November 17, 2017

Dear TK Parents,

Thank you for coming to our parent-teacher conference this week. It was insightful and a pleasure discussing your child.

This week we began our new unit (Unit 4) on Community Jobs and Fall. We also discussed Thanksgiving and giving thanks for what we have.

In literacy, we reviewed the letters Mm, Aa, Ss, Tt, Ii, Nn, Ff and began letter Oo activities. We learned many words that begin with the letter “o” and practiced writing the correct letter formation for both the uppercase and lowercase letter. We shared our toys from home that begin with the letter “o”. We reviewed the sight words: Here, is, a so that we could read an emergent reader book called, My Community. We focused on the big book, Community Helpers and discussed why each community helper is important in the community. We practiced segmenting the sounds in words. We wrote about what we are thankful for.

In math, we practiced counting objects to determine more than or fewer than. We also were introduced to geoboards in which we made shapes (triangles, rectangles, squares, circles) using geobands. We played dominoes too.

For social studies, we read books and magazines about Thanksgiving, discussed the food we eat during the holiday, and spoke about the origins of the holiday. We even re-enacted the first Thanksgiving Feast in our dramatic play area. We made a turkey footprint. We wrote the many ways we are thankful with our 4th grade buddies. We also met two community helpers, Dr. Sara, Norah’s mom, who taught us about nutrition and germs and Dr. Payam, Nia’s uncle, who taught us about teeth and orthodontics.

In social skills, we learned how to demonstrate empathy and to discuss our feelings. We also learned to and practiced how to analyze facial expressions.

We had 4th grade buddies on Tuesday and Thursday. We had social skills with Mr. Rowell who taught us about the Unthinkables and Rock Brain on Wednesday. We had technology on Wednesday. We had P.E. with Coach F. on Thursday and Friday. We celebrated Ronan’s and Norah’s birthdays on Thursday and had a great time! We had a delicious potluck Thanksgiving lunch and a fun arts and crafts turkey project on Friday. Thank you to those parents who made this activity possible. What an excellent week!

**Volunteers This Week**

Thank you Megan, Alexa’s mom, for being our mystery reader on Monday.

Thank you Kris, Griffin and Chella’s dad, for helping with technology on Wednesday.

Thank you Diane, Finn’s mom, for helping with math.

Thank you Kimberly for helping with folders on Friday.

**Announcements:**

1. **Homework:** 
   1. **Show and Tell:** This week we will be reviewing the letters that we have already learned. Please look around your house with your child and have your child bring something on **November 30th** that begins with one of these letters “a, f, i, m, n, o, s, t” ☺.
   2. **Reading Journals:** Due on Friday, December 1st. Please have your child choose a book to respond to in the journal.
   3. **Reading Log**: Due on Friday, December 1st. Read for 15-20 minutes every day. 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.
   4. **Library Book:** Bring back your library book on Wednesday, December 6th. This will be our next library time.
2. **Thanksgiving Recess:** No School November 20th-24th.
3. **Winter Concert:** December 14th. More information to come whether parents are invited for the morning or afternoon show.
4. **TK/Kinder Holiday Party:** December 15th from 1:30-2:45 pm in the lower yard. Parents are invited to come.
5. **Activities to Do at Home: (As well as Unit 4 activities Weeks 1 and 2)**
   1. Practice sight words: red, blue, yellow, orange, green, brown, pink, purple, white, black, I, the, a, am, like, to, it, is, this, here, are, my, can, see
   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.
6. **Scholastic Reading:** November book orders are due on November 29th. If you would like to order, please go online to <https://clubs2.scholastic.com/> and enter our Class Activation Code: NTZNM.

**Birthdays Next Week:**

Norah - November 23rd

Finn - November 23rd

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

Sincerely,

Mrs. Benyaminy