



October 23, 2017

Dear Parents,

Friendship Circle

A big “Thank You” to all of the families for all your help in preparing your students to go on our first trip to Friendship Circle. I appreciate you making sure that your student had a lunch, was at school on time, and was ready for a great day. I hope all of you were able to open and see the pictures I sent home via email. Our next trip is scheduled for November 28. The researchers will be there collecting data on our first trip.

Parent Teacher Conferences

Tomorrow you will receive your signed conference form that you returned to me as your reminder for our meeting on Thursday. Conferences are scheduled for this Thursday October 26, 2017. **Students will be dismissed at 11:40 a.m. on Thursday. Conferences will be held in the classroom.** Most conferences are back to back so your timeliness is most appreciated. If you did not schedule a conference and decide you would like one then please contact me so that I can schedule you in an open time slot.

English Language Arts

Letter and Word Work: We will focus on the letter Cc again this week. We will put more of an emphasis on the soft c sound which is an /s/ sound such as in center, city, cents, cereal, and celery. We will also work on proper letter formation, identifying the letter in print and sorting it from other letters. Additionally, we will spiral review our long a and short a sound and b this 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 the students to review what they know and practice letter sound acquisition as well as improve their penmanship.

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.

Students are also currently working on reading a variety of sight words and common words including days of the week, months of the year, and color words. One small group of students will be working with me on one word per week.

Reading: We have been working on reading informational text using context clues including word recognition of sight words, days of the week, color words, months of the year, and vocabulary words relating to News-2-You. We have discussed what makes Informational Text different from Narrative Text.

Handwriting: We have been focusing on printing letters and words neatly through a variety of activities including our writing our words/letters of the week, interactive math notebooks, and in class work.

Editing/Grammar Work: We are starting to focus on writing a complete sentence to express a thought for our journals. We will focus on the concepts of sentences starting with a capital letter and ending in a punctuation mark. Currently, our focus is on ending a sentence with a period, but we will discuss question marks and exclamation points in the future. Students will learn to dictate their journal entries. Staff will write down a student's entry and then the student recopies the entry using neat handwriting and editing the writing either with or without editing marks to help them. Some students are able to edit their work without visual editing marks in their sentences while other students need the visual cues to help them edit their work. Students who are not ready to dictate their sentences can build their sentences using preselected picture symbols. Support is given to help each student express his/her thoughts fully.

Personal Information: Students have been working on memorizing and writing their personal information. Everyone is at a different level and pacing. Staff work with students individually to help improve their skill in this area.

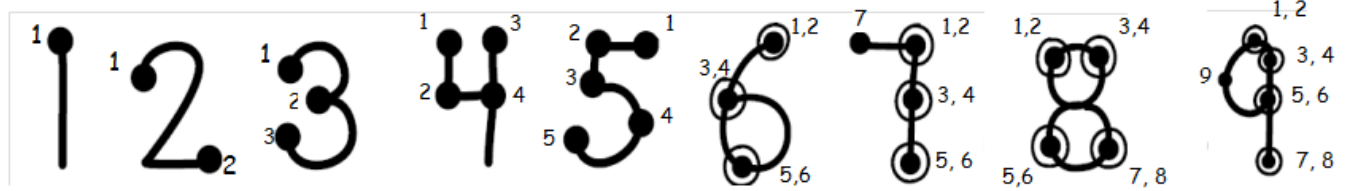
Math

This week we focus on learning the touchpoints on numbers 6-9. We were unable to get through all of the numbers that I wanted to last week with being out of the classroom for friendship circle as well as while trying to finish a few other lessons.

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.

Next week, we will begin to practice simple single digit addition using single touchpoints. Once this is secure then we will focus on adding using numbers 6-9. This skill generally takes longer to secure and requires extensive practice. 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 and strategies to perform simple addition and subtraction. 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, will be coming into the classroom on Monday October 23, 2017 to introduce a new social skill to the students. This week the focus will be on Maintaining a Conversation with others. Attached to this newsletter is a copy of the picture routine that the students will be learning and practicing in the classroom this week. The students will have a copy for their Skillstreaming/Social Skills folder that they will be bringing home at the end of the school year.

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 tomorrow night 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 **THIS Wednesday October 25, 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.

IEPTS

As IEPT dates start to approach I will be contacting you to schedule your student's IEPT. I am hoping to have all IEPTS done by the end of March as in April and May we have to give the state MI-Access test to all students and that does take up a great deal of class time as well as require a great deal time outside of the school day preparing materials to give the test and document work with the testing materials. Please expect to have your student's IEPT about a month earlier than last year (i.e. February IEPTs will be scheduled for some time in January).

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.

Wanted Empty Containers with Lids

Thank you to Gavin's mom for getting all of her friends to donate empty containers for our Pennies for Puppies Fundraiser. Our classroom, along with Mrs. Bushaw and Mrs. Reck's classrooms, will be baking dog treats for a fundraiser this week. We are raising money for a program called Pennies for Puppies. Pennies for Puppies helps to provide guide dogs for people with visual impairments. We will be collecting Pennies (dollars too) for Puppies this week and next

week. We will be baking dog treats this week and selling the dog treats at conferences. We are excited to give back to the community while working on functional academic skills including measuring, reading recipes and following the directions, and handling money.

Dates to Remember

- October 25, 2017.....Early Release Dismissal at 1:55 p.m.
- October 26, 2017.....Half Day of School: Dismissal at 11:40 a.m.
Parent Teacher Conferences
- October 31, 2017.....Hat Day for \$1.00 No Costumes
- November 7, 2017.....NO SCHOOL

Jobs for this week

Mrs. Jasinski supervising:

Wash Dishes/Wash Laundry/Pass Newspaper/AM Messages	Paige
Pass Journals/Dry Dishes/Spray & Wipe Doorknobs/lights	Antoine
Wipe kitchen tables & counters/Make Ice Packs/wipe windows & Mirrors	Amiyah

Mrs. Villasurda supervising:

Clean classroom tables 1-2/Shred	Jayce
Shred/Clean Chairs	Latariea
Clean classroom tables 3-4/Folding Laundry	Gavin

Mrs. Karle-Sloan supervising:

Teacher Helper/Pass Papers/Shred/Folding Laundry	MaKayla
Pass out Today At School/Wipe Appliances/Dust/Sweep	Nick
Clean Lockers/Trash/Empty Recycling Container/Shred	DeShawn

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.**