

KINDERGARTEN CORNER

Ready, Set, Go!

The Westminster journey has begun for the Kindergarten students. Twenty-four students arrived in early September and have embarked on a new adventure with Miss LaRose and Miss Garcia. They have quickly adapted to the Westminster way. Students are practicing kindness, respect, and independent work habits. They are learning how to listen carefully, follow directions, take care of each other, and work and play safely.

The Kindergarteners are learning self-discipline as they write the uppercase and lowercase letters of the alphabet with proper form. In language arts, they are also learning poems and rhymes for each letter and memorizing all the initial sounds. Each week, the students read decodable books, learn new sight words, and practice vocabulary and grammar. The Kindergarteners have been reading stories about school, which gives the children the opportunity to think about characters' experiences and how these compare to their own. Soon they will be learning ending sounds letter order!

In social studies, the year began with the Kindergarteners reading about a young student named Andrew. He described his life at home and at school. They learned about the rules that Andrew follows, and how his school has changed over time. The students discussed the rules they follow at home and at school. They also drew pictures of Westminster and their favorite school activities. In October, the students explored the adventures of Christopher Columbus. They have also been learning about community helpers and how important they are.

The Kindergarten math review is complete, and the children are now working in the first-grade math book. Students have mastered recognizing and counting numbers through two tens and zero, time to the hour and half hour, bar graphs and picture graphs, calendars, and are working to develop critical thinking skills. They have also been problem solving, going through the steps to understand the problem and find a reasonable solution. The next step of our adventures in math is learning the addition and subtraction facts from zero to ten.

In science the students have concluded the study of plants, and are embarking on an exploration of different types of animals. The Kindergarten class visited the petting zoo at Green Meadows to bring some of this newfound knowledge to life!

The children enjoyed petting the animals and feeling their outer coverings. They are really looking forward to studying different animal habitats. Students are also investigating the world through science labs. In September, their science labs focused on plant parts and their functions. In October, students compared and contrasted animals' outer coverings, habitats, and the different ways animals move. Next up for the youngest Westminster scientists—the study of physical science.

The Kindergarten students have had visits from eighth-grade helpers who come to their classrooms every day during lunch and read stories to them. As the journey continues, Kindergarten students are having fun building friendships and making memories together each day.



Working together!



Kindergarten students learn about animals and nature with hands-on activities.

"A child can ask questions that a wise man cannot answer."

~ Author Unknown