

# KINDERGARTEN

Dear Families,

I can't believe that this is the last day of September -- where has the month gone? I guess I should not be so surprised when I see how great the Kindergarteners are doing and what wonderful students they are working on becoming. I love seeing how each week they grow and change just a little bit more. It is amazing to think what is going to happen over the course of the year.

I was thinking about my Friday note this week, and wondering if it might be helpful for families to hear about different parts of our day. I thought I might try to highlight one part of our day each week to give you a sense of what your Kindergarten is doing. So today I'll write about the start of our day: Morning meeting. You'll find it on the second page/back side of this note.

This week was busy and fun, like I hope all weeks in Kindergarten will be! We had two visitors to the classroom, Mary Lou Bradley who will be helping on Tuesday mornings during our literacy center time, and Sue Barnaby who will be coming to help with math on Thursday afternoons. Some of your students know Mrs. Barnaby from last year when she visited area preschools. It is great to have these extra hands on deck, and I look forward to having them visit each week!

In Forest School this week the kids got down in the dirt, digging up soil for a surprise project that we will begin this afternoon --- worms! Each student will have their own mini-terrarium for worms (a clear plastic cup), which they will be responsible for taking care of over the next two weeks, and watching how things change over time. I am hoping that they will love learning about and taking care of the worms, but already the project was a big hit because the kids really loved just digging in the dirt. I am sure that the shovels will have to return to Forest School in the near future -- I'll have to come up with some fun activity where we are digging again.

Be aware that there are some days off and an early release in the October school calendar -- next Friday, October 7th is an early release; and then teachers have an inservice day on Monday, October 10th so there is no school. At the very end of the month, on the 31st, there is another teacher inservice day and no school for students.

I hope that you all have a fabulous weekend. I have heard that many of you went apple picking last weekend and it sounded great. Maybe I can fit some in this weekend!

Take care,

Elizabeth



Choice time play.



Working on an alphabet game.



Looking at books.

## Morning Meeting

In morning meeting we work on calendar skills reviewing days of the week, the month, days of school, and the weather. Each week there is a calendar helper who helps with the classroom data.

Each morning there is a daily message I write to the class, and we work on reading this together. In the message I review things we are working on that day, and what we have to look forward to. For this first part of the year we also have a letter of the day, and we look for samples of that letter in the message.

After reading the message and reviewing our schedule for the day, our next challenge is the "mystery box." Each morning I hide an object that begins with the letter of the day in the mystery box, and the class works on asking questions to determine what is in the box. This questioning time has become a favorite part of the morning for me. The class is learning to ask category questions to help narrow down the field, such as "Is it something you can eat?" "Is it red?" We talk about categories of food, shape, color, texture and materials. Boy have they gotten better and better with their questions!

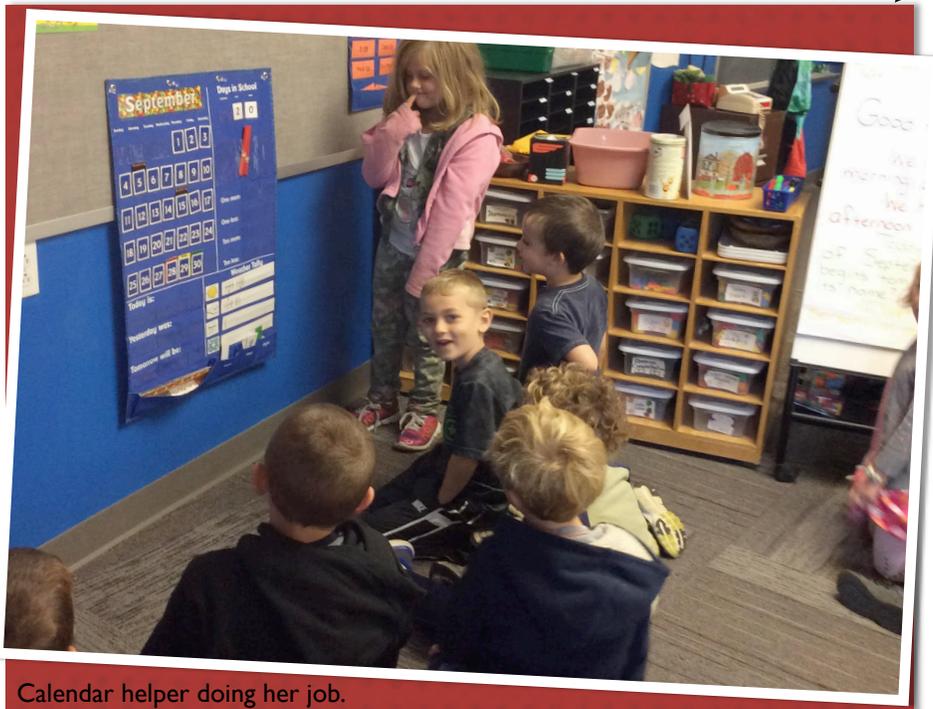
At this point in the morning the kids have been sitting for almost half an hour and they are ready to get to work! I am hoping to incorporate more music and poetry into the morning meeting over time, but for now, that is enough sitting for them.



MORNING MESSAGE



SCHEDULE



Calendar helper doing her job.



CALENDAR