

Winter Forecast

Issue: 2

Fri, September 1, 2023

Important Dates to Remember

- Sept 5: Labor Day – no school
- Sept 6: Picture Day – wear uniforms please!
- Sept 7 or 8: K Parent Spalding Training
- Sept 14: Grandparents Day - see notes 2nd pg.
- Sept 21: Date with Dad 6:30-8:00 pm -see notes!
- Sept 22: Apple Day – see notes!
- Sept 28: Mother Goose Day – see notes!

September Character Virtue

Responsibility: practicing the Golden Rule; doing my part, my jobs in the groups I live and work in.

Currently in math the focus is:

Calendar concepts – seasons, months, days of week, counting up numbers on a calendar; today, yesterday, tomorrow.

Number sense – Varied ways to make and recognize numbers 1-5. Use manipulatives or things around your yard/home to show a number. Explain your thinking.

Patterning – recognizing and copying or making patterns

Left and right directions and moving across a page. Following rows across, columns down.

Concepts of same, different, similar. Identifying these with manipulatives and on worksheets. Sorting items by something that makes them the similar.

This Week's Core Knowledge Curriculum was:

- Respect: showing respect to school friends in the way I move, take turns, play, and work. Showing respect to my teachers and parents as I do my best to follow their rules and directions.
- Rhyming with Mother Goose Nursery rhymes.
- Summer: It's Summertime! Goode.
- Five Senses: Using Your Five Senses, Rissman. My Five Senses, Alik.

Next Week's

"What's in the Bag?"

None – starts week of Sept 12th

K Parent Spalding Trainings

Thurs 9/7/23: 6-7 PM or

Fri 9/8/22: 8:30-9:30 AM

Bring your Spalding phonogram cards!

Spalding – Language Arts

Phonograms introduced, written and sound: We will learn one phonogram per school day (oral sounds and how to write it): O, C, a, d, g. Clock letters all start at 2 o'clock and go up around the clock to the left, then finish with any lines.

Daily focuses: Recognizing the beginning sound in a word; thinking of other words with the same beginning sound. Identifying letter names until we are **fluent** in random identification of both upper and lowercase letters. Other skill focuses include clapping or drumming syllables in words; counting words in sentences; identifying rhyme; using phonogram sounds that are known to build easy words. We do LOTS of building knowledge of sounds that letters make and how they work together to make words. Practicing rhyme through books and stories will be done through the year. Rhyme is a skill that is not mastered by some until end of year, so just keep introducing it.

Home Focuses: **Read rhyme books and be silly with rhymes; look for alphabet letters in print all around you and see how fast you/your child can name the letters; play beginning sounds games with items in your home; practice following oral directions with games that include use of colors, shapes, letter names, numbers. Learning to listen and do is key in kindergarten. Give 1-3 step directions in varied activities, play games with following directions. Work on knowledge of these positions using their hands/bodies, on paper or in books, or using toys – above, below, behind, in front of, after, before, on top of, under. Front, middle, back, top, middle, bottom, LEFT, RIGHT (including looking for rows going across left to right or columns going up and down.)**

Parent Notes/Reminders

Upcoming Kindergarten Events – Details to help you out!

Grandparents Day: Thursday, Sept 14th. This event is for Grandparents only or ‘adopted grandparents.’ Normal uniform dress please. Our kindergarten classes will be presenting three short songs/poems to the grandparents in the all-school assembly. MORE DETAILS will come from the office and all school emails.

Apple Day: Wednesday, Sept 20th. Normal school day EXCEPT each child should bring in their FAVORITE kind of apple to enjoy – please send it in WHOLE as we will be nature artists and draw it. We also do some activities that tie in to our FIVE SENSES and Johnny Applesseed.

Date with Dad: Thursday, Sept 21st from 6:30-8:00 pm. Both of Mrs. Winter’s AM and PM classes together – Dads are invited to come with their kindergartner (no siblings please) to enjoy games and getting to know each other. Mr. Winter helps me lead this and it is our hope to build bonds for you with other TCA dads and with your child as you start out kindergarten together. Come ready to play games and have fun in our Central school gym and on the field.

Mother Goose Day: Thursday, Sept 28th. Please choose a Mother Goose Nursery rhyme with your child and have them memorize it to the point of being comfortable reciting it in front of peers and parents. (I can help them if they freeze up!) I will be sending a list of ones we cover in more depth at school – but they are not limited to these! Your child can dress up on this day in something that represents their Nursery Rhyme – as fancy or simple as you and they want. 😊 Parents – YOU are invited to join us for the day – more details following. Please JUST parents, no siblings and no extra guests. Thanks! We will have Mother Goose visiting us.

- ✚ **Tuesdays** are gym shoe days (CLOSED TOE, NOT SLIPPERY), and shorts/pants/skorts work best.
- ✚ **Birthdays:** Each child will get a birthday day at school. We will work together to plan the closest day to their actual birthday. If it falls on an actual day of school, assume that we will celebrate it that day. You are welcome to send in a treat to share during snack time, or if your child wants to share something else, that is also fine. Please remember to send in any recipes 1 day ahead for our nurse to check AND no nuts, please.
- ✚ Check take-home folders each day after school and be sure folders get put back in backpacks. **Any math worksheets that come home blank or unfinished are NOT homework – just additional practice.** If your child misses school for more than two days, I will send home items missed with notes on worksheets with ideas of how to teach the concept at home or items to practice. I can also email you ideas to use. Often, we can catch up if only one-two days are missed. If you are doing make up work from days missed, please return any math or literacy items done at home for me to check.
- ✚ **Math:** All concepts of math are better practiced with manipulatives and physical connections (ex: jump the number of jumps while practicing what number 5 looks like, or hold up fingers to show five, or build a tower of 5 Legos.) We will teach number writing specifically and I will send home the rhymes we use to help build correct directionality.
- ✚ **Phonogram practice:** Please only practice the phonograms I have introduced. They should practice the sounds several times a week with you, carefully saying each sound that a phonogram makes in the order

listed on the back of the card. I use my hand to direct, so they make each sound distinctly. For writing – each phonogram is taught only as a lowercase for now. This is because the majority of letters we write are lowercase. We will teach capital formation later in the year. For now, you don't need to practice the writing of the phonograms as we are still building correct directionality and formation here. You can 'air write' with their finger in their air or sensory write in sand/shaving cream/etc. as you say sounds **as long as you are following the correct formation**. Once a phonogram is learned well, they will be asked to write it correctly in their name the way we learned it – so you can practice names looking like a capital first letter and all lowercase after.

- All letters that are round are taught by way of a clock. We teach them that for short clock letters they find the midpoint (dotted middle line), then they move two baby jumps down to where 2 o'clock would be on a clock, then they go up and around (to the LEFT) the clock to touch the midpoint, come down to sit on the baseline, then come back up to close (letter o), or leave a cookie with a bite out of it (letter c) or pull a straight line down after they close (letter a.)
- IF writing for practice, please do NOT let your child write tons of 'tries' incorrectly. It is more helpful to practice one correctly with you and then try 1 or 2 more with you watching for formation while saying the sounds as they write. Muscle memory is huge so we don't want them to practice incorrectly. Pairing saying, hearing, writing together really builds memory of both formation and sounds.
- All phonogram writing papers will have colored models written by a teacher, as needed. We will always put corrections or models in a different color than regular pencil. For now, we are giving more encouragement by way of 'stars' or 'smileys' but soon we will get them to a place where they look for their best work to star. Eventually stars will go away, and they will always be looking to check their work and see how they can improve or keep it consistent.