

# Kindergarten News

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2016



*Last week's Veterans' Day assembly was a well attended and moving recognition of past and present local veterans.*

Dear Families,

We had a productive, and very fun week again in Kindergarten, working hard on our academic topics while also having some fun with books, projects and play.

With Thanksgiving just around the corner, we have focused on historical books during read aloud to learn about the pilgrims, the Mayflower, and the settling of Plymouth Plantation in 1620. I am hoping to give the students an understanding of the background of the upcoming holiday, while also beginning to teach about our country's settlement history. Of course in addition to the readings, we are also having some fun

making turkeys and decorating the classroom.

In language arts students continue to become stronger in recognizing letters and name sounds associated with them. We are working on both capital and lower case letters, and focusing on the sounds of consonants. In addition to learning sounds, we are also working on recognizing some simple sight words in our daily morning message and mini reading books, and beginning to write some.

Wednesday's Forest School activity was taking tin foil rubbings of various textures in the woods. Kids rubbed tree trunks, leaves and pine needles, and looked for the patterns in the textures.

In math we continue to practice writing our numerals 0 - 9, counting to 10 and beyond, and are starting to work on seeing the addition fact combinations to five. Our work is addressed through interactive games, as well as white board and work sheet writing.

Beware that there have been a few colds and illnesses going through not only the Kindergarten classroom but school as well. I hope that we can get everyone healthy for the holiday.

Have a wonderful weekend!!

-- Elizabeth

Reminder ....

We only have school on Monday and Tuesday next week. No school Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday the 23rd, 24th, AND 25th of November.

# Social Studies

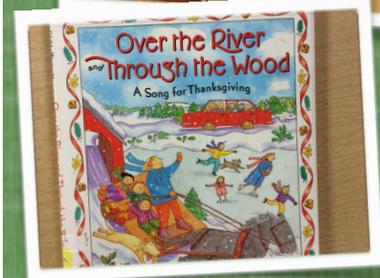
In Kindergarten we have worked on the themes of community and family this fall, addressing ideas of kindness and cooperation while talking about what makes a communal group and what is needed to keep the group strong. During these talks we also discuss similarities and differences between people and their needs, and brain storm how to help and support others. These conversations occur before Choice time in the classroom where students are daily learning to work and play cooperatively and kindly, and also during read aloud times when we read stories about characters facing challenges and learning to overcome obstacles, as well as historical picture books.

In addition to this social learning, we have also worked on seasonal and holiday themes in the classroom. This month we have focused on the history of the settlement of America, learning about the Pilgrims, Native

Americans, and the history of our Thanksgiving holiday. Read aloud times have been dedicated to reading historical picture books, and we are having some fun making projects related to the holiday as well.

Sometimes disciplines are not separated, so some of our math time has been spend learning to play a game called "Community," which has started to introduce the students to mapping skills. We will continue to work on these skills over the next couple of months, trying to build maps representing our classroom using blocks, then paper, and also making maps of our forest school. Mapping skills encompass not only social studies, but also math and science.

Throughout the year we will continue to work on these themes of culture, citizenship, history and geography, addressing the learning through stories, projects, and games.



*Two of the books we have read about Thanksgiving and history and traditions.*

*A tissue paper turkey project, and hand tracings and drawings of turkeys.*

