



October 2, 2017

Dear Parents,

We are down to a few last assessments! Yeah! We are moving forward with some new activities in the classroom.

Spirit Week

This week is Spirit Week. The students will be celebrating the Lake Shore Homecoming throughout the week. Attached to this newsletter is a second note outlining the dressing up activities planned for the week.

Monday: PJ Day (My personal favorite day).

Tuesday: Disney and Cartoon T Shirt Day

Wednesday: Wacky Wednesday (mix up the hair; crazy clothes)

Thursday: Sports Team T-Shirt Day

Friday: Blue and White Day

Students are encouraged to follow the dress code and dress up if they chose following the guidelines.

On Friday we will be following the Early Release Schedule in order to participate in a Spirit Week Assembly. The assembly will start at 2:00 p.m. in the gym. It is fun, but can be overwhelming. We will keep an eye on all of the students and may remove students to the classroom if it is too loud and/or overwhelming. This is watched and taken very seriously so that this is a positive experience and all students have the option to leave if need be. If you have further questions then please feel free to call, write, or email me.

The High School Homecoming Football Game is Friday October 6, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. at Lake Shore High School. Students wishing to attend must have an adult with them the entire time (district policy for all KMS students).

Guest Teacher

I will be out of the classroom this Thursday October 5, 2017 in order to be at a school activity with my son. Mrs. O'Keefe will be the guest teacher for the day. **I will NOT be able to respond to any voice mail messages or email this day (including late into the evening) due to the extensive activity that I am involved in).** The soonest that I can respond to email will be Friday Morning. If you need to get a message to the guest teacher or Mrs. Jasinski regarding your student then please call and speak with a staff member or leave a message in the office at 285-8800.

I will be out of the classroom on Thursday October 12, 2017 in order to be at a school activity with my daughter. Mrs. Schwartenberg will be the guest teacher for the day.

Both ladies have been in for me before and love to work with the students. Please help me by reminding your student of expected behavior. Your student will have the opportunity to earn an award at the end of each day with the guest teacher by staying on a happy face.

English Language Arts

We are starting ELA this year with letter of week. It is important skill for all of the students even those who may be working on more advanced skills such as reading sight words. It allows all of the students to review what they know and practice letter sound acquisition as well as improve their penmanship.

This week all students will be focusing on the letter A including the long sound (apron, ape, baby, cake) as well as the short A sound (animal, apple, alligator, acorn). We will also work on proper letter formation, identifying the letter in print and sorting it from other letters.

We will be making interactive letter notebooks. Much of the work we do as part of our lessons will be put into our notebooks. Those notebooks will come home at the end of school year.

We will also be using some of our ELA time to work on creating sentences whether a journal response or sequencing words to create a sentence. We will be focusing on starting our sentences with a capital, putting a finger space between each word, and ending the sentence with a period. We will discuss other punctuation marks in the future.

Math

We will finally complete remaining math assessments this week. This is a very time-consuming process, but does give me a great deal of information. I use the assessments to determine skills that students have and skills that need working on. The common theme coming through so far is that many students are demonstrating difficulty adding and subtracting numbers using touchpoints. Another common theme is that students are demonstrating difficulty telling time to the hour on analog clocks. We will be starting a unit on time in a couple of weeks.

This week we focus on learning the touchpoints on numbers 0-9. Once the students can identify the numbers in print and learn to touch the points on the numbers and count them correctly then he/she can learn to use those touchpoints to add numbers. I will be sending home a sheet that shows all of the touchpoints for each number and how to count them.

Homework: Have your student practice sliding his/her finger over the number, naming it, and then count the touchpoints. Repeat this with each number 2-3 times per night. It will make a huge difference and help your student gain number recognition skills as well be able to learn to add and eventually subtract using touchpoints.

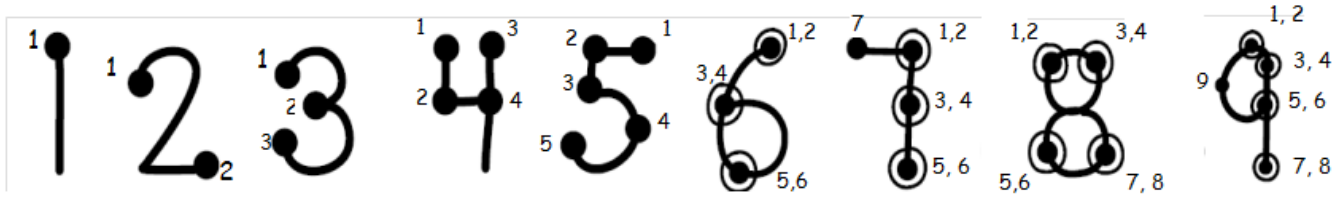
***Sign and return the homework log on Friday* indicating that your child practiced the numbers 2-3 times per night and he/she can earn extra pay for prize box shopping. I may even do a surprise raffle.**

Each touchpoint on numbers 1-5 is counted by one. Touchpoints on numbers 6-9 have two circles at each point. Each circle is counted once and allow the students to add numbers once they are able to remember how to count the touch points. The larger inside circle is counted first and the smaller, thinner circle surrounding the larger circle is counted second.

For some students, this will be a review and for others this will be brand new material. We will use this week and next week to review how to count touchpoints as well as practice adding simple problems using Touchpoints. In a few weeks we will also review how to use manipulatives

to solve addition problems. Eventually we will be including adding numbers with a calculator to check our answers. This will allow students that opportunity to develop a variety of math skills. Memorizing math facts will be difficult for many students, but knowing how to perform a skill because he/she has been taught various strategies to perform said skill will increase success and retention.

Touch Points



Skillstreaming

Mrs. Glombowski, our social worker, and Mrs. Nichols, our speech and language teacher, began their social skills lesson last Monday. Last week started with an introduction to Social Skills including what they are, who they are used with and why they are important. Once this introduction was completed with the students then they had to color their names printed in bubble letters in order to glue them on the cover of their Skillstreaming Notebook. The notebooks will come home at the end of the school year. Attached to this newsletter is a copy of the introductory worksheet from last week.

Skillstreaming lessons will take place each Monday from 2:30 – 3:00 p.m. unless something comes up and Mrs. Glombowski and Mrs. Nichols are unable to make it to the lesson.

Remind

If you have not had the opportunity to sign up for Remind text messaging services you still can. ***You can sign up by texting @6fa2ea6 to the number 81010 and you will be added to my class list.*** I use this service to keep you informed of upcoming activities, reminders of early release dates, and other quick messages. I know that families who have signed up in the past appreciated having the service as an option to them. It can be easier than an email and paper notes. I have sent out several Remind texts so far this year. I have one scheduled for tonight at 6:00 p.m. Please look for it if you are signed up. Let me know if they are not reaching you and you have signed up for the service.

Early Release Wednesday

Our NEXT early release day is scheduled for NEXT **Wednesday October 11, 2017.** Students will be dismissed at 1:55 p.m. Please expect your student home early. I have to attend a meeting and will NOT be available after dismissal.

Open House/Curriculum Evening

Thank you to all who came to Open House. I appreciate you making the time to join me at Kennedy Middle School. Loved those cookies Nick! Thank you.

Class Website and Emailing Newsletter

The class website is up and running. The web address is: <http://moci.weebly.com> You will be able to view the weekly newsletter, monthly calendar, permission slips, classroom blog, web site links, and photos on this website. It is a continual work in progress.

Dates to Remember

October 2, 2017 – October 6, 2017.....Spirit Week...Let's have some fun!

October 2, 2017.....Not available on prep due to a meeting.
Mrs. Sloan is at a meeting after school and not available after school.

October 5, 2017.....Mrs. Sloan will be absent.

Jobs for this week

Mrs. Jasinski supervising:

Wash Dishes/Wash Laundry/Pass Newspaper/AM Messages	Austin
Pass Journals/Dry Dishes/Spray & Wipe Doorknobs/lights	Latariea
Wipe kitchen tables & counters/Make Ice Packs/wipe windows & Mirrors	Gavin
Sweeping/Shredding/Substitute Worker:	MaKayla

Mrs. Villasurda supervising:

Clean classroom tables 1-2/Shred	Nick
Shred/Clean Chairs	DeShawn
Clean classroom tables 3-4/Folding Laundry	Paige

Mrs. Karle-Sloan supervising:

Teacher Helper/Pass Papers	Paige
Shred/Fold Laundry/sweep	Thomas
Pass out Today At School/Wipe Appliances/Dust	Antoine
Clean Lockers/Trash/Empty Recycling Container	Amiyah

I am available for telephone conferences before school, 8:15 a.m. – 8:28 a.m. (except for the third Tuesday of the Month), during my conference period: 11:45 a.m. – 12:20 p.m., and after school 3:40 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. (all of these times are approximate). The classroom telephone number is 586-285-8858. You can also contact me via email. My email address is kkarle-sloan@lsp.org.

Please remember to call the **Kennedy Middle School Office** if your young adult will be absent from school so your young adult's absence is marked as excused. If you do not call in the absence then it will be recorded as unexcused. **The telephone number for the main office at Kennedy is 586-285-8802. Please remember to call your bus compound.**