

OCTOBER 2011
GR. 3 --- MRS. VANDE KRAATS

Dear Parents,

It is hard to believe that September is already gone and that we have completed a month of school already. The students and I have been working really hard in all areas of the curriculum. This newsletter will fill you in on upcoming events, as well as curriculum coverage in the future.

Parent Volunteers! At this point in time I have only had two parents mention that they would like to volunteer in the classroom this year. Any extra sets of hands are greatly appreciated to work with the class as a whole or individually with certain students. I will attach a note to this newsletter for you to complete if you are interested and then I will contact you closer to the end of October to confirm starting dates. Thank you in advance!!

Agenda Signatures: For the last 2 weeks I have let the students be responsible for ensuring that their home folders and agendas are handed in daily and haven't been reminding them to do so everyday. As the 2 weeks have progressed I am seeing fewer and fewer of them daily. A sure way to know if your child is handing in their folder daily is whether or not I have stamped or initialed it. If you do not see that, you know I have not seen your child's agenda that day. I do take the time to check them every morning to be sure there are not notes, money etc. that needs to be brought to my attention. I would also ask that as parents you do the same (check and sign), as sometimes little notes are necessary for something that has happened during the day. Your help in keeping communication lines open between home and school is appreciated.

Lunches: If you have noticed your child bringing home food left over from their nutrition breaks it is probably because I have encouraged them to do so. Some of the students have indicated that they don't like something in their lunches and I have encouraged them to take it home and tell you that they don't care for it instead of throwing it out. I explained to them that if they throw it out, you will think they liked it and ate it; therefore sending it again in their lunches.

Holiday "Goodie" Schedule: Included with this newsletter is a schedule of those who sent back their form and said they would bring in "goodies" on a particular occasion. Please remember when you are providing these snacks, that all snacks that are brought in for these occasions must be nut free. Your help with this is greatly appreciated. Closer to each occasion I will send home a reminder to you about the date we would need the "goodies" on, as well as a form for you to return to tell me what you are going to send.

Evaluation Portfolios: September's evaluation portfolios have gone home and an overview of your child's accomplishments and needs are included on a form accompanying their work. This month there is not a lot of "paperwork" coming home, as we have spent a lot of time working together, completing "hands on" tasks that have been assessed through observations, establishing routines and setting expectations and goals for ourselves and others. October's portfolio will prove to be more substantial in content. Please look over the portfolio **with your child** and discuss areas of need and praise their many successes. It is important that you share this with your child so that they know what they need to work on and what they need to continue to do. The bottom portion needs to be detached and sent back to school; however the top portion is yours to keep for your own records.

Curriculum Coverage: In **Social Studies** we will be continuing our unit on Map and Globe Skills and we will beginning a new **Science** unit on 'Forces Causing Movement' near the middle of the month. Some of the overall expectations in this unit are: -assess the impact of various forces on society and the environment; -investigate devices that use forces to create controlled movement; -demonstrate and understanding of how forces cause movement and changes in movement. In **Math** we will have just begun a new unit on 'Patterning.' You should have received a specific note about this unit already. In **Language** the students will be doing more independent writing this month on various aspects of stories they have heard and various text forms. This month they will be receiving take home books to read with you at the level they are currently reading at. Please remember when reading with your child that they should be making it sound like talk (fluent) when reading (reread if necessary), looking at the pictures and beginning sounds for clues to an unknown word, instead of instantly trying to sound it out. Comprehension is also important when they are reading (being able to answer questions about what they read, retell what they read and connect parts of the story to themselves or other texts they have read). Your feedback on their reading at home is appreciated in the duotang that will accompany their take home books. Specifics on an incentive program, that I run in my classroom and with my Reading Success Group, that will accompany their take home reading program will also be explained at a later date. Weekly word work will continue in our 2nd literacy block of the day and by the end of the month the student's Word Work home activities will be sent home to complete for homework.

Things You Can Do To Help: Please read with and/or to your child nightly. Word Wall list words should be practised during each week in order for the students to use them accurately in their everyday writing activities. Patterning activities connected to repeating, growing and shrinking patterns, not involving numbers, would reinforce concepts being studied in our math unit. Lastly, give lots of praise to your child for the effort they put forth when doing any of these activities. If you have any concerns about any areas that are covered please drop me a note in the agenda or drop me an email. Thank you for your support in these areas!!

Holiday “Goodie” Schedule

The list below is of the parents who volunteered to bring in treats for our special holidays. I have tried to accommodate everyone’s preferences when they sent in their sheets; however there were some spots left empty and I needed to do some adjusting. If a certain time really conflicts with your availability please let me know. Prior to these holidays I will be sending home a note to remind you of the special event and asking you what you might be sending in.

Halloween

***drinks** **Noah**
***healthy** **Kylee**
***treats** **Jacob**

Christmas

***drinks** **Briar**
***healthy** **Sean**
***treats** **Zander**

Valentines

***drinks** **Julia**
***healthy** **Abby**
***treats** **Eve**

Easter

***drinks** **Kendra**
***healthy** **Braedyn**
***treats** **Seth**

End of the School Year

***drinks** **Quintin**
***healthy** **Ashley**
***treats** **Cameron**
***treats** **Troy**

Parent Volunteers

*Some of the tasks you will be asked to do are: read with the children in a group or one to one basis, practise word family and word wall word cards, count with the children, play games based on math concepts or language concepts, review math facts and much more. If you would like to volunteer please fill out the form below and return it as soon as possible. Extra hands are always appreciated, however if I know exactly when you are coming it is easier for me to prepare things for you to do. **I will contact you in late October as to an exact starting date.**

I _____ would like to come in and volunteer in the classroom on
(name)

_____ in the _____.
(day of the week) (morning/afternoon)

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Curriculum Coverage: In **Social Studies** we will be continuing our unit on Map and Globe Skills and we will beginning a new **Science** unit on 'Properties of Liquids and Solid' near the middle of the month. Some of the overall expectations in this unit are: -assess ways in which the uses of liquids and solids can have an impact on society and the environment; -investigate the properties of and interactions among liquids and solids; - demonstrate an understanding of the properties of liquids and solids. In **Math** we will have just begun a new unit on 'Patterning.' You should have received a specific note about this unit already. In **Language** the students will be doing more independent writing this month on various aspects of stories they have heard and various text forms. This month they will be receiving take home books to read with you at the level they are currently reading at. Please remember when reading with your child that they should be making it sound like talk (fluent) when reading (reread if necessary), looking at the pictures and beginning sounds for clues to an unknown word, instead of instantly trying to sound it out. Comprehension is also important when they are reading (being able to answer questions about what they read, retell what they read and connect parts of the story to themselves or other texts they have read). Your feedback on their reading at home is appreciated in the duotang that will accompany their take home books. Specifics on an incentive program, that I run in my classroom and with my Reading Success Group, that will accompany their take home reading program will also be explained at a later date. Weekly word work will continue in our 2nd literacy block of the day and by the end of the month the student's Word Work home activities will be sent home to complete for homework.

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