

F R I D A Y , O C T O B E R 7 , 2 0 1 6

KINDERGARTEN NEWS



We had a great K-4 assembly on Wednesday learning about greetings and kindness, as well as recognizing three of our third grade students who were published in the Valley News on Tuesday for pieces of writing in the Young Writer's Project.



Upcoming Dates

- Monday, Oct 10 : no school
- Monday, Oct. 31: no school -- Parent/Teacher conferences

Hello Families!

I guess we are getting into the rhythm of things, because this week flew by! Students are really getting accustomed to the daily routines, and beginning to absorb the weekly flow as well. I am seeing increased confidence and independence as the students take on more responsibility over the classroom jobs and work expectations, and I sense a strong feeling of comfort and ownership in the kindergarteners about their classroom. I hope that this continues to grow and strengthen, and will work on activities and games to further their growth and development.

In science this week we have been taking care of our worms and checking out their tunneling work in their mini-terrariums, but today we are letting them loose in the garden so that they are not too abandoned over the long weekend. We will be working on some gardening next week creating a window garden and trying to grow some lettuce, while also helping the first and second graders in cleaning up the gardens from last spring. In forest school this week we adventured onto a new path and hiked a bit further up the back hill, spending some time in an alternate outdoor classroom space and exploring the terrain looking for such treasures as plants, worms, bugs and pine cones. Please remember that Wednesday afternoons are our times for forest school, and students need to have proper shoes and coats to stay warm and dry in the weather.

We have been working carefully all fall reviewing a letter of the alphabet each day, and finding out the mystery box object that begins with the daily letter. This work will come to an end next week as we finish the alphabet. I will be talking with the kids about our next steps, most likely continuing with mystery box items, but encouraging students to begin bringing in items. So be prepared for some "homework" as kids find objects beginning with certain letters!

On the back/page 2 of this note I am continuing my weekly description of a part of our day, focusing on our daily literacy centers.

I hope that you all have a great weekend -- Elizabeth



Photo shoot at forest school!

Literacy Center Time

Each morning after morning meeting, the class separates into small groups to work on a variety of activities. Students visit four centers each day, participating in letter matching games, letter writing in journals, quiet reading, alphabet book activities, letter recognition

paperwork, iPad reading, or even block play and math work. The kindergarteners have learned to change their stations every

fifteen to twenty minutes, and work on sharing materials, play their games

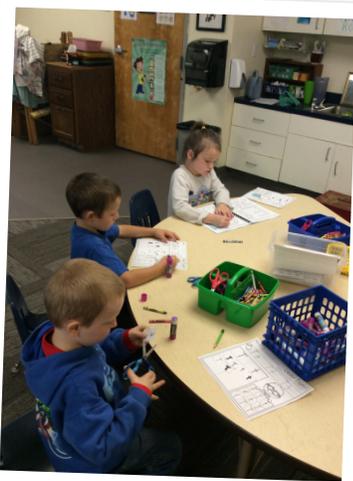
with partners and in small groups, and pace their work time. Over the course of the year the activities and projects will grow and change as the students' skills develop and strengthen.



Students working with Mrs. Mills on letter recognition and formation.



In this center, students are looking at books together.



The kindergarteners are almost done with their work at this station where they've been working through the alphabet on letter pages.



On Tuesdays we are lucky to have a classroom volunteer, Mrs. Bradley, working with students. This week they played an alphabet matching game.



Next week we will wrap up our letter book station where each day the students have a booklet for the letter of the day.