



Kindergarten News

October 2, 2009

Forest Hills Lutheran School
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The rainy, cold season is upon us. It is important to remember to send your child with a coat to wear out to recess. The rainy season gets long for us when we have to stay inside for our recess time. If it is misting or lightly rainy, the kids will go outside to play. Keep that in mind when you are getting ready to leave for school in the mornings. We also wait outside for pick-up at the end of the day. We can huddle under the awning of the building for some protection, but a raincoat would help too!

The pumpkin patch field trip is quickly approaching and I am still in need of drivers. The permission slip went home in the Friday folder today. Please read it carefully and decide if you are able to attend as a chaperone and drive. If we don't have enough drivers, our field trip won't be possible. Thank you for your support in making this a wonderful learning opportunity for the children!

I feel truly blessed with the number of parents that have volunteered to help in the classroom. The final schedule for volunteers for October went home in the Friday folder today. I will do my best to have materials ready for prepping and material planned for parents to work with individuals or small groups. Please know that I will try to keep you busy during your time in the classroom, but also know that you may have some time to simply watch the kids working and learning.

Last week I mentioned hygiene and the spread of germs in the newsletter. Please continue to work with your children on coughing and sneezing in their elbow and keeping their hands out of their mouths. If your child runs a temperature, they must stay home from school. Please make sure they are fever free for 24 hours without any medication before returning to class. This will help prevent the spread of illness and keep us all healthy this fall and winter!

Important Notes and Reminders

- October 14 is a half day of school with dismissal at 1:00pm
- October 15 and 16 there is no school. The teachers will be away at a teacher's conference in Seaside.
- Pumpkin patch field trip to Lakeview Farms on October 22nd at 8:15. Please remember to send your child with a car seat, change of shoes, raincoat, and a bag to carry their pumpkin.

Curriculum Highlights

- **Literacy:**

Our Daily 3 is in full swing! I have started conferencing with students one on one about their writing and next week I will begin meeting with small groups. The students are actively engaged in valuable literacy learning and it is exciting to see! They are excited about what they are able to read in our morning messages and the print they can read around the room now. They realize they are READERS!!!

In your child's homework folder this week, there were several sight word worksheets. We did not get to all of those words this week, so some of them will carry over to next week. If you notice there aren't many pages in the homework folder next week, don't fret. We aren't able to get to as many words as I had planned. The words we did cover this week were at & and. Please continue to reinforce all the words that we have learned or are learning. This will help your child continue to make connections and build links for his or her long term memory. Also, if there aren't a lot of worksheets in your child's homework folder remember that reading with your child, playing games, talking about previous learning, reading through old morning messages, etc are all skills that can be considered homework.

We began our conversations and practice with our first comprehension strategy this week. We are learning about retell/summarizing a story. We start by reading a story that is familiar to us or one that we have read many times. In the beginning, this makes retelling or summarizing easier as we learn to pick out the most important pieces of information. Please practice this strategy at home with books you enjoy reading. Talk about what parts of the story are most important and talk about the other details that aren't as important to understanding the whole story.

- **Math:** We have started learning about shapes. We have been searching for shapes in our classroom. We are talking about what a square, triangle, circle, and rectangle look like. How many sides do they have? How do they look? How are a square and rectangle different? We had the opportunity to search for the different shapes in magazines this week and we created a shape collage with our clippings. We have also started our question of the day to look at graphing and talk about more and less.
- **Science:** We continued our conversations about the sun. We learned that even though the sun is far away it can still harm us. We need to wear sunscreen to keep from getting burnt and we need to drink plenty of water on hot days so we stay hydrated. We also learned that the sun warms the days even during the winter!
- **Social Studies:** With our schedule we have to alternate the weeks/days when we study science and social studies. This week we prepared for our next theme which is the fall. We create a KWL chart, which is hanging on a blue door in the classroom. A KWL chart is where we identify what we already know about the topic, what we want to know, and where we can highlight what we learned when our study is over. I integrate our units of studies across the subjects areas, so even if we are learning social studies, I try to incorporate math, science and reading when applicable.
- **Religion:** We learned about Moses this week. We talked about how he led God's people out of Egypt to the promised land of Canaan. We learned that just like God was with Moses when he was afraid, He is also with us! In the Friday folder is the Bible story lesson for the week. Your child has also created a desert background scene and a promise land scene to help them retell the story at home. I would encourage you to read the story together and use the props your child to made!