" with hand motions and finger puppets, and counted our snacks down to zero.

The **Eric Carle Hullabaloo** was a big (messy) success. Some great kindergarten memories were made and now each classroom has a wonderful collection of Eric Carle style paper to use for collages throughout the school year.

In **Phonemic Awareness** we began the year learning about syllables. We have marched the number of syllables in words, clapped them, recorded them on pieces of paper, and filled our syllable suitcases with the appropriate articles for a trip. For some kindergartners, it is difficult to understand that a word can have only one syllable, and they are convinced there must be more! Marching the number of syllables in a word is a great way to help children understand by using their bodies, and its fun. Try marching "supercalifragilisticexpialidocious!"

In **Writing Workshop** kindergartners are learning how to stretch out a word by saying it very slowly and then writing down the letters that correspond to the sounds they hear. I am much more interested in a kindergartner's willingness to take a risk than their ability to write with dictionary spelling. We have also talked about what to do when you think your story is done - check for details in the pictures and words before moving on to a new story.

In **Science Workshop** we talked about how scientists often need to sort and classify objects according to common characteristics. Then each student sorted a small collection of buttons according to the characteristics they chose. These included size, color, number of holes, favorites, if they roll, and if they have decorations.

**Music update from Mrs. Monke:** the kindergartners have been learning to use their singing voices with the help of their "friends," Henry the Snail, Mr. Owl, and Cuckoo Bird (each character has his own song.) They've also been exploring the music room space with their "magic bubbles" and "The Good Morning Song." And they've been learning to keep a steady beat to the song, "Sticky Bubble Gum." In upcoming weeks, they will explore music concepts through contrast: high versus low, fast versus slow, and loud versus soft. There will be stories of more fun characters to help along the way!

**Spanish update from Mrs. Seddon:** the fall themes have included greetings, introductions, classroom commands, numbers 0 - 10, colors, weather, and Eric Carle's La Oruga Muy Hambrienta (The Very Hungry Caterpillar.)

**Art update from Mrs. Hoff:** kindergartners have been learning about different types of lines, such as curved, pointy, spiral, and straight and how to use them in a work of art in order to create rhythm and movement. After looking at the work of Dutch abstract painter, Piet Mondrian (1872-1944), students will fill in the negative spaces of their paintings using primary colors.

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

Sincerely,

Mrs. Chandler