December 1, 2017

Dear TK Parents,

This week we continued our unit on Community Jobs and Fall.

In literacy, we reviewed the letters Mm, Aa, Ss, Tt, Ii, Nn, Ff, and Oo. We shared our toys from home that begin with one of the letters we have learned. We reviewed the sight words: see, the and learned two new sight words: you, gray. We read the emergent readers, “You Can See” and “In the Fall”. We finished learning our color words and are almost done creating our Monster Color Book. We read a nonfiction big book, Fall Season and Weather. We discussed the four seasons and how the weather changes in each season (maybe not always in Los Angeles). We learned the vocabulary words: migrate and hibernate. We read a My Big World with Clifford magazine titled, “Look at My Leaves”.

In math, we reviewed the shapes: oval, circle, triangle, square, and rectangle. We also reviewed measurements by first using a balance scale to weigh various objects. We used the sentence frames: (object 1) is heaver than (object 2) and (object 2) is lighter than (object 1). Second, we used cubes to measure the length of our hand. We also learned positional words: in, on, under, above, below, beside, in front of, behind, next to and demonstrated our knowledge of the words using a cave (“a cup”) and a bear counter.

For science, we learned about changes in matter. We observed various types of changes and saw what happened when we added different ingredients (food coloring, sand, liquid glue, packing peanut) to water and how it changed the water. We also made slime and learned that some ingredients change when mixed together. The students brought home their slime to share with you.

In social skills, we learned when and who to ask for help depends on the situation. If we need help on our work, we may ask a friend first and then an adult. If we need help with a problem, we can first try to solve the problem and then ask an adult for help. If somebody physically hurts us, we must go to an adult immediately.

We had 4th grade buddies on Tuesday. We had social skills with Mr. Rowell, technology with Mr. Rob, and music with Ms. Gonzalez on Wednesday. We had P.E. with Coach F. on Thursday and Friday. What an excellent week!

**Volunteers This Week**

Thank you Nima, Nia’s dad, for being our mystery reader on Monday.

Thank you Kimberly and Stacey for decorating the classroom with a winter theme.

Thank you Luke and Stacey for helping with the book fair.

Thank you Kimberly for helping with folders on Friday.

Thank you Nancy, Sophie’s mom, for helping with science.

**Announcements:**

1. **Homework:** 
   1. Around every holiday, every family has its own traditions. A tradition is when a thought, action, or behavior is passed on from generation to generation. For homework **due Monday, December 11th**, discuss with your child (and write it down for me) about a special tradition you do in your family and why you do it. Put it in your child’s purple folder and have your child ready to discuss it the week of December 18th.

My Example: A tradition I had growing up was around Valentine’s Day when my parents always gave my sister and me pajamas. One time, I asked them why they do this and they replied that it was because my dad’s mother gave him coffee mugs every Valentine’s Day and they wanted to keep the tradition, but with something else.

* 1. **Show and Tell:** The letter of the week is the letter Pp. Please look around your house with your child and have your child bring something **on December 7th**that begins with the letter “p” such as a pan, a plate, or a party hat. ☺.
  2. **Reading Journals:** Due on Friday, December 8th. Please have your child choose a book to respond to in the journal. Have your child label his/her drawing using inventive spelling **(Say the word, stretch the word, write the sounds heard, repeat until the word is written to the child’s satisfaction. This can be the first letter of the word or the whole word. Please do not correct your child’s spelling.)**
  3. **Reading Log**: Due on Monday, January 8th. Read for 15-20 minutes every day and color in the gingerbread man for each book read. Please put this in your child’s purple folder the night before. Extras can be found in the section: Home/School Connection on the classroom website: mrsbtk.weebly.com. (I will also send home a January Reading Log before winter break.)
  4. **Library Book:** Bring back your library book on Wednesday, December 6th. This will be our next library time.

1. **Winter Concert:** December 14th. More information to come whether parents are invited for the morning or afternoon show.
2. **TK/Kinder Holiday Party:** To be announced. There has been a time change since we have a minimum day 1 pm dismissal on December 15th.
3. **Winter Break –** No School December 18th – January 5th
4. **Activities to Do at Home: (As well as Unit 4 activities Weeks 3 and 4)**
   1. Practice sight words: red, blue, yellow, orange, green, brown, pink, purple, white, black, gray, I, the, a, am, like, to, it, is, this, here, are, my, can, see, you
   2. Practice identifying uppercase/lowercase letters and sounds: a, f, i, m, n, o, s, t.
   3. Point out letters on signs when walking outside, or labels when at a store or in the house.
   4. Play rhyming games while in the car to words such as pig, cat, red, fox, leg.
   5. Word Identification: Count the number of words in a spoken sentences. Say the first line of a nursery rhyme (for example, Mary had a little lamb.) Then, using your fingers, count the words together.
   6. Beginning Sounds: Play, “I spy something that begins with (the letter sound).”
   7. Shapes, Sizes, Colors: Identify shapes and sizes. Build structures using blocks or old boxes. Discuss the need to build a strong base. Ask your child which shapes stack easily and why. Play “I spy”, looking for different shapes and colors. “I spy something that is round.” “I spy something that is rectangular.” Go on a “shape hunt”. Have your child look for as many circles, squares, triangles and rectangles as he or she can find in the home or outside.
   8. Pattern Activities: Look for patterns in storybooks and songs. Create patterns using your body. Clap and stomp your foot in a particular sequence (clap, clap, stomp), have your child repeat the same sequence then create variations of the pattern together. Hunt for patterns around your house and your neighborhood (clothing, wallpaper, tiles, toys, flowers, fences). Use household items to create and extend patterns. Lay down a row of spoons pointing in different directions in a particular pattern (up, up, down, up, up, down) and ask your child to extend the pattern.
   9. Understanding Counting and Cardinality: Collect leaves outside and then sort and count them. Play any type of dice games. Count how many jumps you can do or how many seconds you can balance on one leg. Put objects into groups to count and compare how many are in each group (shoes, forks and spoons, etc.). Help set the table for dinner. Count the things needed for each person. Count items in the house such as pairs of socks in a drawer, bowls in a cupboard, and/or spoons in the silverware drawer. Play dice games and board games such as Chutes and Ladders.
5. **Scholastic Reading:** December book orders are due on December 8th. If you would like to order, please go online to <https://clubs2.scholastic.com/> and enter our Class Activation Code: NTZNM. Hopefully they will come before winter break.

Feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns via email benyaminy@westhollywoodelementary.net

Sincerely,

Mrs. Benyaminy