

TRANSITIONAL KINDERGARTEN NEWS

DECEMBER 2019

December's theme in TK is all about winter and holidays. If your family has a special winter holiday tradition that you would like to share with the class, please let me know. I would love to have student's share about their own celebrations.

For language arts, we will be writing winter words and making mini-books about winter.

We are practicing syllables by "clapping out" words as we say them.

We continue to have daily practice in writing numbers and letters.

In math, we are focusing on counting by 5's and 10's, teen numbers and using ten frames.

We have practiced comparing number values and using the <, > and = symbols.

In social studies, we are learning about winter holidays around the world. Through literature, we are comparing/contrasting how different people bring light into the darkest time of the year through celebration and giving to others.

In science, we are investigating the winter season, ice and water. We will review the water cycle and how weather changes happen. We will be making snowflakes, ornaments, pattern chains and many decorations for you to enjoy!

Our SEL lessons this month are focused on helping others, giving to others, and awareness of others' feelings. These amazing students are using their SEL tools daily and it has been a pleasure to observe their development as a class.

New TK Student, and Friend, Saavan Gupta

We are thrilled to have a new class member, Saavan! He is a familiar face to some of our classmates and a fabulous addition to our classroom community.

TK in the Design Lab

Last month, TK was able to spend time exploring in the Design Lab. We primarily used Rig-A-Majigs (<https://rigamajig.com/>) to design and build large creations to share as a class. I observed many innovations from new machinery, vehicles and imaginary animals. We learned how to imagine, sketch, build and share our ideas. Students were then given the challenge of designing a toy animal by using the design process. After sketching, building, sharing ideas and fine-tuning, they were able to watch as their creations came to life in the laser cutter. They assembled and decorated to finish it off.

Rainy Days

Please remember to bring extra indoor shoes on rainy days if your child wants to wear rain boots to school. If you haven't brought in an extra change of clothes, please do. Think about bringing some warmer layers in case we get wet and muddy.

Parent Volunteer Schedule

The second trimester parent volunteer sign ups are here. Please return the form included in this folder by Friday. I will make a draft of the new calendars and send out a link to them. Volunteers will start on Monday January 6th.

Cold and Flu Season is Here

It is that time of year again when the sniffles are everywhere! Please be sure to keep your child home for 24 hours after a fever or vomiting. If your child's illness prevents them from getting enough sleep or being comfortable, please allow them time at home to rest. Lice is also common this time of year, so if you see your child scratching their head, please take a closer look! They are very tricky to get rid of and can spread easily if not treated properly. More info: www.headlice.org, treatment: <http://nuvoforheadlice.com/>

Winter Pajama Party

We will have our Winter Celebration from 11-12:30 on Friday December 20.

This is a minimum day for the entire school, so all students will be dismissed at 12:30. We will enjoy a nutritious snack during our party, but not lunch that day. TK students will still be eating a snack at school, so please be sure to send them with a large snack for the day. Students are encouraged to wear their pajamas to school and to bring one favorite stuffed animal. If you are interested in helping, please contact Jaime Boyle. School will resume after the winter break on Monday, January 6th.

Reading to Your TK Student

Recently, I came across an article about the importance of reading to your children on a daily basis. Just 15 minutes each day will make a huge difference in your child's success. Please make this special time happen each day! Here are the top ten benefits of reading to your child: 1. It will build a stronger relationship with you. 2. You promote a commitment to academic excellence. 3. You will model basic speech skills. 4. You teach book handling skills and the basics of how reading works. 5. You model communication skills. 6. You encourage a mastery of language. 7. You model logical thinking skills. 8. It provides new experiences and vocabulary. 9. It enhances attention span, concentration and discipline. 10. You share the fun of reading and learning!

TK Donation Opportunities

Weekly fruit/veggies donations (online) and monthly playdough sign-ups are in the TK room.

Books from the library book faire are greatly appreciated. See Sharon LaCrosse for the list..

I am collecting the following items for our classroom: small sections of PVC pipes and connectors, large bolts and nuts, washers, pulleys, corks, small pieces of wood scraps and wooden dowels. See me if you have any of these items at home to recycle. Please do not buy anything! I want to reuse! I hope that you and your family have a wonderful holiday season. Sincerely, Mrs. Virgallito