

Kinder News



October 2, 2009

Religion

This week we illustrated pictures to better understand the Prayer for Peace. The children used construction paper, scissors and glue to show the important prayer through pictures. Please look for those in the hallway next week.

The children really enjoyed bringing their stuffed animals to school.

We had a prayer service in our classroom to celebrate St. Francis.

October is the Month of the Rosary. We will introduce the rosary to the students. School wide rosary services will be held each Monday. Please refer to the Family Packet for Rosary Service times. You are more than welcome to attend these services. You may also send a rosary from home, but it is not necessary as the school does provide rosaries for every student. This would be a good time to practice the prayers of The Sign of the Cross, the Our Father, and the Hail Mary.

Reading

To coincide with our apple unit in Science, we learned about Johnny Appleseed. We talked about "tall tales" and fiction vs. non-fiction. Also, we

compared and contrasted Johnny Appleseed with St. Francis. We found that they were both kind and generous people who traveled around giving to others.

Math

This week we worked on growing patterns (ABABBABBB) and positional patterns (UP DOWN LEFT UP DOWN LEFT). These two patterns are typically challenging for kindergartners. We practiced making these patterns using simple things like people and crayons. We encourage you to practice these with your child at home. We also tried out our new Mimio board technology to play patterning games. Mimio boards are new to our kindergarten classroom this year and they allow us to access the computer through a portable notepad. The material can easily be seen by the class through a projector. We love this new interactive technology in our classrooms!

You may also have noticed that your child has become interested in tying their shoes. We are encouraging them to practice at home and school and hope that by the end of the year all kindergarten students are able to tie their own shoe. When they are able to show us this skill they will earn a *Shoe Tying Superstar* certificate. Have fun practicing with your child!

Writing

We have begun our Writer's Workshop program. We begin with a mini-lesson focusing on a concept and then time for the children to work on their own stories using the strategies introduced. We encourage the students to begin with an idea and draw their story. They are also encouraged to label

objects in the pictures or write words below. This is a great opportunity for the students to work at their own ability level.

You may notice that your child may spell things as they are heard, not as they would look in a book. We encourage this and call it our "best guess" spelling. Children usually begin writing with consonants because those sounds are more distinct than vowels. This helps children focus on the purpose of writing, communicating, and demonstrate their knowledge of letter sounds. As they learn the rules of writing, they will begin to apply them and make the transition to conventional spelling.

Science

This week we finished our apple unit. We read stories and completed activities to review the life cycle of the apple tree and learned the different stages of the apple tree during the four seasons. Next week we begin learning about fall changes. PLEASE SEND 3-4 LEAVES WITH YOUR CHILD BY TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6th! THANK YOU!!

Thanks and have a great weekend!

Mrs. Morris
Mrs. Crandell
Mrs. Howard