

Good afternoon Kinder Families!

I hope you all have had a wonderful week! This week was a turning point for us, as an entire class. I am not sure what exactly to thank for this, but starting Monday, and lasting all of the way to Friday, as a group, we ROCKED IT! Since August, we have talked a lot about teamwork. I like to use the metaphor of a basketball team- it takes every person in our class to succeed, meet our daily goals, and great teamwork is exactly what I've been seeing this week! And so much so that we filled our class marble jar (see more on this below)!!!

We have been busy this week! Here are some curricular highlights, followed by other information and reminders:

- **Math**- We have begun a supplemental addition unit that is actually geared for 1st graders, yet our students seem to really be enjoying it! We are currently learning addition strategies that will help give your kindergartener a strong and comprehensive understanding of addition and overall number sense.
- **ELA**- This week, we have wrapped up Unit 4, which has provided additional practice and developing of reading skills involving making inferences, making predictions, and making comparisons between stories to better understand texts and author's purpose. Next week, we will be starting Unit 5, Technology at Home and School.
- **Science, Arctic Animals**- With our special events this week, we have gotten a little behind! Our learning this week was focused on the harp seal. We especially enjoyed getting to watch real footage of harp seals in action, captured in Quebec, Canada!
- **Sight Words**- We added the following words to Carl, the Sight Word Caterpillar this week- *for*, *no*, *jump*, and *one*.

**Box Tops** PTO has asked teachers to remind parents in weekly newsletters of the upcoming deadline for the Box Top school-wide "competition". I did not realize, and I apologize for not mentioning this earlier, but for the class who brings in the most, they will earn an extra recess! The collection due date is Feb. 21st.

**Conferences** For those of you signed up for a conference next week, just a friendly reminder that I will not have much to share with you unless I hear otherwise from you. I am, however, greatly looking forward to touching base with you all!

**Library Books** You may have seen reminders coming home from Mrs. Welde and Mrs. Johnson regarding overdue books. Essentially, each Kinder is allowed

to have one book checked out at a time. To give a bit of flexibility for a book forgotten at home one week, the librarians allow them to check out a second book in such instance. However, they have really been staying on top of late books this year!

I spoke to Mrs. Welde about this on Monday. Her hope is to keep parents informed from the moment they are considered "overdue" in order to avoid surprises at the end of the year. Any book that is not found and returned by the end of the year becomes an additional school fee that you will be responsible for. The Kinders also receive weekly reminders from the librarians themselves, which only stresses your children out!! Please help them develop some kind of system at home; e.g., a weekly Sunday routine of putting library books into their backpacks, or having a special place at home to keep library books so they do not get mixed up with personal books. I will continue to give Friday reminders to your child, but I think many of them have a hard time remembering over the weekend. Thank you in advance!

**Marble Jar Party** They've done it again and filled up our class marble jar!!! A very exciting time! I am reaching out to you all in hopes of your help...perhaps this was a mistake on my behalf, but as I always have in the past, I took a vote of students' picks for our class celebration (they work SO hard for these silly marbles!!!), and they came up with a pizza party. Unfortunately, as I informed the class, I am not able to figure out a way to academically justify a pizza party :/ If you are able and willing, we would all SO appreciate a \$1 donation over the next few school days to help raise enough money for this party. If each child is able to donate \$1, we will have enough to purchase a large pizza, as well as the delivery cost. Thank you in advance for your consideration!

**Mathematical Mindsets** Just a few thoughts I'd like to share with you this week!

- As much as teachers may discourage "finger counting", especially as students are building number sense and addition fluency, new research informs us otherwise. Neuroscientists have discovered that finger "perception" or awareness is actually a more accurate predictor of 2nd grade success in 1st grade students than test scores!
- "Whether you believe you can or you can't, you're right." It's true! It has been found that the more belief you have in yourself, the higher your capabilities are. Just by having self-confidence, you are also more likely to take risks and try new things!!

**Snack** Please excuse me in advance for being a nag! However, I have had about a third of the class this week forget snack. I thank you so much for checking this before your child leaves in the morning!!

**Valentine's Day Party** If your child would like to bring a Valentine's in for the class, our party will be on Feb. 14th from 3-3:30pm. A friendly reminder that there is a class list on my teacher website, which is easiest to access via the Oak Hill school website. Please also keep in mind our nut-safer guidelines in case your Valentines include some sort of food item. Thank you!

**Upcoming Dates:**

- Feb. 5-6, 8- Parent-Teacher Conferences
- Feb. 9th- No School
- Feb. 13th-15th- Have a Heart Sale (8:15-8:35am)
- Feb. 14th- Valentine's Day Party (3:00-3:30pm)
- Feb. 19th- No School (President's Day)
- Feb. 20th- No School (Staff Professional Learning)
- Feb. 23rd- Daddy/Daughter Dance

**February Birthdays**

- C.J.- Feb. 9th
- Adalynn (half-birthday)- Feb. 10th
- Julianna- Feb. 14th

Have a great weekend, all! Looking forward to seeing many of you next week!

Warmly,  
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