



October 2011



Mrs. Masury's Kindergarten Newsletter

Dear Parents,

It was wonderful to see so many of you at *Open House*. We really appreciate you taking the time from your busy schedule to show your child that school is a priority. The children were excited to show all their hard work!

What's happening in our classroom...

During September we focused on making your child feel welcome and safe at school while building our community of learners. Your child learned many routines and can now enter the classroom and complete several jobs independently. This helps provide a smooth transition to school and allows the teacher to meet and greet each student. Once our *Jobs* are complete we can freely explore our classroom. Puzzles and games, puppetry, and blocks are popular choices!

After *Exploration* we gather on the carpet for a daily *Meeting*. We say the Pledge of Allegiance, talk about our day, and focus on *Calendar Math*. During *Calendar Math* we use our calendar, graph, daily depositor, hundred's chart, counting tape, place value pockets, and domino builder to deepen our understanding of numbers. Through group discussions students add math words to their vocabulary and are encouraged to talk about their thinking. We call these words *Math Talk*. Our *Math Talk* for September includes calendar, graph, pattern, counting, counting on, number names, more, less, and how many. We also focus on social skills, manners, and building friendships to make our classroom an inviting place to learn and play.

Following *Meeting* we have *Reading, Math, or Writing Workshops*. We have *Reader's Workshop* four times per week. Currently we are learning that *Good Readers* point to words, use patterns, use picture clues, and read sight words. Our sight words for this month will include **the, I, a, by, on**. Please help your child practice reading and writing these words at home. *Math Workshop* is held three times per week. We are being careful observers and talking about same and not the same using a variety of attributes. Twice per week we have *Writer's Workshop* where we are learning how *Good Writers* draw pictures to tell their story. We are also learning letter names, letter sounds, and how to form uppercase letters correctly. Your child should be starting all their letters at the top and write from left to right. Every week we look forward to our two *Specials, Music or P.E. and Library!*

A yummy *Snack* and fun *Story* are followed by *Choice Time*. *Choice Time* is held four times per week. During *Choice Time* we complete a variety of literacy, writing, and math activities. We are learning to work independently and cooperatively with partners or small groups while we read, write, count, and make scientific observations. We are learning to share our space and supplies, responsibility for our work and choices, follow directions, and respect for our classroom and friends. Arts and crafts, observing our monarch tank, and using the listening center independently are favorite activities!

Our busy day ends with *Group* followed by *Recess*. At *Group* we play fun games to practice our phonics and math skills. Drop 10 and Name-O's are favorite games. After *Group* we try to independently pack our backpacks and put on our coats. During *Recess* we continue to learn how to use the playground safely, share equipment and toys, and play cooperatively with our friends. The monkey bars, swings, and ball toss are favorite activities. Our final task of the day is walking in a line to the bus and using a silent wave. All this in only two and a half hours!

What's happening this month...

I will let you know as soon as possible when our next Eagle Day and assembly are scheduled. **PTO Fundraiser order forms are due Monday, October 3rd**. Thank you for your support!

Our field trip to Apple Crest is this Thursday, October 6th. Please make sure you have returned your child's permission form and money. We will be leaving quickly after the students arrive and will return around pick up time. **Please have your child wear their EES Eagle t-shirt and do NOT send in milk money or a snack.** Please dress appropriately for the weather, hayride, and hiking through the orchard. Children and chaperones will have cider, a donut, and apple at the orchard. All students and chaperones will also pick a bag of apples to take home! If your child is going home on the bus please have your child bring their backpack to carry their apples home. If you plan to **chaperone** please drop off your child as usual and **sign-in at the Main Office**. You will receive a volunteer name tag and brief orientation of chaperone expectations. We ask that all chaperones **make child care arrangements for siblings**. Chaperones will be given 2 children to supervise during our trip. We really need your extra hands and attention for our class when we are away from school. We look forward to a fun and safe day for all!

Thank you for all the September book orders. Our class earned twelve free books! We ordered new books and cd's for our listening center! **October book orders are due Friday, October 14th**. This will ensure delivery by Halloween if you purchase holiday books. Ordering on-line earns us additional books, allows you the flexibility to pay using a debit or credit card, and offers exclusive books and discounts. It is easy and convenient however, if you have any difficulty ordering on-line please let me know as soon as possible. Your child was instructed to leave the books in the tied bag and give the bag to an adult when they get home. Please let me know if any purchases are gifts and I can save them for you to pick up.

Out of respect for all our students we will not be celebrating holidays at school. However, we will have **Orange Day** on **Monday, October 31st**. We will eat, paint, color, and play with **orange** during Snack and Choice Time. We would like everyone to try to **wear** the color **orange** to school and will be asking for donations for our fun **orange** snack! Do **NOT** send in a snack or order milk on this day. The children enjoy our "Color Days" and we will have several throughout the school year!

What's happening next month...

On **Tuesday, November 1st** Epping Elementary is offering a **Parent Information Night** about our school's new math curriculum, *Math in Focus*. I highly recommend that you attend this event in an effort to support your child's math homework throughout their elementary years.

During October and November we will focus on the autumn season. We will explore apples, pumpkins, and leaves throughout our science, literacy, writing, and math curriculums. As a culmination of our studies we will invite all our families to our class **Fall Festival**. Our festival consists of two reader's theater plays, seasonal songs, art displays, parent-child games and family crafts. **We hope you can join us on Friday, November 18, 2010 during your child's regular school hours!** Our next class event will be a Writer's Celebration in June.

What's happening this week...

Please welcome to our class Stephanie Morgan. Miss Morgan is a senior from Epping High School and will join us every other morning from 8:30-9:00am. She may spend time reading to the children, playing games, helping at Library, or assisting children with morning tasks and transitions. With eighteen students we appreciate the extra attention and help!

Beginning Monday, October 3rd we have two student teachers from UNH joining our morning class, Andrew Sullivan and Katherine Stockwell. For the remainder of this semester, Mr. Sullivan and Miss Stockwell will focus on supporting our literacy and writing programs. They are very eager to apply their learned skills and we look forward to all they have to offer!

One final note...we have the snack milk routine down ☺ however *umbrellas* have become a concern. Although they are used for only a couple minutes to and from the bus or car, I fully understand the excitement of carrying a cute and fun umbrella on a rainy school day. However, this excitement quickly turns sad when an umbrella gets lost. If your child insists on using an umbrella please *label* it and remind your child to *hold* it while on the bus and put it in their *cubby* when they get to school. Hopefully this will avoid any future disappointments.

Thanks for a great start to kindergarten! 😊

Mrs. Masury