

Transitional Kindergarten Newsletter



March 2019

What's Happening in TK in March?

Language Arts

Next week we will celebrate Dr. Seuss's birthday during Read Across America Day. We will read his wonderful stories in class and with our 4th grade buddies. This school holiday is a reminder of the importance of reading at a young age. Encouraging your child to embrace the joys of reading is one of the most important things you can do to help ensure his/her academic success, social and communication skills, healthy expression of emotions and cognitive development. Dr. Seuss understood that early reading leads to better memory, improved concentration and increased vocabulary later in life. **Please take the time to read to your child at least 15 minutes each day. Choosing a variety of texts such as poetry, non-fiction, chapter books and easy readers will benefit their literacy development.**

Science

Dinosaurs will be the main theme of science this month. We will study groups of dinosaurs (plant-eating, meat-eating, swimming and flying), what a paleontologist does, making and digging for "fossils" and enjoy many dinosaur stories (fiction and non-fiction). In this unit, we will practice sorting and classifying as well as using graphic organizers to organize dinosaur facts. Students will also learn how to draw a diagram and use scientific vocabulary words to label it.

Math

TK students are focusing on measuring this month. We are using rulers, cubes, paperclips, will be putting them in order, naming them out of order and making tens with tens and ones.

We continue to practice fluency with adding numbers up to 5 on our hands. We use dice, fingers, and 10 frames to practice this skill. Students are learning how to decompose numbers and think of creative ways to represent numbers 1-10. For example, when given a 5, students are making it with tally marks, equations ($4 + 1 = 5$, $3 + 2 = 5$), drawing dice, and pictures of the value. Beginning to write number sentences (equations) for simple word problems is also being practiced.

Social Emotional Learning and Social Thinking

Over the next few weeks, our focus is on mindfulness.

Mindfulness is a mental state achieved by focusing one's awareness on the present moment, while calmly acknowledging and accepting one's feelings, thoughts, and bodily sensations without making judgements. We will read "*Peaceful Piggy Meditation*" by Kerry Lee MacLean and "*Mindful Monkey, Happy Panda*" by Lauren Alderfer. Both books emphasize the importance of slowing down and bringing your mind back to this moment. The



idea is to bring all of your attention to whatever you are doing right now. Peaceful Piggy also talks about how sometimes it's hard when things don't go your way – how it can make you angry or sad. This book illustrates how students (and adults 😊) can find peaceful ways to relax and regroup. Mindfulness is a skill that will improve concentration in school and help develop healthy relationships. Just breathe.

Spring Conferences

Report cards will be sent home in a few weeks. Conferences are not required at this time; however, if you have any questions, concerns or you would like to set up a conference, please sign up for a 25 minute time slot:

<https://myconferencetime.com/woodside/>

I will contact you via e-mail if I would like to have a conference to discuss your child's progress. Conferences are on Wednesday, March 13 and March 20 between 1:30-4:30. These are also minimum days and students will be dismissed at 12:30. Please send them to school with a healthy snack and lunch on these days. We will still have time for our usual snack and lunch schedule.

Daylight Savings Time is Sunday March 10

Please remember to change your clocks (spring forward!) on Sunday, March 10. Time changes can be difficult for young children to get used to. Make sure that your child gets extra sleep during the next week or so, allowing them to adjust to their new sleep rhythm.

Parent Volunteers

Thank you for those who have worked in the classroom already this year. I truly appreciate all of your help and continued patience! I am still asking for volunteers to sign-up for time slots during choice time and gardening. Please e-mail me if you are interested in helping in the classroom during choice time on Monday or Thursday between 1:30-2:30 or on Wednesdays from 1-2 in the garden. Specify how often you would like to come or give me dates that work best for you. Thank you for your time helping in the classroom.

Important Dates

March 10 (2:00am) Daylight Savings Time- Clocks move ahead 1 hour

March 13 and 20 – Minimum Days – Students are dismissed at 12:30 (*Please pack snack & lunch on minimum days*)

March 8- No School for Teacher Work Day

