August 30, 2016

Dear Parents,

Until our webpage is up and running, I wanted to give you an update on some of the learning going on in KL.

Math:  We have been skip counting to 100 by 10’s.  We made bundles or groups of tens and then counted them.  Often, this takes repetition. Ask your child to explain what it means to skip count to 100 by 10’s.  Then you can ask them how many groups of ten we can make with the kids in our class.  That was our problem of the day yesterday. We are also working on making patterns in our small groups.

Reading:  So far, we have been concentrating on beginning sounds.  We have focused on letters:  Bb, Cc, Dd, Ff, Gh, Hh and Pp.  I teach phonics through literature and we also have been building on what many of the children learned through Jolly Phonics last year by reviewing the songs and rhymes.  Our books that we have read this week include:

Mr. Gumpy’s Outing by Burningham

Fly Guy series by Arnold

George and Martha by Marshall

Piggy and Gerald by Willems

Gorilla by Browne

We use these stories to share ideas about predicting the story and recounting the big events.

Handwriting:  All of the children have been taught how to write their first names properly during the last few school days.  We call this the “new way” and I encourage them to use the new way as a bridge to understanding the difference between capital and lowercase letters.

Social and Emotional: We established our classroom essential agreements. This is a more up-to-date way of approaching “rules” which can be quite negative.  You can see how the normal rules may fall under the three agreements:

Be Safe

Be Kind

Be a Learner

As we move into our first PYP Inquiry unit, we have been talking about the joy of wondering and formulating questions.  Today, we had a mystery object in a box. Through lots of questions and wonderings, we saw that the mystery object was a big, dead moth. From there, we have more questions such as:

How did it die?

What kind of moth is it?

What do moths eat?

Is it a male or female moth?

Will it keep its color?

This is our journey to learning through inquiry. Soon, we will be looking at Families and the roles we play in our communities.

I hope this gives you a glimpse into what we are doing at SCIS in KL.  The journey has just begun and it’ll be a great one.

All the Best,

Laurie