



January 2009 News

From Class K-220

Includes:

1. January 2009 Curriculum
2. Friendly Reminders
3. Class Pictures (I apologize if your child is not in any of these photos. I am working on compiling as many as I can from my own pictures and from parent pictures. There will be much more to come!)

January 5th, 2009

Dear Parents and Guardians of Class K-220,

Welcome back! Hope you all enjoyed a restful and joyous holiday season! I want to send a personal thank you to each and every one of you for all your warm wishes and thoughtful gifts. It's great to be back and begin a brand new year with a fresh new start! With a new year comes a new month and of course, new units. Here is what 2009 will ring in for the month of January:

Quick-n-Easy Words

Yes, the list has been growing. Attached is an updated list of the all the quick-n-easy words we have learned so far. Quick-n-easy words help anchor and support us as readers. We learn to automatically recognize these sight words as we become conventional, independent readers. The new quick-n-easy words we will learn and review this month include:

like, they, go, to, he, she, was, were, and, first, then, finally

Math

This month in math we will be learning to construct and use graphs. By collecting data and graphing information using that information, we will learn how to compare numbers and solve problems. In addition, we will learn how to understand the relationship between numbers and quantities (i.e. that a set of objects has the same number of objects in different situations regardless of its position or arrangement).

Reading Workshop

The title of this months reading unit is "Readers have lots of strategies to figure out words and they're eager to take on new challenges." This means during reading workshop, children will be attending to the print in texts, using all they know how to figure out the words and to make meaning. The strategies we will be learning to read "just-right" books include:

- One to one matching (crisp pointing under each word, matching oral reading to print)

- Using the picture to help figure out the words
- Recognizing some sight words
- Noticing patterns in texts and using patterns to help

Writing Workshop

The topic for this month's writing workshop is: Writing for Readers. Prior to this unit, we were writing about small moments. We learned the difference between a big watermelon story, and a tiny, small moment seed story. This unit invites children to reread their own writing, reading their pictures, labels and sentences, and to stop often and think, "How can I make this writing easier for others to read!" We will learn strategies such as: looking specifically at our own handwriting, leaving spaces in between words, counting the number of words in our sentence, punctuating our sentences and checking for correct spelling. Specifically, the children will use the resources in our classroom to build a repertoire for spelling tricky words. Other strategies we will be learning include:

- Say the word. Ask yourself, "What sounds do you hear at the beginning? What sounds do you hear at the end?"
- Say the word. Do you know another word that sounds like that word?
- Say the word. Use resources around the classroom and outside to help you spell it.

Read Aloud

A read aloud is when I read a book to the children and ask questions throughout the book. At various points in the book, the children are given the opportunity to turn and talk to their partner as they interact directly with the text and discuss it amongst their peers. Last month we learned about sequencing, or the order of events which occur in a book. We have also talked about predictions. We learned that good readers make predictions using context clues, repeated text and pictures to guide them.

This month in read alouds we will be learning about *character elements and setting*.

Therefore, the children will learn where and when a story takes place. They will also learn how to identify the physical attributes of a character, identify the

actions of a character and distinguish between the main and secondary characters. These topics will come in handy as you read with your child at night!

Foundations

We just completed the beginning unit in Foundations, which practiced and reviewed the letter names and sounds of all lower case letters in the alphabet. In the upcoming months, we will be learning how to write, recognize and read all the capital letters in the alphabet.

Social Studies

We recently wrapped up our Native American unit. The teepee was a big hit. The children had the opportunity to paint Native American symbols and teepee representations. The children had the opportunity to explore with different colors of paints and learn about the different types of brush strokes, particularly those used by the Native Americans. We had several questions about Native Americans prior to beginning the unit. We also wrote a list of "things we think we know" about Native Americans. As we concluded the unit, the children wrote down one or more things they learned about Native Americans. Attached is a sheet of the children's responses.

In January, we will be studying famous African Americans.

Other

I will be in touch with Edit Alattore and Mary Catherine Ford (the class parents) regarding any supplies or upcoming events. If there is anything you need directly from me, please do not hesitate to write a letter via your child's home folder. Also, the class parents are available as well.

Warmly,

Miss Rizzo

Friendly Reminders



- There will be no school on January 19th, 2009.
- I will be out on Friday, January 23rd for a LEAP workshop. A substitute will be covering all day.
- Please continue looking in your child's Home Folder everyday. Please clean out old papers, newsletters, notices etc.
- If there are any changes to your cell phone, work phone or home phone, please notify the office. It is important that we are able to reach you if needed.