

September 5, 2008

Dear Parents,

We made it! I am very proud of the students. Kindergarten is a big adjustment and they did very well this week.

On Monday, September 8th, the kindergarten children will have their first gym and art classes. **They should wear their gym uniform to school on Monday. We will wear them all day. You do not need to send the regular school uniform to school that day.** If your child does not have an OLA gym uniform yet, he/she should wear dark colored shorts and a white t-shirt.

Next week, the children will begin to take turns bringing our class mascot home. "The Cat in the Hat" will be brought home in a canvas bag with a notebook. I ask that you and your child talk about what "The Cat" "did" while he was with you. You or an older brother or sister can write the entry in the notebook. I will read the entry to the class the next day. If you have a digital camera and have time to take a picture right away, that would be great! If not, your child can draw a picture. By the end of the year, the children will be able to do some of their own writing and reading about The Cat.

We will be focusing on the letter "H" next week. I would like to have a HAT DAY on WEDNESDAY, September 10th. The children may wear a hat of their choice to school that day.

I wanted to let you know of some other adults who will be coming into our classroom. One of our students has diabetes. The nurse comes to check him twice a day and he eats a snack in the morning when needed. Another student has a TSS, therapeutic staff support, for a few hours doing the day. That adult is not allowed to help any other children in the classroom.

Our lunch schedule has changed a bit. On Tuesdays and Thursdays, we will eat lunch at 11:30, so that gives us and first grade time to go to the other building on the appropriate days. Lunch on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays will be at 11:50. I would like to give the children a SMALL snack every day, especially on the days when lunch is later. I ask that each family send in \$10 to help cover the cost of the snack for the year. Thank you so much!

We have been very busy this week learning rules and procedures. We also did many activities involving names, letters, sounds, counting and shapes. When you ask your child what we did in school and he/she says "Nothing!" use these questions and ideas listed below to get some idea about our week.

- Who has the longest name in our class? (Elizabeth and Elisabeth)
- Who has the shortest names? (Luke and Emma)
- Who was our Letter Person this week? (Mr. C) He likes cotton candy!
- Name the four basic shapes.
- Who came to our class to talk about Jesus? (Sr. Anna)
- What do we do at Circle Time every morning? (calendar, pledge, prayer)
- Retell the story Chicka, Chicka, Boom, Boom. (The letters of the alphabet climb the coconut tree and then fall down.)
- Tell the story of The Rainbow Fish. (The fish learned to share and be a good friend.)
- Make a simple pattern and have your child duplicate it or continue it.
- Practice writing your child's name using one upper case letter and the rest lower case letters.

That gives you a brief summary of SOME of the activities we did this week and it will give you ideas to use when you talk to your child about school. Also, some things you may need to work on at home.

Thanks for your support and help! Have a great weekend!

Mrs. Zeamer