

Kindergarten News

Dear Parents,

I hope that everyone enjoyed the spring break. The weather certainly cooperated and it almost made up for all that snow we had this winter. It was so nice to see the children and hear all about their vacation. There were stories about trips, bike riding and playing outside. I know there are lots of interesting ideas to write about this week.

We had a very nice visit at the South Portland Library. Tom Worley entertained the children as he read them an African folk tale. He told the children about getting a library card and encouraged them to visit the library often. I hope that everyone went to the library over vacation to get the free tote bag. The children can carry their books in their new bag.

The children enjoyed our focus on the planet Earth. The children made beautiful earth pictures using water colors. This was a fun project. I hope that you will look at them hanging in the hallway. As part of this study, I read a book about endangered animals to the children. They were fascinated by the beautiful animals from all over the globe. They were upset to think that many of the animals are endangered and a few are extinct. It was hard for them to understand that some animals are gone from our planet. We decided that we will continue to study this topic into May. We also will focus on planting seeds and learning how things grow.

We have begun a science unit called *Wood and Paper*. This is a natural extension to our unit on trees. In this unit the students will observe the properties of wood and paper and discover what happens when they are subjected to a number of tests and interactions with other materials. Students will learn that wood and paper can be recycled to create new forms of paper or wood that has new properties. The children will become aware that wood is a natural resource in our world. We will do some fun experiments using wood and paper products.

Because the children are acting very grown up these days, I want them to have the chance to be the *big kids* for a day. On Friday, May 16th we will visit the Discovery pre-school to read to the *little kids*. We will leave school

at 9:20 and return to school at 10:30. This should give us just enough time to read to the young children and make some new friends.

May is the month that kindergarten students across the district take the DRA (Developmental Reading Assessment). This exam will tell us each child's independent and instructional reading level. It also gives us the fluency and comprehension level of students. This gives teachers valuable information about students' literacy progress. I will administer this test to the children on May 14 and 15. There will be a substitute in the classroom.

In math we continue to work with combining numbers together. The children are getting use to hearing the words, *how many more* and *how many are left*. The children love to listen to story problems and work with manipulatives to determine answers. They have learned how important it is to count carefully each time.

New words on the word wall are: **when, could**

- Using different colored markers, have your child write each word in a sentence. Have them read it to you. Have other members of the family read it also.

Dates to remember

April 30- The children will go to the Merrill Auditorium to see Max and Ruby.

May 2- Mrs. Thompson will be out-professional development

May 7- early release- children dismissed at 12:30

May 14/15- DRA testing

May 16- Discovery Center

May 28- Kindergarten children visit the Children's Museum- funded by the PTA

May 30- May Pole celebration- all invited- 1:15

Have a great week.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Thompson