January 17, 2017

Dear Parents,

School is off to a great start in 2017. The children settled in nicely and seem to have remembered the routines of KL. Thank you for sending them ready to learn and prepared for the rest of the school year. As you all know, we will be taking another break as of Friday, January 27th, to welcome the Year of the Rooster. We have a lot to crow about in our class!

Our reading and phonics have taken off as we are learning about word families. These basic skills are necessary to give the readers a foundation for reading. Please check the folders for books to read at home and please remind your child to return the books every day to school. Library books will also continue to come home each week. Take time to read these with your child and discuss the stories. These, unlike the folder books, will need to be read to them and not by them.

Please continue to ask your child to check their folders each day. Missing folders are unfortunate which means reading is halted in that book. Routines such as packing the folders the night before will ensure a smooth start to each day. Again, your child should be the one packing the backpack. This way, he or she knows what’s inside and is working towards becoming a more independent learner.

In math, we are investigating measurement. This week we have used all sorts of UNITS to measure lengths and heights. Today we used centimeter rulers to find more exact measurements. Vocabulary words and phrases that we have learned are “taller than” ," shorter than" and "longer than. "We are working mainly with 20 cm rulers but will be moving onto 30 cm later this week. It is not too early to talk about meters and centimeters in real life contexts of home. As a child who was raised in the USA, I too am still getting familiar with automatically thinking in metrics It is a valuable skills and will enable them to build foundations for when they are older, while exploring today. Another part of this unit and the Common Core of kindergarten is heavy and light in terms of weight. I will send a summary of the math unit in the folder today.

Our unit of inquiry continues to be CELEBRATIONS! We are inquiring about why people celebrate around the world. Our assembly presentation on February 10 will be a wedding celebration. Stay tuned for how you can support our showcase! The assembly will be held in the afternoon. I will confirm the time with you soon.

A big thank you to all of you who are following our dress code. Basically, if the clothes are not navy or light blue, it is not adhering to the SCIS uniform code. The only exceptions are over clothes such a big coats and PE shirts that some children choose to wear. Under shirts and leggings that are visible and are not school colors, are discouraged. Thank you for your understanding.

Happy Year of the Rooster and know that I am always willing and excited to meet and discuss your child’s progress- Laurie