October 13, 2017

Dear TK Parents,

This week we ended our Friends and Family unit and began Unit 3 on Communities and Health.

In literacy, we reviewed the letters Mm and Aa and began letter Ss activities. We learned many words that begin with the letter “s” 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 “s”. We matched uppercase letters to their lowercase letters. We blended sounds to make words. We focused on the big book, Where People Live. We learned the definition of a community and discussed what makes a place a community. We discussed the difference between a town and a city, and neighborhood and neighbor. Because Halloween is coming up and spiders remind us of Halloween, we learned the nursery rhyme, “Little Miss Muffet”. We learned the sight words: green, orange, this. We reviewed the sight words, a, is.

In math, we learned to compare two piles to see which one was more or less. We learned the vocabulary: more, less, equal. We reviewed numbers 1, 2, and 3 and played games with dice and numbers.

For our science experiment of the week, we made witch’s and warlock’s brew. We mixed vinegar with soap, food coloring, and baking soda to create a “volcano”. We discussed how mixing vinegar, baking soda, and soap made a chemical reaction. The soap created the foam, and the baking soda and vinegar created the bubbles which made the foam rise to pour over the cup.

In our social skills lessons for the week, we learned about the self and self-awareness. We discussed feeling sad and scared and what we do when this happens. We also learned why rules are important. We learned that sometimes rules can be different at home than at school. We also learned that rules are everywhere and adults follow rules too.

We had 4th grade reading buddies on Tuesday. On Wednesday, we had Technology with Mr. Rob in which we began constructing K’nex bridges. We had music class with Ms. Gonzalez. We celebrated Emily’s and Amelia’s birthday on Thursday and had a great time! On Thursday and Friday, we had P.E. with Coach F. What a wonderful week!

**Volunteers This Week**

Thank you to Amelia’s grandma for being our mystery reader on Monday. It was very enjoyable! Thank you to Kimberly, Vince’s mom and Parinaz, Nia’s mom for helping with science.

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

Thank you to Punch, Beau’s mom, for helping with technology.

Thank you Kimberly for helping with folders and math.

**Announcements:**

1. **Homework:**
2. **Show and Tell:** This week’s letter is the Letter Tt. Please look around your house with your child and have your child bring something on October 19th that begins with the letter “t” such as a turtle, a train or a tree ☺.
3. **Reading Journals**: These journals in the plastic bag will be returned on Monday. The next drawing and response is due on Friday, October 20th. Please have your child choose a book to respond to in the journal. You can read the directions about how to complete this assignment pasted in the journal.
4. **Reading Log**: Read for 15-20 minutes every day. This reading log, which your child colors for each book read in the month of October and you as the parents sign, is due on Wednesday, November 1st. 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.
5. **Library Book:** Bring back your library book on Wednesday, October 18th. This is our next library time.
6. **Pick-Up on Wednesdays:** Please pick up your child at the auditorium on Wednesday afternoons. We have music class that will end at 2:45 pm. Thank you.
7. **Halloween Senses Activity:** There is still one more spaces left to sign up. It is a really fun science activity! <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0f45aeab283-halloween1>.
8. **Activities to Do at Home:**
   1. Practice sight words: I, the, a, am, red, blue, yellow, orange, green, like, to, it, is, this
   2. Practice identifying uppercase and lowercase letters: a, m, s and their sounds. Blend them together using –am word family (ham, pam, ram, Sam).
   3. 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.
   4. Beginning Sounds: Play, “I’m going on a camping trip…” Start the game by saying, “I’m going on a camping trip and I’m going to bring a dog and a dandelion. What are you going to bring?” The child should think of something that also starts with the /d/ sound. Remember, this game is all about sounds, not letters. For example, if the sound you chose is “sss” and the child says, “circus,” that would be an appropriate answer.
   5. 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.
   6. Play “I spy”, looking for different shapes and colors. “I spy something that is round.” “I spy something that is rectangular.”
   7. 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. Have your child put objects into groups to count and compare how many are in each group (shoes, forks and spoons, etc.)
   9. Have your child help you set the table for dinner. Have him or her count the things needed for each person.
   10. Count items in the house such as pairs of socks in a drawer, bowls in a cupboard, and/or spoons in the silverware drawer.
9. **Scholastic Reading:** The September books are being delivered next week. They had a shipping mishap which is why they are late. October book orders are due on October 30th. If you would like to order, please go online to <https://clubs2.scholastic.com/> and enter our Class Activation Code: NTZNM.

**Birthdays Next Week:**

None

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

Sincerely,

Mrs. Benyaminy