



Kindergarten News

Dear Kindergarten Families,

Along with the groundhog, we are really looking forward to the arrival of spring! We are anxious to shed those winter coats once and for all and to enjoy the lengthening days of sunlight that are ahead.

We want to thank all of you who have contributed your time and items for our Valentine's parties and our 100th day celebration.

We will begin our Castles and Characters unit this month. It's always a popular one with the children, as well as with the teachers. If you happen to be in school, be sure to peek at the "Royal Hall", and the "Queen's Kitchen" that have taken the place of the Mexican restaurants. We will culminate this unit with a Royal Feast on Friday, March 30.



The children may dress as a king, queen, prince, princess, knight, jester, dragon, guard (no weapons please) or a servant on this day. Costumes must be brought to school in a bag. Do not feel that you need to buy a costume. We have some items that a few children can wear from our Imagination centers. (Also, you could get a crown from Burger King.) You will be called or e-mailed to contribute to our Feast if you have not been able to help with any of our other celebrations. Anyone may attend. Extra helping hands are always welcome! The celebration will begin at 2:05.

Writer's Suitcase

The Writer's Suitcase has been going home for a few weeks now. We have enjoyed the books that the children have made. They are displayed in our hallway with the "author's" picture. Please take a look if you are in the school.

Please be sure to return the suitcase on the date that is written on the page of directions. We want to be sure that all of the children will have a chance to use the suitcase this year.



Yellow Springs ES

March 2012

Special points of interest:

- ☺ March Parent Conferences
March 1-evening March 2—afternoon
- ☺ March 2 Dress up as a Storybook Character
- ☺ March 9 Book Orders due
- ☺ March 23 2 hr. early dismissal
- ☺ March 26 No School
- ☺ March 30 Castle Feast

Skills We Are Learning



- *Addition
- *Consonant Blends
- *Subtraction
- *Short Vowel Word Chunks
- *Writing
- *Retelling stories
- *Word Fluency
- *Number Recognition to 50
- * Composing & Decomposing Numbers

We are continuing to work on addition and subtraction up to 10. When practicing at home, please remember to allow your child to use objects to solve the problems. (Fingers are OK!.) We are teaching them the +1 strategy and the +2 strategy. This just means how to get the answer when you are adding one (the next number in sequence) and adding two (count ahead 2 more in the sequence). We are counting by 2s, 5s and 10s. We have also been focusing on recognizing numbers up to 31 out of order. Some children have mastered this, but a few have not. They should also be counting objects at least to 31. Now, we will move on to counting, writing and recognizing numbers up to 50. Composing and decomposing numbers means that we work to think of combinations (both addition and subtraction) of numbers to equal a target number. For example: Target Number 10 could be 3+7, 5+5, 10-5, 9+1, 20-10, 2+2+2+2+2, etc. This is a fun activity to do at home. Doing it with concrete objects makes it more meaningful.

In Language Arts, we are working in our reading groups every day. We are still using beginning, ending and medial sounds (vowels) to help us learn new words. We will also be listening for and sounding out words with consonant blends. These are: R- blends: br, cr, dr, fr, gr, tr. L-blends: bl, cl, fl, gl, pl and S-blends: sc (sk), sl, sm, sn, sp, st sw . We are also working on fluency in reading and on comprehension. During the Castles unit, we will use many fairytales to work on sequencing stories which helps with comprehension. We have Writer's Workshop 4 times a week and we are learning to spell many words in addition to writing some words the "inventive spelling way". ("dg" for "dog") We are trying to write 2—3 (or more) sentences every day. You should be impressed with how the children have been writing to inform. They have been creating graphic organizers to guide their writing on a variety of factual topics. WOW! Our next writing project will be for them to make a "How-To Book". Watch for these to come home and prepare to be "WOWed" again!

Special Events

On March 1 and 2, are the spring conferences. These are optional. The forms have already been sent home, but you may still request a conference if you desire to have one. Kindergarten registration for next year will be held during the hours of conferences here at school. Please spread the word to your neighbors. To register, parents need to bring the child's proof of birth, social security number, and a proof of residency (recent utility bill will work).

Sincerely,

The Kindergarten Teachers
