

February 5, 2018

Dear Parents,

Parent Teacher Conferences

Signed conference forms are being returned to you today as your reminder of your confirmed conference time. Conferences are scheduled for Thursday February 8, 2018. **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 a conference time then please contact me so that I can schedule you in an open time slot.

Guest Teacher

Thank you so much for helping your student have a successful day on Friday while I was out of the classroom. I was so pleased to return to the classroom late Friday to learn that the students had a great day! I appreciate all of their efforts as well as the continued help of Mrs. Jasinski and Mrs. Villasurda.

Mrs. Jasinski

Mrs. Jasinski will be leaving us for February and March in order to have surgery and have time to recover. Tomorrow will be her last day until the end of March/beginning of April. Mrs. Villasurda will be working full time in her place. Please be patient with us as we develop new routines during Mrs. Jasinski's absence. I know she would greatly appreciate kind thoughts as she undergoes surgery this Thursday.

English Language Arts

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.

Our ELA small groups continue to run daily. They are working well and students are enjoying the various activities we have been doing.

Letter Group: The focus for this group is on the letter **Ii**. The students will work on improving their identification skills, letter sound skills, tracing/writing skills, and identification fluency.

Pre-Primary Group: The focus will be on the DOLCH sight word pre-primer list with a focus on the word "funny".

First Grade Word Group: The focus will be on the DOLCH sight word pre-primer list with a focus on the word "any" as well as a review of "an".

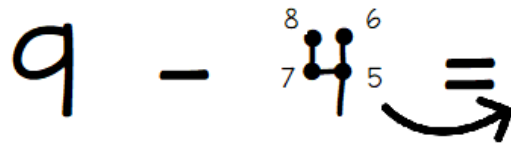
All of these groups will work in identifying the letters, sequencing the letters in their word, improving reading fluency by reading sentences or passages with their letter or word of the week in it, creating sentences including the word of the week, writing in sand and shaving cream, stamping their 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. Jasinski/Mrs. Villasurda (Letter Group).

Math

This week I will be introducing 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.:

$$9 - 4 = 5$$


$$9 - 4 = 5$$

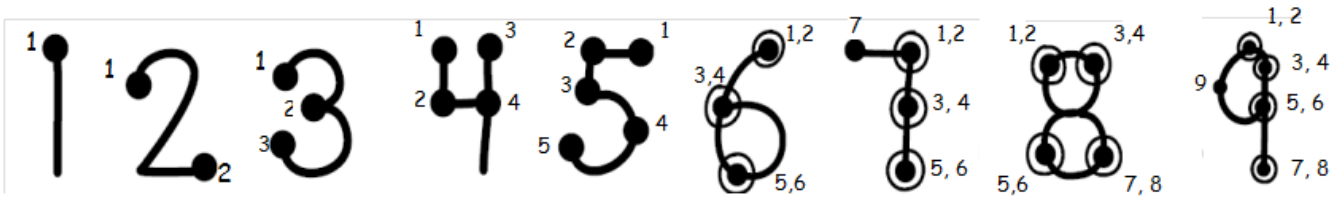
Students will continue to learn how to cross off the pictures that are being taken away from the group and how to count the remaining pictures to obtain an answer. We will work on the skill in the classroom and students will complete a similar page for homework. Students will learn how to use the calculator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



Time to the Hour

The students are making very good progress with this skill during our math time. I will continue to teach this skill in class as well as include it with homework. Our current focus is just on telling time to the hour including identifying the parts: the face, the numbers, the hour hand (the short hand), and the minute hand (the long hand). We have discussed how the hour hand is shorter and that it is pointing to the number that is the hour. We have only discussed the minute hand in that when it points to the 12 that it means :00 minutes. We will continue to focus on this skill daily.

Cooking

We will NOT be cooking hot lunch this week due to the half day. Cooking will resume on Thursday February 15, 2018. **Thank you to everyone who contributes to the cooking fund each week.**

Friendship Circle

Our next trip to Friendship Circle is scheduled for Tuesday February 13, 2018. ***Please remember to send a lunch with a drink and all utensils.*** A gentle reminder that there is no refrigeration or microwave for lunches so please do not send in anything that needs to be heated up.

Valentine's Day

Valentine's Day is next week **Wednesday February 14, 2018**. We will be doing a different activity for Valentine's Day this year. Students will be making cards at school for each other. Students do NOT need to bring Valentine's cards from home. We will be doing everything at school. I think the students will enjoy what we have planned. Due to a variety of food allergies I am asking that you do NOT send in candy with your students.

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.

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 7, 2018..... Early Release Students will be dismissed at 1:55 p.m.
- February 8, 2018..... Half Day of School: Dismissal at 11:40 a.m.
Parent Teacher Conferences 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
5:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
- February 13, 2018.....Friendship Circle. Bring a lunch and drink from home.
- February 14, 2018.....Valentine's Day. We will be making cards for our friends at school.
Cooking Money Due \$3.00
- February 15, 2018.....Cooking Hot Lunch
- February 16, 2018.....No School: Mid Winter Break
- February 19, 2018.....No School: Mid Winter Break
- 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

Jobs for this week

Mrs. Jasinski supervising:

Wash Dishes/Wash Laundry/Pass Newspaper/AM Messages	Lorenzo
Pass Journals/Dry Dishes/Spray & Wipe Doorknobs/lights	Gavin
Wipe kitchen tables & counters/Make Ice Packs/wipe windows & Mirrors	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/Shred/Folding Laundry	Antoine
Pass out Today At School/Wipe Appliances/Dust/Sweep	Amiyah
Clean Lockers/Trash/Empty Recycling Container/Shred	Austin

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@lsps.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