



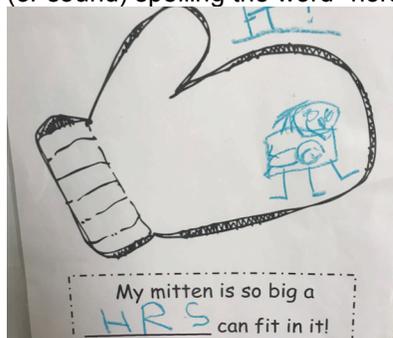
4K News

January 10, 2019

Literacy:

We are focusing on identifying beginning sounds as well continuing to practice letter sound connections. We started reading a new "It's Snowing!" poem as part of our welcome activity. Three students each day get to choose a picture word from a basket and identify its beginning sound with assistance from the class. Why do we read poetry in 4K? A wonderful reasoning, perfectly stated by Mary Jo Fresch and David Harrison, "Poetry naturally focuses little ears on the sound, rhythm, and rhyme of our language. These fundamental elements of poetry support the processes of learning to read: connecting the sounds and meanings of our language with the print on a page" (Playing With Poetry to Develop Phonemic Awareness, 2013, pg. 3).

This week, we have been reading The Mitten adapted and illustrated by Jan Brett. Students have been working on retelling with teacher assistance and sequencing the animals that went inside of the mitten. Students were able to create their own page of the story by thinking of a new object that could fit in their own mitten! See photo below. This student also practiced phonetically (or sound) spelling the word "horse"!



Math:

Students have begun exploring collecting data more in depth during whole group and small group lessons. They have completed activities that require the child to count and graph a specific group of objects on a simple bar graph with teacher assistance (such as: counting bears and various shapes).

Collecting data leads to conversations that include comparing objects using our vocabulary terms (more, less).

I also introduced a "5 Little Snowmen Chant" sung in our welcome activity that allows students to practice counting down (and rhyming) using one to one correspondence with a variety of fun actions.

Social/Emotional:

We have been revisiting classroom expectations since coming back from Winter Break! ☺ For example: We talked about the "4K way" on the carpet (sitting criss cross apple sauce, hands to self, eyes on the teacher).

We will begin learning about The Zones of Regulation next week. I will be sending home more information this Friday, January 11th. We will be working more on identifying our own and other students' emotions, using calming tools/strategies when over excited or upset and more to support self-regulation.



Activities to Try at Home

-Try Cosmic Kids Yoga at home as a calming activity that practices following directions and moving one's body through a fun story line. Parents can choose from a variety of videos on Youtube.com.

-Practice "Take Five" Breathing: Have student spread one hand out in front of them and use their other hand to trace each finger. Starting at the bottom of the thumb, have student breathe in through the nose while tracing up and breathing out through the mouth as the child traces down a finger. Continue tracing and breathing all five fingers on spread out hand. *Students recently learned this technique!

Upcoming Events:

- January 14th: PTA Meeting
- January 28th: Culver's Night
- January 30th: Space Alien Day (Meadowbrook Spirit Day)
- February 8th: 100th Day of School (Meadowbrook Spirit Day)