

KINDERGARTEN CORNER

Alphabet Superstars!

They did it! The Kindergarten class made it all the way to the letter Z! The alphabet superstars not only learned beginning sounds, they also practiced writing ending sounds for better phonemic awareness. Having mastered single sounds, the Kindergarten class jumped right into short vowels and word families such as “-an,” “-ap,” and “-ag.” After the winter break, the class was unstoppable with their new knowledge of long vowels. Using their newly acquired skills, the students were able to begin creative writing. This also helped strengthen their analytical skills in “read-and-draw” activities. With the combination of beginning sounds, ending sounds, and word families, the word possibilities are endless!

In social studies, the Kindergarten students moved on from “All About Me” to “All About Us!” In the second quarter, the students were exposed to U.S. history through the story of the Pilgrims and Native Americans on the first Thanksgiving. The class also learned to appreciate diversity in their communities by learning about different celebrations of light throughout the world during the holiday season. The unit culminated with a visit to the Ripley Center for a dramatic performance of different celebrations of light, such as Kwanzaa, Hanukkah, Christmas, Diwali, and many more!



Kindergarten students learn about different traditions.



Hands-on activities bring learning to life.

Kindergarten students are also budding mathematicians. Students celebrated Math Weeks with their very first at-home project. They were asked to compare and contrast two chosen objects. Then, the students applied prior knowledge to determine similarities and differences based on the object’s weight, capacity, height, length, general purpose, color, and shape. Finally, Kindergartners completed a lab report outlining their findings. This project was a great way to help the students synthesize many math skills that they have learned so far this year. Now, they are applying strategies to strengthen addition and subtraction facts from 0-12, such as “10 is your friend.” When adding an 8 or 9, students are taught to use 10 to help them find the sum. A great way to help the children learn and retain math facts is to practice flash cards each night or in the car.

The students are exploring the world around them through many “labs” in science class. In a recent lab, each child selected four objects, predicted which ones would float or sink, and then determined the accuracy of the predictions. In the coming weeks, students will be testing their science skills while exploring sound, magnets, and electricity. Parents are strongly encouraged to utilize the monthly Math and Science Connections newsletter: have some fun together while helping your child further explore math and science concepts at home!

The Kindergarten students are becoming so independent, and reinforcing these skills at home is always helpful.

Tips for helping your child to become more independent:

1. Make sure your child has and completes chores.
2. Allow time in the schedule for your child to do things on his/her own (e.g., tie shoes, pack backpack, help with lunch).
3. Give small choices when appropriate.
4. Ask for help with shopping lists, tasks around the house, dinner preparation.
5. Encourage and praise independent behavior.

The second half of the year is already upon us, and the Kindergartners are growing up so fast! There are many adventures yet to be had, and the students are enthusiastic and ready to go!

*“A child of five would understand this . . .
Send someone to fetch a child of five.” ~ Groucho Marx*