



June 2009 News

From Class K-220

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June 2009 Curriculum

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June 1st, 2009

Dear Families and Friends of Class K-220,

It is finally here - the last month of your child's kindergarten year! We did it! As the end of the month brings the close to our first academic year, we still have some more topics to be covered and curriculum building as we prepare your child for the first grade. I am so proud of your child's accomplishments this year. Each child's reading and writing has improved significantly. Just look at the beginning of year and compare it to now - wow! The students have grown in so many ways, and it has been a wonderful year watching each step of their academic journey. Thank you for making this year a very special year to remember. Here is what we will be covering in June:

Quick-n-easy words

The quick-n-easy words for the month of May and June include: *said, if, but, need, zoo, while, run, out, eat, back, two, need, know, why, where, here, say, do, one, while*

We have also been practicing digraphs (two letters that make one sound) /sh/, /ch/, /th/ and just recently added are the /wh/ and /ck/, /an/, /am/ and /all/ word family sounds.

Writing Workshop

The children just published their second round of All About Spring Books. Some topic choices for this month included insects, bugs, birds, Mother's Day, Easter, Eagles, crickets, grasshoppers, and so much more! They have been busy writing and this month they will learn to notice certain text features and writing methods of the author Angela Johnson. We will study and read her books as mentor texts, and in are small moment stories, we will try to include her writing features, such as:

- using ellipses
- building suspense with ellipses
- including many real details in their stories
- including comeback lines

I would recommend the following books to read with your child. These books are all published by the author Angela Johnson. As you read with your child, ask them what they notice about the pictures and how the words are set up on the page. Discuss that these are different ways authors use to write, and we will be practicing this on our very own during writing workshop.

Suggested book list: Do Like Kayla, One of Three, Tell me a story, Mama

Reading Workshop

We have become nonfiction reading experts! Last month we explored all the features of nonfiction books, such table of contents, real photos, index, glossary,

words to know and captions. We are able to identify the difference between nonfiction and fiction books, and tell why! This month in reading workshop, we will explore how to prepare as growing readers over the summer, and reflect on a certain character in the stories we read. We will be reading book series and introducing character book clubs as well.

Interactive Read Aloud

Last month in interactive read aloud we explored and discussed how good readers study different *genres*, such as poetry and informational texts. 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
12. Poetry genre study
13. Nonfiction genre study

This month for interactive read aloud we will introduce *comparing and contrasting, questioning and critiquing*. For comparing and contrasting, we will use graphic organizers, such as a T-Chart and Venn Diagram to organize our thoughts when comparing and contrasting two characters. We will also be introduced to questioning and critiquing strategies as we read a book.

Foundations

We will continue learning *sentence structure* this month in Foundations. This means, we will be practicing and fine-tuning our writing skills. These skills will include: to begin a sentence with a capital letter, end in punctuation, leave appropriate spaces in between words, and tap out CVC words in sentences. We have also started editing sentences. We will practice to look out for words that are spelled incorrectly, and edit the sentence to make it correct. We will continue learning the drill sounds of letters and digraphs.

Math

This final month in math, we will be learning addition and subtraction. We will learn the vocabulary words equation, add, subtract, join, and take away. These vocabulary words will be used frequently as we explore addition and subtraction. We will begin

writing our own word problems, which include simple equations such as: Two ducks were swimming in the pond. Seven more came to join. How many ducks were there in all? Students will be able to write the following equation:

$$2 + 7 = \underline{\quad}.$$

They will also learn how to write a proper equation by listing the missing part of a word problem. For example, "Three birds were flying high in the sky. Some more birds came to join them. Now there were nine birds flying. How many more birds had to come and join them to make nine birds in all?" Students will discover the following equation to figure out the problem:

$$3 + \underline{\quad} = 9.$$

Social Studies

This month we will finish studying community and neighborhoods. We were very fortunate this month to have had guest speakers come in and speak to the class directly about their job and role in a community. A big thank you to the following volunteers who came in to our class and spoke about their role in a community!

LaShelle Bovian - Parent-Teacher Association

Valbona - cosmetology

Mr. Tasso - lawyer and the law

Mr. Headley - school principal

Science

We have begun studying animals and their habitats. This month in science will integrate music in our learning. Ms. Ley and the kindergarten class have collaborated in creating an interdisciplinary unit in which the study of animals can be explored in a variety of ways, such as through music, math, art, and science. Ms. Ley has assigned each class an animal from *Carnival of the Animals*. Our class was assigned the elephant. We will explore different structures of the elephant, and how these parts are critical to the elephant's survival. We will compare and contrast the life cycle of an elephant to the life cycle of a bird, fish and human. We will also explore how to keep these animals safe and free from harm. They will create and design their own "conservation" posters and share their findings with the class. As a culminating assessment, they will perform in their very own show with Ms. Ley in *Carnival of the Animals*.

Thanks again for your continued support! As always, please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Warmly,
Jesse Rizzo

Friendly Reminders



- There will be half a school day on Monday, June 15th.
- There will be no busing for students on June 24th, 25th, and 26th.
- There will be a "Stepping up Ceremony" for kindergarteners on Friday, June 26th. There will also be a half day on June 26th. A picnic will follow the ceremony. More details on this day will be provided soon.
- The last day of school is Friday, June 26th.
- If your child is missing a sweater or any article at school, please look in the lost and found. If you cannot get to the lost and found, write me a note and I will send your child in to the office to look for it.
- Your child's "in-case-of-an-accident" clothing along with other school projects, schoolwork and assignments will be coming home in these last two weeks. They will be coming home day by day, so be sure to empty out their bookbag so new projects can come home. Thanks!