



May 2009 News

From Class K-220

Includes:

1. May 2009 Curriculum
2. Friendly Reminders
3. Supply Wish List

May 1st, 2009

Dear Families and Friends of Class K-220,

Can you believe it is already May! We have just over 2 months of school and before you know it, will be starting first grade! Boy does time fly. I hope you all enjoyed a restful Spring break. Here is what we will be learning for the month of May.

Quick-n-easy words

As a reminder, tapping out CVC (consonant-vowel-consonant) words includes the following strategy:

Step 1: Get your thumb, pointer, middle and ring finder 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 May include: *jump, at, from, run, out, eat, zoo, park, but, if, back*

We have also been practicing digraphs (two letters that make one sound) such as /ch/, /sh/, and /th/.

Writing Workshop

April writing was a success! The students produced some remarkable poetry pieces. I encourage you to check out the writing bulletin board in front of our classroom to see the student's great work. Together, our class published this poem they decided to title "Recess."

Recess by K-220

I was
Playing
On the slide
Going so fast
As a
Cheetah
It sounded like
Going to another level
And then you
Go
Back up

This month in writing we will revisit All About books, but this time we will focus on a nonfiction content topic.

Reading Workshop

Last month in reading workshop children explored characters in their Just Right books. This month we are launching a nonfiction Just Right book unit. For this month, children will learn about different topics which include: Amazing Animals, Ocean Creatures, All About Me, Family and Community, Weather, Plants and Things that Fly. So far, they have helped categorize and label each of these book bins. We learned how to sort nonfiction books. We also are learning the different features of nonfiction literature. They will learn how to explore different topics and the world around them through nonfiction books. Some nonfiction reading strategies we have learned that may be helpful for you at home include:

- Getting your mind ready to read by thinking what you already know about the topic/cover
- Getting your mind ready to read by thinking what you already know about the topic then asking yourself, "What do I *want* to know?"
- Making predictions using the cover
- Taking a picture walk and studying the photos
- Finding the place in the book that gave us an answer to our question

Interactive Read Aloud

Last month we learned about drawing conclusions and that we can draw conclusions by exploring:

1. The actions of a character
2. Verbal clues
3. Putting the pieces of the puzzle together

This month during interactive read aloud we will explore and discuss how good readers study different *genres*, such as poetry and informational texts, using the following strategies:

1. Poetry gives us explicit information using feelings and emotions
2. Imagery - what pictures do you have in your mind when you read a poem?
3. Onomatopoeia - words that imitate a sound, like "hiss" "swoosh" and "oink"

We will also study *fact versus opinion, compare and contrast and figurative language*. 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
12. Poetry genre study

Foundations

We will be 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.

Math

This month in math we will learn to recognize, write and count numbers 21-30. We will use mathematic manipulatives to sort numbers appropriately, and read math literature that will help strengthen number knowledge.

Social Studies

This month we will continue to study 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

Science

We are still exploring and studying plants this month! We currently have our plants growing in the milk cartons by the window. We love observing like scientist and recording the growth we have seen! We are excited to see how the Marigolds and Morning Glories will look once they bloom. We just began a science experiment where we changed the liquid type the plants received. One plant received water, the second plant received juice, and the third plant received no water. We formed predictions and look forward to seeing what happens!

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

Warmly,
Jesse Rizzo

Friendly Reminders



- VOICE Charter school will be closed May 25th, for Memorial Day.
- Please continue looking in your child's Home Folder everyday. Please clean out old papers, newsletters, notices etc.
- I am pleased to announce that my proposal for including physical education materials during gym time was fully funded. We received a parachute for VOICE Charter School! We now use a 32' parachute during gym class!
- A "Community Helper" newsletter was sent out on 5/4/2009, asking for parent volunteers to come in and speak to class K-220 about your job, career, etc. This will fit in with the social studies curriculum, since we began studying communities and neighborhoods. Please return the bottom portion of the slip to school via your child's home folder. If you would like to come in and there is a date that you can only do, please contact me so we can discuss options.

Supply Wish List



- Snacks (goldfish, crackers, granola bars, etc.) Parents, we are very low on snacks. We could use snacks as the end of the year approaches. Thank you!
- 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 seeds!

The Lynch-Frazier Family for seeds!

The Ramos family for vegetable seeds!

The Yap family for seeds and squirt bottles!

The Alattore family for squirt bottles!

The Oliveira family for planting soil and planting supplies!