

Kindergarten News



Some fair pictures!

September 23, 2016

Dear Families,

Wow -- we made it through our first five day week in Kindergarten! I hope that your kiddos are feeling strong and excited -- though I know that they may also feel a bit tired. Beware that there have been some colds going around. We've gone through a bunch of tissues this week!

The week has been wonderful, filled with work on community, kindness, letters and sounds, numbers and patterns, and of course Forest School exploration!



Moss, mushroom and leaves from our Forest School walk.

Wednesday afternoon we got out on the trails and into the woods to look for living and nonliving things. We took hand lenses and a camera with us to see what we could find.

The class did a wonderful job respecting the woods, and each other. They loved looking at objects

closely, finding such things as mushrooms, worms, spiders and lots of leaves and plants. Next week we are looking to not only explore in the woods, but also do some clearing out of sticks in a possible "classroom" site, and cutting on the trail to keep it open and clear for our hikes. Please remember to send your child to school with good outdoor shoes on Wednesdays.

For literature time we continue to work on letters and sounds, working on the mystery box each morning which contains an item beginning with our letter of the day, and then breaking into small groups to work on writing, recognizing and matching letters. You may have seen some activity sheets coming home -- the kids are proud of their progress! There is also a math paper of recognizing early numbers and a mystery picture to color. These are sent home each day as well.

In addition to our break-out groups, we also have whole class work on reading and writing, beginning at the start of the day with our morning message and class meeting time. In the afternoon there are one or two read aloud periods where we talk about predications and story lines, as well as look for rhyming and repetitive phrasing. We have a lot of fun with these books each day, and our library of books we know continues to grow.

In math we continue to work on writing our numerals, taking care to have the correct process and formation of each number. On Thursday and today we also worked on patterns, using the pattern blocks to create a two color/shape pattern, and recording them with paper representations of the blocks. We are beginning with simple patterns, but will work to develop more complex ones over time. In a couple of weeks I hope to take a pattern walk, both inside and out.

For science this month we are working on an apple theme, as well as talking about living and non living things. We will move into other fall themes over the next few weeks, taking advantage of all the foliage, pumpkins and the cooler weather.

On Wednesday we had a special treat. Mr. Garner's daughter Grace, who is living and teaching in Japan, came and did a presentation to the K-2 students, sharing some items from Japan, and showing wonderful pictures. The students had a chance to ask questions, and hopefully learned a little bit about living in Japan and Japanese culture.

Today we had another gathering with Mr. Farnsworth and all K-4 students and teachers. This is



Kids at the K-4 gathering.

something that began last year as a weekly (or almost weekly) gathering of the K-4 group to share things, celebrate accomplishments, and talk about school. It was nice to get together again as a group and be with everyone.

I love getting the chance to see many of you parents during drop off or pick up, but if you need more of a true "meeting" please let me know at any time! I know that those quick interactions do not allow for much conversation.

Have a wonderful weekend -- according to the weather forecast of this morning, looks like fall temperatures are really here!

Take care,
Elizabeth