

February 20, 2018

Dear Parents,

I hope that everyone was able to enjoy the mid-winter break. It was nice to have two days off to take care of personal things as well as be with my children. This time of year can feel like a long stretch up until our break in April, but we have Friendship Circle as well as an additional field trip scheduled for March (more information to come).

I am sending home another copy of the school/district calendar for the remainder of the year. It does not include things specific to our classroom. Please keep an eye out for that updated March calendar next week.

Tomorrow, Wednesday February 21, 2018, I will be out of the classroom starting at 11:45 a.m. through the remainder of the day in order to attend a training at another building. There will be an assigned teacher placed in the classroom. I will be gone for lunch, grooming, cleaning, journal, and preparing to go home. Please remember that tomorrow is an early release day. Students will be dismissed promptly at 1:55 p.m.

English Language Arts

Our Valentine's Day Card writing activity went very well. It was so nice to see the effort that students put into writing their cards. I LOVED how we saw students select different words from the picture word bank for each of the students.

This week we will return to letter and word work for the students. It will be a short but busy week.

Letter of the Week: Jj. All students will review writing capital and lower case Jj. All students will review the letter sound for Jj. Targeted instruction will be provided to specific students to help secure letter sound, writing, and identification.

Pre-Primer Sight Word of the Week: Go. Targeted instruction to specific groups of students will include writing "Go" "go" as well as identifying it in print and reading sentences.

First Grade Sight Word of the Week: Ask. Targeted instruction to specific groups of students will include writing "Ask" "ask" as well as identifying it in print and reading sentences.

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.

All of the students will work on identifying the letters, sequencing the letters in their word, improving reading fluency by reading sentences or passages with their letter or word of the week in it, creating sentences including the word of the week, writing in sand and shaving cream, stamping their notebook, and rainbow writing in their notebooks. We keep copies of our fluency passages in our notebooks as well as send them home. I encourage you to read over the passages with your student.

Small group instruction will take place with Mrs. Sloan (Pre-Primary and First Grade Word work) and with Mrs. Villasurda (Letter Group).

Math

This week we will continue to work on subtraction using touchpoints in addition to using the picture symbols to the students. In order to subtract using touchpoints the students must practice counting backwards. We will model this in class. Students touch the first number and say the number and then touch each touchpoint while counting backwards from the first number.

Ex.:

$$9 - 4 = 5$$

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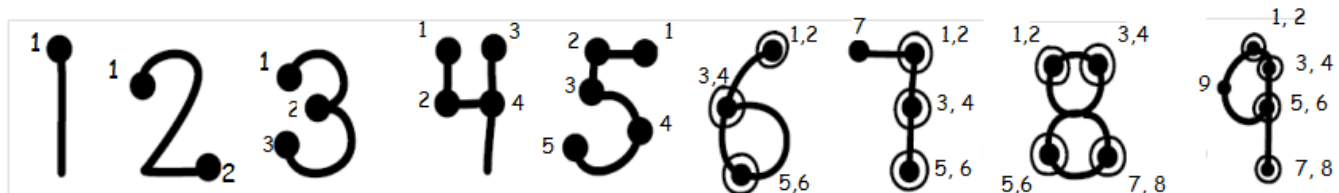
Students will continue to learn how to cross off the pictures that are being taken away from the group and how to count the remaining pictures to obtain an answer. We will work on the skill in the classroom and students will complete a similar page for homework. Students will learn how to use the calculator to solve subtraction problems in order to check their answers.

Homework will include using pictures to subtract numbers and then checking subtraction using a calculator. PLEASE make certain that your student is crossing off the pictures and not just solving the equations with the calculator. The students will be tested on both skills. I will send home calculators for students to use to practice their subtraction skills but ask that you please ensure that the calculators are returned on a daily basis with your student. We will need them in class.

Calculator skills allow students the 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.

We will also practice counting one-dollar bills to match the price on a price tag or use the next dollar strategy to color the correct number of dollars.

Touch Points



Cooking

We will be cooking hot lunch on Thursday February 22, 2018. The cost to each student is \$3.00. ***Lunch money is due WEDNESDAY February 21, 2018 so that I can purchase the correct amount of food for those participating on Wednesday Evening.*** Students who pay by Wednesday will cook and eat our classroom lunch on THURSDAY. Students who do not contribute or do not care for the food served will need to bring a lunch from home or get their lunch from the cafeteria as he/she would normally do during the week.

We will be making turkey sandwiches (the last sandwich day all students wanted turkey sandwiches. I would like to avoid preparing PBJ sandwiches in the classroom at this point. It is ok if students bring it in their lunches.), salad, chicken noodle soup, strawberry and red grape fruit salad, and lemonade. Please contact me with any questions or concerns.

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.

If you are having difficulty signing up using REMIND then let me know and I can sign you up on my end provided that I have your current telephone number.

IEPTS

As IEPT dates start to approach I will be contacting you to schedule your student's IEPT. I was hoping to have all IEPTS done by the end of March but am finding due to circumstances outside of my control that we will hold them in April and May. My intention was to have them completed prior to Spring Break as we have to give the state MI-Access test to all students in April and May. The state tests 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. I will contact you as the time approaches to schedule your student's IEPT.

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

- February 20, 2018.....School Resumes 8:35 a.m.
- February 21, 2018.....Early Release Dismissal at 1:55 p.m.
Cooking Money Due \$3.00
Mrs. Sloan out of the classroom starting at 11:45 a.m.
- February 22, 2018.....Cooking hot lunch in the classroom
- February 28, 2018.....Mrs. Sloan out of the classroom to attend an IEPT in another building. Guest Teacher for the morning.

Jobs for this week

Mrs. Jasinski supervising:

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

Mrs. Villasurda supervising:

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

Mrs. Karle-Sloan supervising:

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

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