



OCTOBER NEWS



October Character Trait: Attitude

It is hard to believe that September is over and October is upon us. The children have made a lot of progress during the month of September. I am very proud of them for the strides that they have made. Please keep encouraging your child to listen and learn each day, to follow classroom and school rules, and to do their very best. Thank you for the encouragement you give to your child!

In the Parent Packet handed out at Open House, I mentioned the Popcorn Words Lists as well as other word lists. I feel that many of the children in our classroom are ready for these. I will be sending these home very soon. The directions for these will be on a separate sheet of paper in your child's purple folder that day. **I highly encourage you to practice the words lists with your child.** These really help improve your child's reading fluency and vocabulary.

During October, we will be learning these letters and letter sounds:

Oo – Optimistic Optimist

Pp – Pointy Patches

Qq – Mr. Quiet

Rr – Ripping Rubberbands

Ss – Super Socks

Tt – Tall Teeth

Parent/Teacher Conferences will be held on Thursday evening, October 10th, and Friday morning, October 11th. School **will be** in session all day on Thursday, October 10th. School will not be in session on Friday, October 11th, through Friday, October 18th, for Fall Break. School will resume on Monday, October 21st.

Friday, October 25th, will be "Pumpkin Day." This is also our Fall Party. The students will not dress up in masks or costumes at school for Halloween. However, each child can bring a decorated pumpkin to school that day. You will receive more information about this in the near future.

Each day we work with letters, letter sounds, color and number words, 3-letter phonetic words, and word families (rhyming words). We are doing this as a class and in small groups. We have learned the sight words: *I, am, the, like, to, a, have, is, he, my, we, make, for, me, with, she, see, look, are, that, and of.* There are many sight words in this reading series, so it is imperative that your child learn the sight words as we go. We will continue to add new words each week. We also practice daily on handwriting and coloring skills. Please stress to your child the importance of neat writing and coloring. We are having some difficulty with children hurrying to complete their work and not taking their time to do their work neatly. Good academic work habits begin in Kindergarten. We work hard to stress the importance of neat work. Also, if your child is absent, please be sure to complete all of the work on the pages before returning them to school. **This includes coloring everything on all the pages that are sent home.** If the pages are returned to school incomplete, I will send them back to be completed at home.

We have started checking skills on the report card for this grading period. The last day of the grading period is October 8th. We will be discussing the completed Report Card during Parent/Teacher Conferences. We sent home a checklist during August. If you found that your child is having difficulty with any of the skills on that checklist, please be sure to review with your child at home. The report card that you receive will be a copy of the original report card. You are to keep the copy of the report card, sign the envelope, and return only the envelope to school with your child. We will follow this same procedure each time the report card is sent home until the end of the school year.

When your child knows all of their letters and letter sounds, their name will be placed in the hall on our Chicka Chicka Boom Boom wall. We have placed a large coconut tree on the wall across from our Kindergarten classrooms. When your child can recognize all of the upper and lower case letters, they will receive a paper coconut to cut out. When your child knows their letter sounds, they will be given another coconut to cut out. We will then place their name on the coconuts, and the coconuts will be placed in the hallway by the coconut tree. We hope to place many coconuts on our tree once the Report Card Checklists are completed for this grading period.

When your child brings homework that has not been completed at school or they are absent, please supervise your child when they are completing the work. I am receiving returned work that is still incomplete or has not been completed neatly and/or has been completed incorrectly. Children need supervision and direction to complete the work. If your child is having difficulty with letter formation, you can use hand-over-hand to help them form the letters correctly. Thank you for your cooperation!

We will be beginning the Pizza Hut Book-It Program during the month of October. Each month, for the next six months, your child will receive a form for you to complete with four books that your child has read to you or that you have read to your child. Once the books have been read, please complete the Book-It form and return it to school with your child. When the form is returned, your child will receive a certificate for a free personal pan pizza from Pizza Hut. The Pizza Gallery also honors these certificates. The form for October is in your child's purple folder. At the end of the school year, we will hold a pizza party for all of those students that have completed all six months of the Book-It Program.

Thank you for helping your child complete the assignment in their journal each weekend. This really helps the children to identify letters, letter sounds, numbers, as well as number and color words. Please encourage your child to write neatly on each page of the journal. If your child does not remember the letters and letter sounds, PLEASE review these letters at home each evening. Please be sure to return journals on Monday. Also, thank you for helping your child complete the Letter-Writing pages. Thank you to those of you that have returned the homework each week! The Letter-Writing pages are being placed in your child's white binder, and will be a keepsake for you at the end of the school year.

I want to thank each of you that have sent your child's snacks and drinks on the assigned days. I also want to thank those parents that have forgotten to send snacks on their child's assigned day for making a special effort to send/bring in snacks so that the children can enjoy them at a later date! The children enjoy sharing their snacks with the other children. This is one of the highlights of their day!!! Thank you so much!! **Please do not send big jugs of juice as I will no longer accept**

those. I do not always have cups in the classroom, and those drinks can be easily spilled on our carpeting.

We have a program in the Wabash Valley called Real Men Read sponsored by the United Way. The program is designed to promote reading in young children and to show the importance of men reading to their children. Our first Real Men Read day will be sometime during the week of October 7th. Our reader is Mr. Bell, principal at Clay City Jr./Sr. High School. Each month from October through February, Mr. Bell will be reading to our students. The children will each receive a copy of the book that Mr. Bell reads to them. At this point, I do not know the books in this program for this year. If you see your child bringing home books in their purple folder with their name inside the front cover, they are theirs to keep.

Several students do not know how to tie their own shoes. If your child does not know how to tie their shoes, please practice with them on this skill at home. Also, with cool/cold weather approaching, please be sure that your child knows how to zip and/or button their coat.

We will continue to collect the Box Tops for Education. The class with the most Box Tops each grading period will receive a Pizza Party. We are working really hard to earn the Pizza Party for this grading period! Please ask friends and relatives to save the Box Tops and send them to school with your child in an envelope or baggie with their name on the outside.

I want to say thank you in advance to everyone that volunteered to send treats for the Fall Party. I will send home reminder notes closer to the date.

I look forward to seeing each of you at Parent/Teacher Conferences.

Mrs. Collins

October Dates to Remember:

October 8th – End of Grading Period

October 7th – Real Men Read Begins

October 10th – Parent/Teacher Conferences at the end of the school
Day

October 11th – Teacher In-Service Day

No School for Students – Fall Break Begins

October 14th – October 18th – Fall Break

October 21st – School Reconvenes after Fall Break

October 25th – Pumpkin Day/Fall Party

Kindergarten Skills That Will Be Covered During October

The literacy skills that we will cover during this month will include the following:

- Recognize and print all upper and lower case letters
- Recognition of all letter sounds
- Follow words from left to right, top to bottom, and page by page
- Distinguish letters from words
- Recognize sentences are made up of separate words
- Recognize and produce rhyming words
- Count and state the number of syllables in words
- Stating the beginning and final sounds in three-letter words
- Read high-frequency words
- Read emergent text fluently
- Identify the role of the author and illustrator
- Write from left to right across a page
- Write using pictures
- Write using pictures and letters
- Write using pictures, letters, and words
- Draw and/or write for a specific topic
- State school and classroom rules
- Describe places in the school and community
- Describe jobs done in the community
- Describe an object by saying how it is similar or different from another
- Read and write first and last name
- Recognize 11 colors (red, orange, yellow, green, blue, purple, brown, black, white, pink, & gray)
- Asks questions to seek information
- Asks appropriate questions about what a speaker says
- Recites poems, rhymes, and songs

The math skills that we will cover during this month will include the following:

- Count orally by ones and tens (goal: ones – 60, tens – 30)
- Recognize and write numbers 0 to 20
- Match numbers of objects with a written numeral to 20
- Compare groups of objects and identify: greater than, less than, or equal to 10
- Create and extend patterning
- Two-dimensional shapes: square, circle, oval, triangle, rectangle, hexagon, diamond