



October 2008 News

from class K-220

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October 1, 2008



Dear Parents and Guardians of class k-220,

October is finally here! September certainly flew by. We have launched our writing and reading workshop, and started sorting and counting in math. October will be full of opportunities to grow and learn, so let's begin with a quick breakdown of the month, including upcoming events, curriculum logistics and important reminders!

Quick and Easy Words

We will begin next week learning "quick and easy words." These are words that you cannot tap or clap out, such as I, me, you, he, she, etc. Each week we will learn two more quick and easy words and add them to our word wall. We will begin the week of October 6th, 2008. The first two quick and easy words will be: **me**, **a**.

Math

We have been busy sorting attribute buttons and blocks. The kids are doing great and coming up with their own ways to sort, including by shape, size and color. The other day we sorted Diego the Explorer fruit snacks. (The fruit snacks theme was Diego goes on a safari). The kids sorted by animal, some sorted by color and some even sorted by what habitat; animals that live in the water and animals that roam on land. We will continue with sorting and begin to write, order, and compare numbers 0-5 in the upcoming chapter.

Writing

We have been working hard on short, nonfictional stories for the past several weeks. We have learned that writers write for all different purposes, including writing labels, making signs, sending messages, and writing short stories.

I have been really stressing to the children that everyone is at a different place in their writing. I explained that it is okay for everyone's writing to look different and that the most important thing is that they try their best. With that said, the children are currently picking their favorite piece of writing to publish. We will begin a countdown publishing party, and the children's work will be proudly displayed on the bulletin for all to see!

Reading

Last week the children enjoyed reading several star books. Star books are books I read aloud to the children frequently, so they become familiar with the story. They each have their own copy of the book, so they can "read the book" because they know what to expect, how to read the pictures, and change their voice as I do when different characters are introduced. So far, we have read *Three Billy Goats Gruff*, *The Gingerbread Man*, *Bunny's Cake*, *Harry the Dirty Dog*, *Koala Lou*, *Caps for Sale* and *Knuffle Bunny*. We read them so often that the children even chime in and read along with me!

During reading workshop, I have been teaching the children some reading strategies they can use when reading a book. We have learned to read the pictures, make connections to our own lives, hunt for secret "treasures" or clues the author provides us in the pages, study the cover, and mark our favorite part in the book using a post-it. The children have recently received reading buddies, and will continue reading independently as well as with partners. This will help both their listening and speaking skills.

Foundations

We have been learning several different letters and the sounds each of those letters make. These letters include: **b**, **t**, **m**, **n** and **f**. The letters b, t and f are skyline letters, because when writing these letters, they start on the skyline. Letters m and n are plane line letters, because they each start on the plane line. As these letters are introduced to us, we learn the sounds they each make, skywrite the letters in the air, and have the opportunity to write them on our own dry-erase boards. You may even hear your child repeat the letters as such:

b - bat - /b/

t - top - /t/

m - man - /m/

First we learn the letter name, then there is a picture that helps us remember the letter, and then we say the sound. The sound of letters can be written out as two dash marks /__/.

This week we will review the letters m and n. We will also be introduced to the letters **c** and **a**.

Poems

Many of you have brought in a black and white composition notebook for your child. We will begin using these soon. The composition notebook will be used for our poems. Each week we will read a new poem, and glue it in our poetry notebook, which will be the composition notebook. The children will color the poem on Friday, bring it home over the weekend to practice and share, and return it to school on Monday.

Other

Our class is still growing! We have recently added three more students to our family. We welcome Shakib, David and Kayla U. There is an updated name chart in your child's Home Folder.

The Home Folder communication is working out nicely. The only issue I have with the Home Folder is the style - the paper folder is not holding up too well! I bought plastic, clear folders that are a bit more durable, with hopes of it surviving kindergarten book bags from school to home! These should work out better.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me!
I look forward to another wonderful month.

Warmly,
Miss Rizzo



Friendly Reminders

- NO SCHOOL October 1st, October 9th, October 13th, 2008.
- Queen's Farm Field Trip is coming up! Friday, October 31st, 2008. If you have not yet done so, **please return your child's permission slip with \$9.00 in a labeled envelope.** If there is an issue or concern regarding the field trip, please contact Mr. Headley. Every child is expected to go on the trip. We will make it work for everyone.
- Remember to send in ONE snack with your child with a water bottle or juicebox.
- **Please send in an extra set of clothing for your child.** We have had bathroom accidents, and having a change of clothes for your child is an enormous help. The clothes should be uniform clothes. Please send in a bag with your child's name on the bag.
- It is getting colder. We are dressing warmer, but forgetting to bring home our sweaters and jackets! I remind the students every day to make sure they have packed their sweater or jacket. There are many of the same sweaters and the kids get confused which one is theirs. **Please write your child's name on the tag of their sweater.**