



# August Newsletter



Unfortunately, our summer vacation is over! I hope that you are as excited as I am to see your child's academic progress this school year.

Thank you to all of you that attended Open House. If you were unable to attend, the Parent Packet folder is in your child's backpack today. This packet contains a lot of valuable information for your child's Kindergarten year. In addition to the Parent Packet, the classroom party sign-up sheet was posted. If you were unable to attend and wish to sign up for one of our classroom parties, please send me a note letting me know that information. Also, please indicate for which party you wish to provide snacks. Our scheduled classroom parties are as follows:

- Fall Party – Friday, October 25
- Thanksgiving Feast – Friday, November 22
- Christmas Party – Thursday, December 19
- Valentine Party - Friday, February 14
- Easter Party – Thursday, April 9

In your Parent Packet folder, there is a copy of last year's Kindergarten Report Card. There will be a few changes this school year, but at the present time I do not have a copy of that Report Card. The first grading period ends on October 8<sup>th</sup>. We will be discussing your child's first Kindergarten report card and their academic progress during Parent/Teacher Conferences in October. I am hoping to see a great deal of progress the first grading period and throughout the school year!

There are two lists of high-frequency words in the Parent Packet folder. One is the complete list of high-frequency words that your child must be able to recognize by the end of the school year. The additional list is to let you know which words will be introduced and tested on during each grading period.

In addition to the Report Card and High-Frequency Words, you will also find a page with the Zaner-Bloser Handwriting that we use in Kindergarten as well as a list of the Letter People that we introduce for each letter of the alphabet. If your child cannot write their first and last name and all of the upper and lowercase letters of the alphabet, please practice with them at home.

Each student will have a purple folder which will be sent home the first day of school. We try to send these home daily. Please be sure to return the purple folder the following day. The purple folder will contain your child's daily work as well as information regarding events going on in our classroom and at school. If you need to send a note to school, you can place it inside the folder. The folder will also contain any homework that is required.

During August, we will be learning to recognize and write our names, letters, and numbers. We will be working with each letter daily, but we will focus on the following letters and their sounds as well as their letter person:

Aa – Miss Achoo

Cc – Cotton Candy

Ee – Ms. Exercise

Bb – Beautiful Buttons

Dd – Delicious Doughnuts

Ff – Funny Feet

We will also be learning about colors, shapes, and learning to write and count to 20 as well as learning to recognize number words to 10.

In the first few days of school, we will be going through a checklist of skills with your child. We will be sending home a copy of the checklist. If you see that your child is having difficulty with any of the skills on the checklist, please work with your child at home on those skills. These skills provide the beginning steps of learning to read. We hope to see every child reading at some level by Christmas Break if not before! Students **must** be able to read independently before they are promoted to First Grade.

On Friday, August 16<sup>th</sup>, we will be celebrating Beach Day for the letter *Bb*. We will also be celebrating Cookie Day for the letter *Cc* on Wednesday, August 21<sup>st</sup> and Donut Day for the letter *Dd* on Friday,

August 23<sup>rd</sup>. We will be sending home information regarding these two events in the near future.

We will be administering NWEA testing in Kindergarten. This test is given three times during the school year. The first session of testing will be given during August. I will send home your child's scores once we complete the testing. The form will also contain the benchmark scores for the first testing session. There is nothing for your child to study. The test is given in the computer lab. The children listen to the testing/instructions through headphones.

Kindergarten is a very exciting time in your child's life. You can help enhance your child's education by reading with your child daily, reviewing our daily work, checking for recognition of letters and sounds as well as sounding out words, and recognizing sight words for literacy skills. For math skills, you can work on counting to 100 with your child by ones and tens, recognizing one-to-one correspondence (ex. 10 items represent the number 10), and shapes to name a few.

Kindergarten is also very rewarding to both myself and Miss Anita, our teaching assistant. It is so exciting to see the light in each child's eyes as they learn new skills and eventually learn to read! I am very excited to see what literacy and math skills each child already knows and to see their progress during the coming school year!

*Mrs. Collins*

Dates to Remember:

August 7 – First Student Day

August 16 – Beach Party for letter Bb

August 21 – Cookie Day for the letter Cc

August 23 – Donut Day for the letter Dd

## *Kindergarten Skills That Will Be Covered During August*

### **Literacy Skills:**

- Recognize and print all upper and lower case letters
- Recognition of all letter sounds
- Follow words from left to right
- Distinguish letters from words
- Recognize sentences are made up of separate words
- Orally state the beginning sounds in 3-letter words
- Read common high-frequency words by sight
- Classify objects into categories
- Identify characters, setting, and events in a story
- Identify the parts of a book (ex. title, author, illustrations)
- Write for specific purposes
- Write moving left to right
- Use words and pictures to write a simple story
- Reads & writes first name
- Recognize 11 colors (red, orange, yellow, green, blue, purple, brown, black, white, pink, & gray)

### **Social Studies:**

- State school and classroom rules

### **Science:**

- State what objects you see in the day sky & night sky

### **Math Skills:**

- Count orally by ones (goal 100 by third grading period)
- Recognize and write numbers 0 to 10
- Write numbers 0 - 10
- Match numbers to objects with a written numeral to 10
- Compare groups of objects and identify greater than, less than, or equal to
- Two-dimensional shapes: square, circle, oval, triangle, rectangle, hexagon, diamond