February 28, 2017

Dear Parents,

As the dust has settled from another day of action in KL, I want to take a little time to reflect on the past couple of weeks and to highlight the big events ahead. We are thankful that we have many weeks ahead to continue on our adventure as a team.

LITERACY



The Reading Workshop is continuing to be a time of growth and celebrations. Our latest unit READING SUPER POWERS has been a lot of fun. We have four powers that we activate each day and hopefully in the evening when time is spent with the day’s chosen independent reader.



* + POINTER POWER!
  + PICTURE POWER!
  + PATTERN POWER!
  + RE-READ POWER!

Ask your child to explain the powers and to demonstrate them with their small book that is brought home in the folder. Again, your child may still be a “non-conventional” reader and is not quite sure of the words on the page, but this does not mean that he or she is not becoming a better reader with practice. Please encourage these skills above and know that they are very important and not to be ignored by spending too much time on DECODING. Your child’s decoding will improve developmentally and when it’s appropriate and aligned with her or his grasp of phonemic awareness. Kindergarten is a year to bild phonemic awareness and vocabulary. It is a time for children to foster a love of reading and books, not necessarily to be able to read them independently. PLEASE encourage your child to read their folder book EVERY DAY. Support them gently and refrain from “over helping” by having the read it too much or perfectly. This may lead to them hiding the book or avoiding the activity all together.

Writing is so fun in KL. We are learning to share our personal stories by drawing pictures and some words. We share our writings with one another and learn by doing. We are thinking, drawing, writing and reading our work each day. The Writing Workshop approach in kindergarten is geared towards empowering children to write for an audience and to enjoy the process. We do not stress spelling that is inappropriate and encourage writers to use their phonemic awareness to convey their thoughts. The progress we have made is remarkable.

 MATH

We have also been using the Workshop approach in math as well. We are well into Module 4 and hopefully you had time to glance over the parent letter that I sent a couple of weeks ago. Our daily math time is begun with a mini-lesson which is linked to active engagement in our centers. We come together at the end of the workshop to share what we’ve noticed and to celebrate the day’s work.

Mathematicians share their thinking through telling stories, drawing pictures and sharing with others. You will see this happening every day KL and in our math notebooks. The children are excited to share those with you on Student-Led Conference Day.

 UNIT OF INQUIRY

Can you smell it? Hear it? See it? Feel it? Taste it? How do we interact with our world with our five senses? Our unit is off to a jumping start. We had an engaging inquiry today as we sniffed lots of interesting smells and discuss what we thought. We learned that cinnamon was a tricky one and that we have different “tastes” even with our noses.

 STUDENT-LED CONFERENCES (SLC’s)

We will have two half days on Tuesday, March 14th and Wednesday March 15th. Students will be released at 11:30. Conferences will begin at 12:30 on each day. Your child’s proposed time will be sent home on Wednesday, March 1st.

Students will be taking you through various stations to show you what they have learned and some of their daily routines. You will get a chance to see different aspects of achievements they have made this year. Unlike our first conference, this conference will not be a time for me to talk to you about your child’s progress one on one. It is a time for you to spend with your child learning about their learning! Our principal, Ms. Gale has created a guide for you to read more about what to expect on this day and how you can specifically support your child to ensure a successful celebration.

Have a great evening.

Laurie