



October 9, 2017

Dear Parents,

Spirit Week was great fun last week. Thank you to all of the students for participating. The assembly at the end of the day on Friday was fun and LOUD! I know it might have been a little overwhelming at times for some of the students, but they did very well. Everyone enjoyed the change of pace for the week.

Guest Teacher

I will be out of the classroom this Thursday October 12, 2017 in order to be at a school activity with my daughter. Mrs. Schwartzberg will be the guest teacher for the day. **I will NOT be able to respond to any voice mail messages or email this day.** 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.

Mrs. Schwartzberg is a retired teacher and has been in for me multiple times over the years. She really enjoys coming into the classroom 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.

Friendship Circle

Please remember to sign and return the attached permission slips for Friendship Circle by Friday October 13, 2017. Our first trip is next Tuesday October 17, 2017. Students will need to bring a bagged cold lunch with a drink and utensils. There is no refrigeration or heating of food. Sandwiches always seem to work out best.

I will be confirming our lesson for next week with Nancy the coordinator at Life Town this week. I expect that the students will be engaged in the introductory lesson to the village. Staff will walk the small groups through the village and allow them opportunities to experience the various activities. I know returning students are looking forward to the trip and new students will enjoy their first trip.

English Language Arts

Letter and Word Work: We will focus on the letter Bb 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.

This week all students will be focusing on the letter B such as banana, baby, building. 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 sounds this week.

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.

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 daily 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

Last week we began to focus on learning the touchpoints on the numbers 0-9. By helping complete the assigned homework last week you were able to help your student begin to secure his/her understanding of touchpoints, how to touch and count them, and then be able to use that knowledge to learn to identify numbers in print as well rote count, and begin to learn to add and subtract numbers. This is a useful strategy on so many fronts. Helping your student review the touchpoints at home is greatly appreciated.

This week we focus on learning the touchpoints on numbers 4 - 6. I was a little ambitious last week hoping to get through all 9 numbers, but we had numerous people absent and the lessons took longer in class to complete. It is better to slow down and make sure each student has a solid grasp of each number and the touchpoints.

Homework: I am repeating the homework from last week for this week. It is not a one and done activity. The repeated practice and instruction will really make a difference. Thank you to the three families who completed the homework and returned the signed sheets to school. I appreciate your efforts very much.

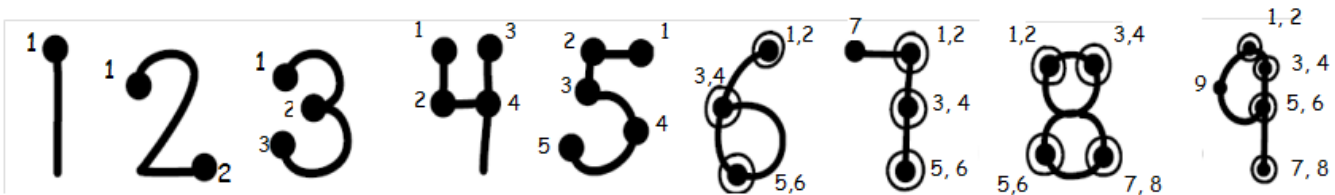
Directions for the homework: Have your student practice sliding his/her finger over the number, naming it, and then count the touchpoints. Repeat this with each number 2-3 times per night.

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 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 9, 2017 to introduce a new social skill to the students. This week the focus will be on how to Introduce yourself to 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 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.

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

Our classroom, along with Mrs. Bushaw and Mrs. Reck's classrooms, will be baking dog treats for a fundraiser. 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 are in need of empty sour cream, butter, cottage cheese containers with lids. Any that you can donate as quickly as possible would be most appreciated. We will be collecting Pennies (dollars too) for Puppies near the end of the month. We will be baking and selling 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 10, 2017.....Not available on prep due to an IEPT meeting.
- October 11, 2017.....Mrs. Sloan is not available on my prep due to an IEPT meeting.
- October 12, 2017.....Mrs. Sloan will be absent.
- October 17, 2017.....First Trip to Friendship Circle

Jobs for this week

Mrs. Jasinski supervising:

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

Mrs. Villasurda supervising:

Clean classroom tables 1-2/Shred	Gavin
Shred/Clean Chairs	MaKayla
Clean classroom tables 3-4/Folding Laundry	Nick

Mrs. Karle-Sloan supervising:

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

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.**

Kyrstyn Karle-Sloan

Judy Jasinski

Jennifer Villasurda