February 17, 2017

Dear Parents,

I can’t believe it was a whole week ago when we were celebrating a double wedding in KL.  The week has flown by and a lot has happened.  I would like to share some key elements of our learning so that you are able to discuss some topics with your child.

READING

We have super powers when we read!  We launched our new reading unit SUPER POWERS. Our individual book boxes are filled with books that we read during Reader’s Workshop.  These books are familiar books that you too may know.  Old favorites like *Up in the Air* or *At the Farm* and *Go-Carts* are awaiting KL hands to take them and to read them again and again!  We want to promote FLUENCY among the growing readers.  The way to do this is for them to spend 90% of the time reading texts that they are comfortable reading.  That is why you may see repeats coming home.  Every child will bring home a book (or two) to read in the evening.  This is an INDEPENDENT book.  Readers should be reading these without a lot of parental support.  Do not expect them to get every word correct.  That is a high expectation at this point in kindergarten.  Encourage them to use the POINTING POWER and to track the works with their finger.  Also encourage them to use the picture to remember the text.

The single most important way to build your child’s vocabulary is to read to them in their native tongue. This is not to say that reading to them in English is not a good idea, but we shouldn’t abandon mother tongues texts with the effort of immersing them in English.  Research supports that the growth of the mother tongue will increase the transference of native vocabulary to the additional language.

Other than reading this text each night, there is no other assigned homework.   I trust that your child is excited about reading and will usually do this on their own.  Having said that, it may be necessary for you to remind them to read their book from time to time.

MATH

We have almost come to the end of the Measurement module in math.  We will soon begin module four.  The module four letter is attached to this message.  Please take time to see what we will be learning in this module. You may have heard the word “capacity” lately.  If not, ask them what the word means to them.

UNIT OF INQUIRY

We have completed our unit on Celebrations and have begun the new unit, OUR FIVE SENSES.  There are a lot of great learning experiences planned as this unit is so very engaging and diverse.  This week we talked about the way our sense of smell keeps us connected to the world.  We hope to enjoy a field trip to Century Park later in March to explore our senses in the community. Please look for additional information concerning this field trip, soon.

ART

We have been experimenting with the pouring technique while creating acrylic abstracts.  Hopefully we will soon create one or two pieces for the SCIS Art Auction.  Today’s Friday’s art session was dedicated to learning about and drawing our own version of the Mona Lisa. Please take time to check WeChat to see our works in progress.

Have a great weekend.

Laurie