

Kindergarten April Newsletter

Dear Kindergarten Parents,

It is hard to believe spring has arrived! March was a busy month (as usual) with several special events.

It was a pleasure to see all the parents and students celebrate learning on Tuesday and Wednesday. Thank you for taking the time to observe your child's learning. I am so proud of the kindergarten children; they have come a long way since September! And parents, you were so much fun! I really enjoyed both nights thanks to your energetic, positive attitudes. ☺

In April we will focus on insects and spring. This is another exciting unit for the students filled with endless learning opportunities. The children will be patterning with rubber bugs and learning to add with ladybugs at the math center. The sand table will become a "virtual garden". Theme related books and puppets will provide many opportunities for language development.

Writing Focus

Through our daily message we will begin to focus more on sentences and final consonant sounds. Rather than count the words in our daily message, we will work together to count the number of sentences, focusing on capitals and periods. And now the message will have final consonants missing rather than the initial letter. This does not always transfer to their writing but serves as an introduction and is also good exposure.

Assessment for Learning

An important component of "assessment for learning" is the idea of self-assessment. As you could see during student-leds, the children assess their work based on specific criteria. They use the terms "yes" or "still learning" when assessing their work. In order to improve, one must first be aware of what needs to be worked on. I am so pleased to see that the children are now much more comfortable admitting that they may "still be learning" than when we started this process.

Home Reading Program

It is not unusual for there to be some confusion and questions with the home reading program at this time of year. The Level A readers do seem somewhat simple however unless children are reading these books independently and fluently without having heard it first, they do not move on to the next level. Here are some strategies to extend the "learning to read" process. Encourage your child to re-read fluently and with expression. Be sure that your child is tracking accurately as he/she reads. Tracking is pointing to each word as it is read. Combining this skill with reading fluently and with expression is invaluable. Have your child point out all the sight words he/she knows. Go through the book and discuss how initial consonants can help with decoding. Most kindergarten students will begin grade one at Level A/B.

Springtime reminders

As the weather warms and rain falls (hopefully no more snow!), please ensure your child is dressed appropriately for the weather. And remember, children should be able to put on any new Spring footwear independently. Please label all rubber boots. Thank you.

Birthdays!

Have a happy day!

Sara	April 12
Jacob	April 17
Aydan	April 27

Dates to Remember

April 16	Volunteer Tea
April 18	Bowling field trip to Callingwood Lanes
April 28	Michael Mitchell performance
	"Canada is for Kids" from 1-2
	A.M. K's are welcome if accompanied by a parent

Warmly,
Mrs. O'Neill