

The Emily Post

-A newsletter for AM Kindergarten-

The week of September 19th, 2011



Hello Kindergarten Families!

It sure feels like fall already! It's hard to believe that this will be our fourth week of school. We had a great past week learning how to choose "just-right" books, creating stories with pictures, labels, and words, and practicing our math routine.

Needed... We want to begin putting our writing pieces in our Writing Workshop Portfolios; however, we are in need of white 1-inch 3-ring binders. We currently have 12 and need 25 in total. Any help would be greatly appreciated! Thank you!

Here's what our week ahead looks like...

Phonics: This week, we will learn about three new **Alphafriends: Andy Apple, Vinny Volcanoe and Callie Cat**. Please review these letter names and their sounds with your child daily. We will also focus on word families that end in **-am** this week. Help your child generate a list for you to write down or help them write down rhyming words by themselves!

Reader's Workshop: In Reader's Workshop, we will focus on strategies we can use when we come to a tricky word in our reading. We will learn that it helps when you get your mouth ready for the first sound in the word. We'll also learn how to break words apart into smaller chunks—we'll call this "chunky monkey." Another strategy we'll use a lot this year will be to hop over the word to see if the rest of the sentence helps us understand what it could be. Finally, we will learn to look at the picture to help us figure out what the word could possibly be. We will constantly come back to these strategies everyday in our reading. Another big part of our learning this week will be to learn how to look at the beginning, middle and end of stories. This technique will help with their comprehension and ability to summarize information. Our **Snap Words** this week are "a" and "are."

Writer's Workshop: Writer's Workshop will largely focus on looking at a variety of mentor texts to see how some authors solely use pictures to tell their stories, some use a few words or labels, and some use pictures and words. We will learn how important illustrations are to a story and how they can sometimes be more important than the words. These lessons are geared at helping your child find success no matter their position in the spectrum of writing. While writing this week, we will specifically work on understanding why and how we use spaces when writing words. We will use our pointer fingers as a guide to how we should space words. We will also try to add the snap words that we have learned thus far into our stories!

Science/ Social Studies: We will learn about bus safety this week. We will learn about the "Danger Zone," how to sit appropriately on the bus, good behavior on the bus, and how to be a helper to the bus driver. We will continue learning about and observing our monarch caterpillars this week. They have been busy eating and eating some more. They are getting to be pretty big!

Math Workshop: Our fourth week of math will focus on four main ideas: developing strategies for accurately counting a set of objects by ones, sorting and classifying, carrying out a data investigation and using manipulatives, tools, and notation to show strategies and solutions. We will work on counting different sets of objects and recreating the quantity in a different way using the counting jar. We will learn how to sort and classify pattern blocks using shape, size, color, thickness, number of sides, etc. We will also begin to look at bar graphs to understand how numbers compare to one another in size.

Upcoming Events:

Thursday, October 6th: Kindergarten Family Dinner Night 5:30- 7:00 p.m.

Monday, October 17th: Barton School Picture Day

Tuesday, October 18th: Barton 101 School Session 6:00- 7:30 p.m.

Take care,

Emily Bucka

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