



December 2008 News



From class K-220

Includes:

1. December's Curriculum
2. Friendly Reminders
3. Show and Tell Letter
4. Thanksgiving Feast Pictures (Still to come!)

December 3rd, 2008

Dear Parents and Guardians of Class K-220,

Hope you all had a relaxing and wonderful Thanksgiving. December is here already! As the holiday season quickly approaches, class K-220 will be busy working hard on writing small moments and reading emergent texts. We have an exciting month planned, so let's get to it and see what will be happening!

Quick-n-Easy Words

We will be adding more words to the word wall each week. So far, we have been learning two new sight words a week. As we read, we automatically recognize these "quick-n-easy" words, which will help anchor us as we become conventional readers. Some weeks we will learn three! An attachment of the current sight words is available to review with your child. This month's quick-n-easy words will include:

mom, dad, like, he, she, go, to, then, first, next, finally

Math

This month in math we will be comparing, ordering, writing and recognizing numbers six to ten. The children have practice in chapter three ordering numbers zero to five. We will climb up and down to ten, learning how the numbers flow in sequence and compare ordinal numbers to one another. The children will have the opportunity to make the numbers out of play-doh, keep a daily "inventory" on objects around the room that are in sets of five or more, and explore catalogues and grocery receipts to find and recognize numbers 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10. In addition, the children will have time to write the numbers as we tie mathematical literature into the curriculum. Using dry-erase boards, the children will read a math story and be able to count, for example, how many times the main character appears in the story and represent that number on their boards.

Reading Workshop

Children will be reading nursery rhymes, songs and familiar poems this month in reading workshop. As we learn to tackle tricky words, recognize sight words and stretch out initial sounds, these familiar poems will now become our first pieces of conventional reading. As we make this transition from reading the pictures to reading the text, it is equally as important to comprehend the story. To do this, I will be pulling small groups for guided reading. The group sizes will be around 4-5 students. I will meet with these groups at the conference table and will work on a specific teaching point catering to their particular reading level and needs. The poems we have learned so far are glued into our poetry notebooks every Friday. I encourage you to read these poems with your child as they bring them home for the weekend.

Class K-220 came up with a process chart to help us out when we get stuck on a "tricky word" and don't know what to do. It's a helpful tool we use in the classroom, and I thought it would be helpful for you to see the different strategies we have learned to tackle texts:

HELP! I'm stuck on a word and don't know what to do!

IT'S OKAY! You can...

1. Stretch out the word
2. Look at the picture
3. Look at the beginning letter/sound
4. Ask yourself, "Does that make sense?"
5. Ask yourself, "Does that sound right?"
6. Look at the word wall
7. Find quick-n-easy words to help anchor us
8. Look around the room for help

Book Baggies

Now that I have assessed the students beginning of year reading level, I have an idea of your child's literacy development. This means your child will now go shopping for "just right" books in our class library. I have put together Book Baggies for each of them.

Your child will receive their own Book Baggie everyday. The Book Baggie **MUST BE BROUGHT BACK EACH DAY**. The child will "shop" in a section of the library for a book that is at their level. They will be able to take home **TWO** just right books (leveled books) and **TWO** look books (books that are above their reading level that you will need to read with them). They will be able to shop everyday for books. The just right books are your child's independent reading level book, meaning you should read just the first page or two, pointing to each word and talking about the repeated text. Have them read the remainder of the book by themselves, as you encourage them to point directly under each word.

Writing Workshop

For this month's unit, we will be writing about small moments. Small moments are different than personal narratives in that small moments "zoom in" or focus in on one small moment from a "watermelon" story. The story starts *exactly* at that moment. We retell the story as we remember it, being sure to stick to just the one small moment. I must say, I am so impressed with the writing this class has produced. These students have become such independent, creative writers! Their scientist stories are published and hanging on the bulletin board outside our classroom. I encourage you to stop and take a look. It is amazing to see how their writing has developed!

Fundations

We are nearing the end of our unit in Fundations. We have only three letters left to learn in the alphabet. Once we have finished recognizing these lower case letters, the sounds they make and how to properly write them, we will move on to capital letters, starting from the letter A. These are the rest of the alphabet letters we will be learning for next week:

v, w, x, y, z, q

Social Studies

We have been learning about Native Americans this month, including their culture, traditions and common rituals practiced among certain tribes. We learned how Native Americans used to live in teepees, hunting and gathering food and taking great love and pride in the earth and nature. Ms. Ley has collaborated with Mrs. Taboada and myself in integrating this Native American unit into her music class. Therefore, the children will be designing and creating their own instruments and learning about different Native American chants and songs. Soon we will construct our own teepee! Much more on this to come...

Show and Tell

I have had several parents ask me about Show and Tell. I will send another letter home regarding the logistics of show and tell. Every Friday, one child will be able to bring a special object into the classroom to share with the class. I am currently choosing the kids by tables. So far, the clarinets are in the process of Show and Tell. As soon as I know it will be your child's turn, I will notify you a week in advance.

Parent-Teacher Conferences

Again, it was fantastic meeting with all of you and discussing your child's growth and progress in kindergarten. It is great receiving feedback from you, which is why I created the "reading cheat sheet" for you to use at home when you read with your child. I welcome any and all suggestions! Please do not hesitate to let me know what works well for you and what we can do together to make this year a successful year for your child.

Other

A big thanks to the parents who brought in food for our Thanksgiving Feast last week! We had a lovely time, with plenty of delicious food to eat, and great company ☺ I have attached some pictures from that day. Thanks again for all your help and support, parents.

Best,
Miss Rizzo



Friendly Reminders

- The school will be closed for the Winter Holidays from December 24th-2008 to January 5th, 2009. The school will reopen on Monday, January 5th.
- I will be out on December 5th, 2008 for a LEAP workshop. A substitute will be covering all day
- Send your child with a spare set of clothing if they have an accident
- As runny-nose and flu seasons begins it is important we drink plenty of liquids to stay healthy. Please remember to send your child in with a juicebox or water. We now have water pitcher and cups.
- The bathroom policy is now that children have the opportunity to go between the hours of 9-10 and 1-3. Please reinforce these procedures to your child, unless of course it is an emergency. They can only go during these time slots.