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# Kindergarten News

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**September 18, 2009**

Forest Hills Lutheran School  
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The weeks are going by so fast! We have completed our third week of school already...can you believe it? We are doing so great in school. We had our first regular week of school. We came to school 5 days and we attended all of our specials (PE, Music, Library/Lab, and Spanish). One thing that we are really working on is keeping our hands and feet to ourselves. I would love for you to encourage this at home. Rough and tumble behavior isn't suitable for school and we are having a lot of pushing, grabbing, poking, tackling, etc. going on. Please talk with your child about this and continue to encourage them to think before they act and to ask themselves if what they are about to do will have them keeping their hands to themselves...this is the way we talk about it at school.

Also, we are working hard on not tattling on others in class and worrying about what we are doing not what others are doing. I encourage the children to talk to the person they are having a problem with before running to get the teacher. We have talked about what would be an emergency situation when you would always get the teacher right away and what is not an emergency in which they can handle the conflict themselves. This is a very valuable life skill as the children learn to communicate with one another and express their needs in an effective, helpful way.

We had the chance to meet our buddy class this week. Be sure to ask your kindergartner how they enjoyed meeting their buddy. We will have the opportunity to meet with our buddy class throughout the school year. The 5th grade teacher and I will work on planning monthly activities to get the students together. This a great opportunity for the bigger kids to be role models for the younger kids and for the younger kids to look up to a big kid. It is just fun all around!! The children had a chance to get to know their buddy and they worked together to decorate each others names. They turned out great and we ate a lot of fruit loops!!!

We have had a few kids with colds and fevers lately, so we are talking about hygiene and keeping our hands clean. Please encourage your child to sneeze and cough in their elbow, since this is the way we do it at school. When we sneeze or cough in our hands we spread the germs, but with our elbow we don't touch anything! Also, we are working on not picking our nose, putting things in our mouth, etc. since this causes us to spread more germs too. We want to limit the numbers of days kiddos miss because of colds and sickness. Thanks for your help!!

## Curriculum Highlights

- **Literacy:** We are getting closer and closer to the full implementation of the Daily 3. We are doing a great job of reading to self and we have been practicing word works and learning about the materials for building words. The children are on task and actively engaged in reading and word building activities. We have learned that there are 3 ways to read a book: read the pictures, read the words, or retell the story. The children are building their stamina more and more each day!! We continue to work on letter sounds and knowledge through our shared readings, writings, sight words, etc. We have started practicing sounding out words and blending the sounds together. These are necessary steps towards becoming readers. Each morning we have a morning message that we read together. I talk with the children about what good readers do and one of the things that can be extended at home is using our reading finger. This teaches the children about tracking print and it also assists with remembering our spot while reading. I would encourage you to use this technique at home when you are reading stories and little books together. Also, we have been learning about punctuation (comma, period, exclamation mark, question mark). Try finding punctuation in your books at home. Ask your child to name the punctuation and talk about what it is used for.
- **Math:** On Friday last week, a couple of boys went to work building a giant snake of cubes. Before cleaning up, we decided to count the number of cubes. We learned about counting by tens and ones and we ended up counting 419 cubes in that giant snake! This was really fun and a practical application of our learning. We have been working on ab and aab patterns this week and we have been looking at different kinds of patterns like sound patterns or body patterns not just color patterns. We were surprised to learn that a pattern doesn't have to be with colors! Try making up some patterns of your own at home...it is fun! We also made an apple taste testing graph to go with our theme. The results are hanging the classroom.
- **Social Studies:** We have started learning about apples this week. We talked about Johnny Appleseed who's real name is Johnny Chapman. We made a picture of Johnny Appleseed with an apple print for his face. They are on display in the hallway by the coat hooks. I would encourage you to take a look; they turned out great! We also read the story Apples to Oregon about a pioneer family that brought apples and other fruit across the plains. We also made a paper apple tree which is on display in the classroom. Next week we will be making applesauce. There is a note in the Friday folder asking each family to bring in one apple by Thursday next week to contribute to our applesauce.

## Important Notes and Reminders

- Water bottles...drinks from the water fountain after recess are taking up a tremendous amount of time and it becomes a time that is difficult for us to keep our hands to ourselves as we wait our turn. I would encourage families to send a water bottle with your child each day. The bottle can sit on your child's desk and they can get drinks from it after recess, or when they are thirsty, and it can go home each day and be returned with fresh water the next day. This would be a huge help and eliminate some of the wasted time and behavior problems in class.
- If you haven't brought a paint shirt to class yet, please do so as soon as possible. We have started art projects with paint this past week. Even though we use washable materials, it is still a good idea to have a paint shirt for extra protection.