

# Mrs. Dickens' Parent Newsletter

Dear Parents,

Our first week of kindergarten was GREAT!!! The kids are making new friends, learning the rules of the school, and are having a terrific time playing and exploring in their new classroom as well as outside in the fresh air!

I promise you that we didn't JUST play last week, even though it may have seemed like it since we didn't bring anything home. In fact, we were very very busy...working, playing, and HAVING FUN!!!

We made 5 pages for our Kindergarten Keepsakes book (which is the white binder book that I will be giving back to you at the end of the year with LOTS of your child's work saved in it ☺). They drew a self portrait, colored a picture of a little kindergartner, demonstrated their cutting and gluing abilities when cutting out 6 different shapes and gluing them onto a piece of paper, wrote all of the letters they knew, and wrote all of the numbers they knew. In May I will pull out these same 5 pages and have the children do the exact same thing on the BACK of the paper as they did on the front. I can't wait for you to see the incredible improvement they make!!!!

We started learning about the 5 different 2D shapes (circle, triangle, square, rectangle, hexagon). We studied 1 shape a day, listened to a new shape song each day, found that kind of shape in our room and in our world, ate that kind of shape snack (oreo minis, candy corn, cinnamon toast crunch, mini club crackers, and oyster crackers), and drew, read, and colored that shape page in our I Like Shapes book. Hopefully this week sometime, my high school helpers and I will use the last page of the I Like Shapes book as a test and ask each child to identify all 5 shapes. If your child knows the shape, there should be a star by it, if he/she is unable to name the shape, it should be circled. Please continue to work with your child on any shapes he/she missed. SHAPES ARE EVERYWHERE so having your child find them in our world and name them is always a fun game you can play anytime and anywhere!!! ☺ Your child will get to bring this book home soon, so be on the lookout for it and enjoy listening to him/her read it over and over again. It is their FIRST book that they made in kindergarten that they can read ALL BY THEMSELVES!!! ☺ ☺ ☺

We also spent last week getting acquainted with each other, SES, our daily routine, and our first theme unit and book Chicka Chicka Boom Boom. In this story all of the lowercase letters of the alphabet are trying to beat each other to the top of a coconut tree. Guess what happens when they all make it to the top???! This has been a great book and unit to start kindergarten with. We sang LOTS and LOTS of FUN alphabet songs and read several alphabet books!!! We cut out, glued, and assembled our own Chicka Chicka Boom Boom trees and added Alphabits for the letters and Cocoa Puffs for the coconuts. Each child was given letter stickers that they had to unscramble to spell their name. They did GREAT!!! (These are hanging in our hallway.) Since all of our names are made up of letters, we have been working hard at learning how to spell our names, write our names, and we even had tons of fun pattern painting our names with bingo daubers!! (These too are hanging in the hallway!!) We also made and ate a coconut tree using Scooby snacks as the trunk, green apple slices as the leaves, Cocoa Puffs as the coconuts, and mini Alphabet cookies as the letters!

Again, I promise you that we are NOT just playing all day, and I also promise that many many projects and papers will come home in the near future. In fact, there is going to be so much COOL stuff coming home over the next 9 months that you may even want to purchase a large tub to put all of your child's special kindergarten books, papers, and projects in so he or she may read them and look at them again and again.

I have made 2 class books so far (and am working on 2 more) that the kids are going to LOVE TO READ!!!! The first one is titled Are You My Teacher? and will help the kids learn each other's names. Our second class book, titled Chicka Chicka Boom Boom, is about our whole kindergarten class climbing up a coconut tree! Guess what happens when all of the children get up in the coconut tree???!!! I Like School is our third class book, and it goes along with a song we learned on the very first day of school and will have pictures of the kids in it from our first few days of school. I do have a fourth one that I am working on titled Friends, and it uses the kids' individual pictures to help them count and learn how to recognize numbers 1-10! The kids are going to have so much fun reading that they won't even have a clue how much they are actually learning! The first 2 class books are already uploaded to my class website at [www.mrsdickensloveskindergarten.weebly.com](http://www.mrsdickensloveskindergarten.weebly.com) in a pdf file format under the "Class Books" tab. I hope to get Friends finished and uploaded soon! ☺

**This week we have started learning the color words.** We will focus on one color word a week. The color words we teach are red, orange, yellow, green, blue, purple, black, brown, white, gray, and pink. **This week's color word is RED.** **For Show and Tell on Thursday, your child will need to BRING SOMETHING RED & WEAR SOMETHING RED.** At the end of this week your child will be expected to not only recognize the color red but to also be able to read, write, and spell the word "red". We will learn a song about the color red which is sung to the tune of "Frere Jacques". By Thursday or Friday, your child ought to be able to sing it to you. We have also been reading the Color Monsters book. (Ask your child to tell you about the color monsters.) The children will be making their own color monster book. Each week your child will bring home a different color monster page. I urge you to save these 11 color monster pages and staple them together to make a book once your child has brought all of them home. Kids LOVE to read this book!!!! Maybe you could even hang them up every week on your refrigerator- adding another each week. In 11 weeks, your refrigerator would be completely decorated with the color monsters! Having your child "read" the refrigerator every night before bed would be a ton of fun and a great review of the color words all at the same time! Who ever thought...reading the refrigerator!! ☺

**In addition to the color word a week, we will also learn a sight word a week.** Each sight word has a song/video (like the color words) and a poem. You can find all of these songs/videos/poems in your child's green folder. You can even listen to the songs/videos by scanning the QR code with your phone camera or a QR code app!! Your child will be expected to recognize, read, write, and spell each sight word by the end of the week for a total of 51 sight words by the end of the year.

**Please go over the lunch choices with your child every morning before school** and have them tell you what they are going to order for lunch that day. It just might make things go a little quicker and smoother in the morning if the kids have already thought about and know what they want to order. The first entrée listed on the menu is A, the second entrée is B, and C is always a peanut butter and jelly sandwich. They can also bring their lunch box.

**I would also appreciate your help if your child has "tie" shoes.** Please, please, please teach your child to tie his/her shoes. (Even if your child doesn't have tie shoes, it is a good fine-motor skill to learn since he or she probably WILL wear tie shoes someday.) If your child doesn't know how to do any other self-help skills, please work on those as well. Being able to tie one's own shoes, zip one's own coat, and button or snap one's pants is very beneficial to the kindergarten teacher ☺ as well as the individual child. Imagine what it's like for one person to help 20 kindergartners tie their shoes, zip their coats, and button their pants each and every day. It takes a great deal of time!!! Your help would be greatly, greatly, GREATLY appreciated! Thank you!!! I always tell my parents, "I will make you a deal. You teach your children some self-help skills, and I will teach them how to read, write, spell, add, and subtract." I think that's a good deal, don't you? ☺

SHOW AND TELL for the next several weeks will be connected with the color word. **THIS THURSDAY IS SHOW AND TELL DAY**, so, **THIS THURSDAY** please have your child bring something **RED** for **SHOW AND TELL**. (Please be sure that it fits in his or her backpack.) Please have your child practice with you what he or she is going to say for Show and Tell. I like each child to say at least 3 things about the object he/she brought. For example, if your child brings a red stuffed animal dog for Show and Tell, he or she might say something like this, "This is my dog. He is red. His name is Clifford. My grandma gave him to me for my birthday. I like to brush his fur and make him do tricks." Please encourage your child to look at you, smile, and talk in complete sentences using a nice loud **BIG** boy or girl voice that we can all hear. It is very important that your child participates in Show and Tell every week. Just think of Show and Tell as a kindergartners' homework. Along with Show and Tell on Thursdays, every Thursday is going to be "Wear the color word of the week Day". (I just call it "RED DAY") So, **THIS THURSDAY WEAR RED**.

#### **REMINDERS:**

**Tuesday: Name writing paper due** Please have your child practice writing his or her name at home on the name writing paper I sent home last week. The first letter should be capital and the rest lowercase. It doesn't have to be perfect. Just try to encourage your child to make the tall letters touch the top (sky) and bottom (ground) lines and the small letters touch the dotted (fence) and bottom (ground) lines. Any extra help you can give at home would be great.

**Thursday: \*Show and Tell - Bring something RED ☺ and WEAR something RED**

**Friday: \*Please send in your "Giving Tree" items** if you haven't already. THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU FOR DONATING ITEMS FROM THE GIVING TREE!!!! YOU ARE ALL THE BEST!!!! I MEAN IT!!!! ☺

**\*Please send in the \$5 for film developing throughout the school year** (I wrote about this in the Welcome packet you received on Meet Your Teacher day.)

**PLEASE EARN & SAVE FOR US: Box Tops and pop tabs.**

#### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Sept. 4 - No School - Labor Day**

**Sept. 14 - Grandparents' Night**

**Sept. 19 - Picture Day**

\*\*\*If you ever have any questions, please feel free to write me a note or call me anytime at work 728-2321 ext. 1146, or on my cell 433-3401.

# Have a WONDERFUL week!