

Kindergarten News-December 2011



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It is hard to believe the month of December is upon us and the festive holidays are just around the corner. -The excitement and anticipation is already building. The month of December obviously adds a lot of excitement for the Kindergarten children, and so it is very important that within the classroom we continue to reinforce our regular classroom routines.

It was wonderful to meet with parents during the Parent-Teacher interviews. Having the opportunity to discuss the progress of your child is important as we continue to move forward with your child's education journey. If you were unable to meet and would still like to discuss your child's progress please contact me and we can arrange a suitable time.

Upcoming for December:

In the area of Language, we are developing reading and writing strategies. We will be focussing on three main Reading Strategies (i.e. Does it make sense (Meaning-look at the picture), Does it sound right (Structural-"people talk or alien talk?"), Does it look right (Visual-does the word/letter match what I said?) as we guide the students through the reading process. Please remember that each child is at a different level of readiness when it comes to reading. The overall expectation of the Kindergarten Program curriculum is that *by the end of Kindergarten, children will use reading strategies that are appropriate for beginning readers in order to make sense of a variety of written materials.* The goal is to try and have each child meet or exceed this expectation by providing the children with a foundation for early reading success through Shared Reading, Guided Reading, Read Aloud, and Phonemic Awareness and Working with Words activities. We have also begun our Writer's Workshop as the children are introduced to the writing process. It is amazing to see the risks the children are taking in their attempts at writing.

The past few months the students have been developing their Reading to Learn strategies in particular Making Connections to stories we've read. As the students have been 'Activating their Schema' (i.e. things they know, prior experiences) they have turned up their 'Thinking Voices' to make 'deeper thinking connections vs. quick connections' to connect themselves, other stories, and even world events to what we have been reading together. We encourage all our Kindergarten families to read for enjoyment with your children at home as much as possible to develop their love for reading, and while you're at it you can show how you can connect to a story (e.g. "This reminds of...") and in turn ask your child how he/she can connect to the story, which will also lead to more motivation for children to want to learn to read. Also have your child identify words in their environment (e.g. Timbits, McDonald's, Dunkaroos, etc.) as this also develops their confidence in learning to read.

In the area of Mathematics, we will be developing Number Sense with concepts of using 5 and 10 as an anchor to count on and investigating number relationships and continuing with measurement.

Science and Technology-we will be activating our five bodily senses to explore and investigate the world around us. The children will also be exposed to the use of computer technology and programs during dedicated computer lab time.

Personal and Social Development-continue to promote independence with daily routines and learning to express ideas and feelings appropriately.

The Arts-developing proper use of materials and tools (e.g. scissors, paintbrushes) and following directions. Encouraging active participation in drama, movement and music activities.

Health and Physical Activity-participating actively in creative movement and other daily physical activities.

Other information and Important Dates:

9th-Gingerbread Shop. Details to follow.

20th-Kindergarten/Primary Division Holiday Concert 1:45 and 6pm

22nd/23rd-Carol Sing. Come and join the school for some carolling.

23rd-Last day of school until 2012.

Holiday Treats-on the last of school before the holidays; I will be providing the class with a special snack treat. If you wish to send in some snacks/goodies as well you are welcome to do so. **PLEASE ENSURE THAT ALL PRODUCTS ARE NUT FREE. THANKS!**

Winter Clothing-Please label all your child's belongings (hats, gloves, etc.). With all the winter clothing it gets pretty congested in our 'Cubby' area as the children get ready and things inevitably get mixed. Snow pants can always be packed separately if you wish.

Report Cards-Please return your child's report card envelope along with signed page 3 of the report if you have not already done so. Page 3 of the report will be attached to your child's report card and filed in his/her student record file.

Lightning Words-please continue practising/playing with your child their Lightning words at home. Wow, the children are noticing them everywhere.

First Day back to school 2012: Mon. Jan. 9th 2012.

I am sure that I will see many of you before the holiday break, but at this time I would like to wish everyone a very Happy Holiday and a safe and Happy New Year!!!!

Sincerely,
Mr. K. Fung



Recipe for Christmas All Year Long

Take a heap of child-like wonder
That opens up our eyes
To the unexpected gifts in life –
Each day a sweet surprise.

Mix in fond appreciation
For the people whom we know;
Like festive Christmas candles,
Each one has a special glow.

Add some giggles and some laughter,
A dash of Christmas food,
(Amazing how a piece of pie
Improves our attitude!)

Stir it all with human kindness;
Wrap it up in love and peace,
Decorate with optimism, and
Our joy will never cease.

If we use this healthy recipe,
We know we will remember
To be in the Christmas spirit,
Even when it's not December.

Wishing All Our Families a Very Happy
Holiday Season!