



April 2009 News

From Class K-220

Includes:

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3. Supply Wish List

April 1st, 2009

Dear Families and Friends of Class K-220,

Happy Spring! April is here which means Spring break is around the corner, and of course, curriculum fun with Spring related activities. This month is packed full of opportunities for growth and fresh hands-on learning experiences. This newsletter will review the curriculum topics and content, and what we will be covering for the upcoming weeks. It will also include a friendly reminder sheet along with a supply wish list.

Quick-n-easy words

We have started another word wall, titled "Words we can tap." This word wall includes three letter CVC (consonant-vowel-consonant) words that the children can tap themselves, such as box, lip, pet, cat, dog, etc.

As a reminder, tapping out CVC words includes the following strategy:

Step 1: Get your thumb, pointer, middle and ring finger ready.

Step 2: Each sound gets a tap or "pinch." For example, the word CAT. The /c/ sound begins with the thumb and the pointer finger touching once, followed by the middle and thumb for the /a/ sound, and finally the /t/ sound with the thumb and ring finger.

Step 3: Run the thumb under all fingers and slowly stretch out the word, like cccaaaatttt.

Step 4: Say the whole word fluently. "Cat."

The quick-n-easy words for the month of April include: *look, very, my, so, big, go, with, when*

Writing Workshop

We are launching a poetry unit for the April month! This unit of study on poetry will teach the students to explore, and savor language, valuing voice and repetition, sounds and onomatopoeia. They will learn to read and write with an ear, appreciating and revising the pace and rhythm of words, and they can learn to care not only about their topics, but also about *how they write about those topics*. This unit will teach children to deliberately craft their language, trying things on the page on purpose, hoping to create special effects. This poetry unit will also encourage the children to see the world with fresh eyes. They will learn to have fun with words, to be daredevils and gymnasts with language.

Reading Workshop

Reading workshop this month has the children exploring the characters in their "Just Right" books. They will learn how to investigate character traits, follow the character throughout the book, noticing the changes in feelings, thoughts and dialogue. They will have the opportunity to share their character with a reading partner to discuss the similarities and differences in the books, along with making self-to-text connections and text-text connections.

Interactive Read Aloud

Last month we learned about main idea and that we can figure out the main idea of a book by exploring:

1. The title
2. The pictures
3. The words
4. The cover of the book

This month during interactive read aloud we will explore and discuss how good readers *draw conclusions*, using the following strategies:

1. The actions of a character
2. Verbal cues of the character

To recap, it is important that as we learn to read, we are learning to decode AND comprehend.

READING = DECODING + COMPREHENSION

Both decoding and comprehension must be achieved to become a conventional reader. Interactive read alouds allows for students to practice and assess their understanding of the story. So far, we have covered the following comprehension strategies to date:

1. Predictions
2. Main idea
3. Problem and Solution
4. Classify and Categorize
5. Genre (fiction verse nonfiction)
6. Character Elements (main versus secondary)
7. Setting
8. Sequencing
9. Vocabulary in context
10. Envisioning
11. Drawing Conclusions

Fundations

We are still tapping out CVC words in Fundations! The students have become so independent in listening and writing CVC words, and recognizing three-letter words! They are all sounding out CVC words on their own! Next week will end the unit, and

we will begin sentence structure. Sentence structure will focus on all the properties of writing out sentences, including beginning with a capital letter, punctuation, concept of word, and writing clear for readers.

Math

This month in Math we are learning to tell time. The students have learned how to write, recognize, and identify the time using both a digital clock and analogue clock. We will begin chapter ten in the middle of the month, which introduces comparing shapes. We will learn new math vocabulary terms, including: sides, corners and edges.

Social Studies

This month we will be studying community and neighborhoods. We will explore the following topics:

1. What is a neighborhood? What is my neighborhood?
2. What does a neighborhood look like?
3. My neighborhood and my family
4. Jobs - Goods and Services
5. Jobs - Helping jobs (librarian, teacher, social worker)
6. Jobs - Safety jobs (firefighter, police officer)
7. Environment clean up

In this unit, we welcome parents into our classroom to discuss their job and career! Please send me a note if you are interested!

Science

We are studying plants this month! We will be exploring the different kinds of plants, the parts of a plant, how to take care of plants, and even how to plant on our own! Class K-220 will plant our own seeds and record the growth and observations in our classroom!

Other

It was also great seeing you all again during parent-teacher conferences and discussing your child's growth and progress in kindergarten! As always, please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns via your child's home folder. Thanks again for your continued support!

Warmly,

Jesse Rizzo

Friendly Reminders



- VOICE Charter school will be closed for Spring break, April 9th-19th, 2009. Have a safe and restful holiday!
- Please continue looking in your child's Home Folder everyday. Please clean out old papers, newsletters, notices etc.
- We got temporary mailboxes! I understand your concerns regarding your child being absent and missing important notices. The mailbox method has worked out nicely. This should alleviate some of the missing papers. Jennifer Murray, the first grade teacher, has written a proposal through donors choose to get funded for longer lasting mailboxes. The proposal is available at <http://www.donorschoose.org/donors/proposal.html?id=268037>.
- We have several April birthdays. I will be sending home a "Happy Birthday to You" notice in your child's home folder a week before their actual birthday. The notice will allow you to let me know if you wish to celebrate your child's birthday in school.

Supply Wish List



- Snacks (goldfish, crackers, granola bars, etc.)
- Plants for the classroom for science unit (unless otherwise specified, plants will be considered a donation)
- Paper towels
- Tissues
- Black dry-erase markers

A BIG thank you to the following parents for providing unit materials and classroom supplies. Please note that sometimes supplies that you bring in are sent directly to the office, so I apologize if you are not mentioned, but your contribution and generosity will not go unnoticed - THANK YOU!):

The Ford-Larbi Family for snacks and beautiful tulips!

The Fuentes Family for plant seeds!

The Alattore Family for plants and supplies!

The Dorjee Family for plentiful snacks and juice boxes!

The Bovian Family for a pot of flowers!

