



4K News

September 13, 2018

Literacy:

Reading:

We have read several books altogether that you may have even read at home before! These titles include: The Kissing Hand, Chicka Chicka Boom Boom and Should I Share My Ice Cream?. We have been listening to stories on Tumble Book Library and on Scholastic BookFlix during snack time every day as well.

We are beginning to identify letter names, our own names and the letter that starts each name. Students are practicing reading/recognizing their names on their carpet spots, mailboxes, chairs and coat hooks. Students also helped with putting our names under each correct beginning letter on our class word wall.

Writing:

The students are working on "readiness" skills for writing their names and other letters in the alphabet. This means that students have been doing activities that strengthen their fine motor skills (i.e. creating shapes with play-doh, exploring math manipulatives, working with knobbed puzzles, etc.)

We also learned to create "mat man" this week. He is a part of our Handwriting Without Tears curriculum. We built him using a foam mat and wooden pieces, which will be used to create our uppercase letters later on. Then students were able to practice making him on paper with crayon. This will help students draw people with more detail. It also allows students to work on their fine motor skills and practice visual-spatial relationships between each body part on paper.

Math:

Students have been introduced to many of the math manipulatives that will be used throughout the school year. They have been exploring unifix cubes, pattern blocks and a variety of counters.

We have also been working on identifying/distinguishing between different shapes (triangle, rectangle, square, rhombus, oval, and circle). We watched a fun shapes video that talked about the number of sides that each shape has. Students worked in small groups to find shapes out of the objects within our own classroom. They were also given the opportunity to create those shapes with play doh.

Social/Emotional:

Students have been learning about each other through various whole and small group activities. We are working on building positive relationships with one another!

We read the story Hands Are Not for Hitting during our play workshop this week. We talked about what we can do with our hands and what we shouldn't do.

We also read a story that teaches the "Turtle Technique". This technique is used when we become angry or upset. These steps include: 1. Something happens which makes us angry or upset. 2. We stop what we are doing and keep our bodies to ourselves. 3. Take three deep breathes. 4. Think of a solution to fix how we are feeling. *This strategy will be worked on all year long!*

Reminder: Please complete and return the "My Favorites" At Home Project by October 1st. I would love to start presenting them with students! Thank you for your support inside and outside of the classroom.

Behavior Management:

One behavior management tool that I use in the classroom is our positive behavior jar. When I see positive behaviors from the whole class, I put a pom-pom into our jar. Once we fill up the jar, we receive a classroom reward. This reward is decided based on whole classroom consensus. It may be a "bring your stuffed animal to class day", "pajama day", extra movement break, etc.

Upcoming Events:

1. **September 17th: Culver's Night**
2. **September 25th: Spirit Day-Backwards Day**
3. **September 26th: Picture Retake Day and 4K Curriculum Night**
4. **October 1st: Spirit Day-National Stomp Out Bullying Day-Wear Blue!**
5. **October 5th: Walkathon (PTA Event)**
6. **October 8th: PTA Meeting**
7. **October 16th and 18th: 4K Fall Conferences**

*We will also begin PALS testing in Early/Mid October! This is a K4-2nd grade literacy assessment. *