December 8, 2017

Dear TK Parents,

This week we continued our unit on Community Jobs and Fall and began our Gingerbread Man theme.

In literacy, we reviewed the letters Mm, Aa, Ss, Tt, Ii, Nn, Ff, Oo, and learned the letter Pp. We shared our toys from home that begin with the letter Pp. We reviewed the sight words: I, like, my to help us read a leveled reader book: Filomena’s Flip-Flops. We focused on the fiction big book, Filomena the Flip-Flop Fairy. We followed step-by-step directions to draw a pig and then labeled the picture by sounding out the letters.

In math, we reviewed the shapes we have learned. We also practiced counting using manipulatives and an egg carton, but only used 10 of the pockets. After we counted the manipulates, we figured out how many more manipulatives we would need to make 10.

For science, we read the Gingerbread Man and further explored the five senses using the gingerbread man cookies. We described how the cookie looked, tasted, felt, and smelled. We discussed how we couldn’t use the sense of hearing because the cookie couldn’t talk. Our second experiment: In the book, the gingerbread man did not want to get wet so he jumped on the fox to get across the river. We then created the experiment during science to attempt to answer the question: Why didn’t the Gingerbread Man want to get wet?

In social skills, we learned that a good listener does not only look at the speaker, but also remembers what the person has said. We practiced using this skill in conversations with our partners.

We had 4th grade buddies on Tuesday which we began making our 3-D snowflakes which will be hung up on the bulletin board when they are finished. We had library with Ms. Vargas, social skills with Mr. Rowell, technology with Mr. Rob, and music with Ms. Gonzalez on Wednesday. We did not take out any books this week and will continue taking out books after the winter break. We had P.E. with Coach F. on Thursday and Friday. We had a Dental Assembly on Thursday. We had music with Ms. Gonzalez again on Friday to continue to rehearse for our concert on December 14th. What an excellent week!

**Volunteers This Week**

Thank you Matt, Riley’s dad, for being our mystery reader on Monday.

Thank you Stacey for teaching us about St. Nick’s Day.

Thank you Kimberly for helping with folders on Friday.

Thank you Jesse, Amelia’s dad, and Parinaz, Nia’s mom, for helping with science.

**Announcements:**

1. **Homework:**
	1. **Show and Tell:** 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. **Reading Journals:** No Journals due next week.
	2. **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.)
1. **Cookie Decorating Party:** December 11th 1:30-2:30 pm. We will be decorating cookies (our PRIZE from winning the Square 1 art fundraiser). All parents are welcome and encouraged to come join in the fun! It will be happening in the Kinderyard.
2. **Winter Concert:** December 14th. I will be putting tickets in your child’s purple folder either Tuesday or Wednesday. It will be for the 8:30 am show.
3. **December 15th Early Dismissal at 1 pm.**
4. **TK Holiday Party:** Will be on December 15th from 12-1 pm. We will be having a pizza and a dance party. I am looking for volunteers to help out. Please email me if you are interested.
5. **Winter Break:** No School December 18th – January 5th
6. **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.
7. **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