

KINDERGARTEN NEWSLETTER

St. Mary's School

September 5-9



This week's lessons and activities helped us to get to know a little bit about each other, and to acquaint the children with their classmates and classroom.

Welcome 20011-12 Kindergarten students and parents. I'm so glad to have had the chance to greet and meet you before and after school. I look forward to seeing you on Open House night in a few weeks. It looks like we are going to have a fun-filled year. For the past week, we have been working on getting acquainted with new routines and skills. We have started our first mini unit entitled, "All About Me". This wonderful theme helps the children realize how unique and special they are.

We revisited the story, "The Kissing Hand." The children finished the two day project by applying heart-shaped stickers to their handprints. They were also asked to put the events, depicted in the story, in chronological order. The projects are adorning our hallway.

The students completed a skill sheet where they had to fill in the capital and lowercase letters that were missing in *Alphie the Alphabet Worm*. Great job!

The children were introduced to their new handwriting program- **Zaner-Bloser Handwriting**. The goal of the

program is to teach the children to write legibly. The children will use lines and curves as basic strokes to write letters and numbers. When writing, the students learned that all letters are formed by starting at the top. Page five of this newsletter shows the proper way of forming letters and numbers. Please encourage your child, as they write, to follow these basic strokes for forming letters and numbers correctly.

This week in handwriting, the children...

- used Play-Doh to form letters they know. (kinesthetic)
- identified which hand they write with.
- explored the proper way to sit when writing. They also learned the position of the paper, and the position of the pencil when writing.
- used basic stroke pieces (manipulatives) to explore vertical lines used in writing.

The class enjoyed playing a game of *Alphabet Bingo*.



Your child's first homework assignment is to practice writing their name. I have sent home a



work page to practice this skill. Please encourage them to start their letters in the proper position (indicated by a yellow dot) and to use the proper strokes to form the letters.

The children started to work in their new religion workbooks. They were introduced to the characters in our religion program, *The Faith First Kids*. The first lesson also helped them to learn more about the children in our kindergarten class.



The children were introduced to the "Sign of the Cross". When we make the "Sign of the Cross", we give praise to the three Persons of the Blessed Trinity. After going over some concepts about Faith, the children cut four picture cards depicting the "Sign of the Cross", and placed them in sequential order.

The students completed a lesson entitled, "We See God in the World Around Us- Creation." The objectives included:

- We call God the Creator because He made the world and everything in it from nothing.
- We love, praise and thank God for the wonderful world He has given us.

The children completed a page where they had to find and color the hidden pictures of objects God created.

We started our first mini unit called "All About Me". The children were read "We Are All Alike... We Are All

Different". This beautiful book was written and illustrated by the Cheltenham Elementary School Kindergartners. It helps a child to explore similarities and differences, and also understand the wide range of diversity in our society. Afterwards, we designed the cover and completed the first few pages of our "All About Me" books. This book will contain a collection of your child's personal thoughts and other small projects that reflect how unique he/she is.

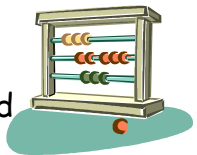


In our social studies program, the children started with Unit 1 Opener- "Looking at Your World". They were asked to look at a variety of pictures in the big class book and tell the following:

- What are some of the places you see in the photos?
- What types of growing things do you see in the photos?
- Which photo shows something moving across the land?
- What are some of the people doing in the photographs?

This year the children will be learning about land, water, plants and animals. They will also learn about ways in which people live and work in nature.

We worked on some basic skills in math. The children completed a skill sheet where they had to identify and practice writing the numbers 0-10.



The children used the class Promethean Board to graph the number of girls and boys in our class.

In math, the children started chapter 1- *Sorting and Classifying*. I assessed their prior knowledge of sorting and classifying by asking the children to place on a work mat some Attribute Links that belong together and tell why they belong together.

Afterwards, the children recorded their answers by drawing the Attribute Links. The students also completed the introductory pages in their workbooks.

For science, we explored the concepts of day and night. The students had to cut sentence strips, sort them and paste them on their record sheets.

ODDS AND ENDS

Some of Our Favorite Songs...

We're All Here Today

(sung to the tune of The Farmer In the Dell)

We're all here today
We're all here today
Let's all give a great big cheer
We're all here today
Hip! Hip! Hooray!

Good Morning to You

Good morning to you
Good morning to you
We're all in our places
With sun-shining faces
And this is the way
To start off our day



Hello

Hello, Hello
Hello and how are you?
I'm fine, I'm fine
I hope that you are too.

Child's Prayer for Morning

Now, before I run to play,
Let me not forget to pray
To God who kept me through the night
And waked me with the morning light.

Help me, Lord, to love thee more
Than I ever loved before,
In my work and in my play
Be thou with me through the day.
Amen

JUST A FEW SIMPLE REMINDERS....

Students are dismissed at 2:20. We let the children out ten minutes early so that you do not have to contend with the rest of the school at their dismissal time. ***We ask that the children do not play on the school lawn, near the trees and bushes, or any mulched areas.*** Thank you for your cooperation.

Please help your child identify what they should eat for snack and what they should eat for lunch. A helpful hint is to label the items accordingly. Thanks.



Remember to send your child's "School/Home" folder to school each day. It will contain school work and

classroom notices and messages. The large, yellow envelope that contains school notices is sent home each Thursday. The envelope must be signed and returned by the following Tuesday.

Please remember that I only read & respond to school e-mail during school hours. If there are any important messages, please write a note, call me at the school's number, or make an appointment to briefly meet with me before school starts.

Open House is Tuesday, September 27th at 7:00 p.m.

Our gym day is on Mondays. Please have your child wear their gym outfit and sneakers.

Now that fall-like weather is upon us, please dress your children

accordingly. Please **label** your child's sweaters and jackets. Thank you!

Natalie celebrated her birthday on Wednesday, September 7th. We hope that she enjoyed her special day and that all her wishes came true.



We are looking for a few volunteers to help us with lunch time and lunch recess. We have lunch at 11:30 and lunch recess from 12:00-12:30.

Have a great weekend,

Mr. Worthen



How to Print Letters

A a B b C c D d

E e F f G g H h I i

J j K k L l M m N n

O o P p Q q R r

S s T t U u V v

W w X x Y y Z z