



Kindergarten News

October Edition



Meet the Superkids!

As you have seen, the name of our reading program is Meet the Superkids. I know I was not able to talk to you about our reading program on Back to School night, so let me tell you a little about the program now! The first level begins with formal phonics instruction by teaching 13 letters of the alphabet—five short vowels and eight consonants. Students learn one sound for each of the letters and how to blend the letter-sounds to read words and eventually sentences. They also learn how to write the capital and lowercase form of each letter and to encode (spell) words with the letters and sounds they've been taught. Comprehension instruction begins with lessons about read-aloud stories and then continues, starting in

the middle of the level, with lessons about short decodable stories children read themselves. Lessons for each story build background and vocabulary before reading and help guide children's comprehension as they read. Expressive writing is taught through shared writing activities and independent writing in which children dictate what they want to write or use temporary spelling. By the end of this level, students understand how written language relates to spoken language. The second half introduces the remaining letter sounds and focuses on more challenging stories and writing. It is an awesome program that the children love—and the children really learn the basics of reading!

Throughout the year, we will also be learning many sight words (we call them "memory words" because we have to



The Superkids will help us all to be great readers!

know them by memory!). Some of these will be taught within the Superkids text, but many will be learned through little readers that will go in your child's treasure box for continued practice. Memorization of these words will make 1st grade much easier!!

Weekly Homework Binders

You have had one month of our weekly homework binders. I hope you are finding them easy to do and worthwhile. Each activity that is in the binder is a review of a skill or lesson we have already learned in class, so the students should have an idea as to how to complete the activity, especially the Math Practice Sheets. As the year



A year long project!

progresses, I will be adding more "tools" to the binder pouch. These may include math or reading tools, such as memory word flash cards. Also, please remember that all little books should be put in your child's "Treasure Box" that was made in September. I would suggest that you keep all Superkid books, as they are a good way of reviewing our sounds!

Finally, I am giving the children the opportunity to participate in the Pizza Hut Book It! Program. A detailed explanation accompanies the first calendar. The one point I do want to make clear is **your monthly reading chart is also your Book It reading chart!** If you have any questions about this, please do not hesitate to ask!

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Important Dates:

- ☺ October 5th: First Mass
- ☺ October 14th: No School
- ☺ October 21st: Popcorn Day
- ☺ October 26th: Field Trip
- ☺ October 28th: No School

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0..1..2..3..4..5—we're alive!

As you have seen, we have finished our first chapter in Math, and have learned how to write and show numbers 0 to 5. We are also working on recognizing the number words for these numbers. We still have much work to do on forming these numbers correctly on the lines. Our new chapter will focus on



Counting is fun!!

greater than, less than and equal sets through 5. Our new Math series is set up to support the Common Core State Standards. Our goal this year to really understand numbers and their value. I will also be encouraging the children to really think by doing various problem solving questions throughout the

year, making them not only come up with the answer, but also be able to explain how they figured out the answer. It is a new way of looking at math, but not new ideas. The children have really done well so far. As our year progresses, the problems will get harder. Encourage your child to try to solve problems on their own. This will help them in all areas, not just math!

New month means change to Dress Code!

The fifteenth of October means that shorts, capris and sandals may not be worn to school anymore, unless Mrs. MacDonald makes an announcement due to extreme weather. Please make sure to abide by these rules. Also, as the weather is cooling, it is important to know that we do go outside in the morning, usually about 9:30 A.M. It can still be very cool then. Please make sure that you send cool weather clothing with your child, so no one is

cold while we are outside. I will let the children take off coats if it is warm while we are out there, but they cannot put anything on if they don't bring it! I also ask that you please make sure you are sending your child to school in clothing that follows the dress code, especially in

CHURCH DAY ATTIRE:

Pants, skirts, dresses and collared shirts are allowed

NO jeans, shorts, capris, crew neck shirts or spirit wear are allowed

regards to sweats or athletic wear, as this is not allowed except on dress down days. Small children do feel as if he/she did something wrong when I need to address dress code issues with them. If you ever have any questions regarding the dress code, please feel free to ask!

Our First Mass!

The Kindergarten will begin going to Mass on October 5th. Please have your child use the bathroom before coming to school—we do not use the bathroom during



Our first school Mass is November 5th—you are welcome to join us!

Mass, unless it is an emergency. For at least the first semester, the children will sit with our Kinderbuddies. These children are there to help the children

remember how to behave in church. However, the best way to learn good church behavior is regular attendance on Sunday with the family.

Who built the Ark?

In Religion, we have been learning all the good things that God gives us: welcomes, names, and stories. As part of our learning about the world around us, we will be listening to and reenacting the story of Noah's Ark! All children may bring a small stuffed animal to help us with the story on that day, which I will let you know in the near future.



Noah, Noah! Brother
Noah built the Ark!

Also, in class, we have been practicing the Sign of the Cross, the Hail Mary, and Grace Before Meals. The children are pretty confident on saying the Sign of the Cross, so much so that we have also learned the Sign of the Cross in Spanish, as per Senora Hegaman. Before conferences in November, I will

be testing the children on the Hail Mary and the Sign of the Cross in English, so any additional practice you can do at home with them would be beneficial. Now is the time to establish mealtime and nighttime prayers, if you haven't already. Let your child lead the family in these prayers, if they feel comfortable with this!

Healthy Snacks=Healthy Kids!

The snacks that we have had so far have been wonderful! I truly appreciate your efforts to adhering to a healthy snack. I have found a great website that has wonderful ideas for healthy and tasty snacks: www.healthy-kids-snacks.com. Please make sure, unless we are celebrating a birthday, that our snacks continue to be healthy



www.healthy-kids-snacks.com.

choices. Just a reminder we do have a refrigerator in the classroom, so snacks that need to be kept cold are not a problem! Thank you for your cooperation on this! **Please**

remember this is only a snack, so try to keep the portion size small.

Miscellaneous Information

- We have Show and Tell only once a week, on Friday. A slip entitled "My Treasure" will come home when it is your child's turn.
- Please try to check and empty your child's home folder daily. It can be confusing for the children if notes from the previous day are still there.
- We have library every Tuesday; if your



We're online!

child does not have his/her book returned, he/she will not be allowed to check out a new one!

- Just as an FYI, our class webpage is full of vital information for Kindergarten! Not only will it give you a glimpse into our fun times, you can also find a copy of our Newsletter and Snack Calendar.
- We are always looking for donations to our classroom. You can find these needs on the hands on our giving tree, in our classroom. No w that we

are securely in a routine, feel free to stop by before or after school!

- Thank you to all who have given me their information for the Remind app. It is a great way for me to contact you quickly with last minute info and reminders!! If want to join the app, just send me your cell number or email and I'll happily add you!

Thank you for your hard work and dedication to your child's education. We have had a wonderful start to our year together!

Mrs. Salmins :)