

February 5, 2018

Dear Families,

February is here! You would think that things would slow down a little after the holidays, but not here in kindergarten!

The kindergarten put on a '**muy bueno**' fiesta. Thank you to our volunteers!

The volunteers were kept very busy assisting with crafts, running games, singing and brushing up on their Spanish. The kindergarteners participated in mixed class groups, circulating through three centers. In our classroom, the craft center, students made maracas. Mrs. Whelan-Roy led the music and dance center and the games center was led by Ms. Pattison.

Our class has taken full advantage of our **Mexican** 'passports' during the month of January! The

students learned about the desert, the city, the mountains and we plan to continue our trip to the rainforest. Students learned some songs in Spanish including: Los Colores (The Colors) and Uno, Dos, Tres...Amigos (One, Two, Three Friends). After vacation we will return to science as we learn about and discover pushes and pulls!

February brings a host of new events to look forward to including our 100th day celebration, and of course, Valentine's Day. We have collected 104 containers of spices for our service learning project. We have already met our goal for the York Food Pantry! Thank you for your contributions!! The class loved counting and recounting our collection. So while we are helping the community, we are also getting some great addition and "counting-on" practice.

Our school will celebrate with a 100th Day Assembly on Friday, Feb. 16. A special

**100th day homework project** is due on your child's share day in February.

Directions for the 100th day project were recently sent home!

Our **Valentines Party** will be on Wed., February 14. The children will participate in a variety of valentine activities, including delivering and reading valentine cards.

**VALENTINES are due on or before Monday, Feb. 12.** Please be sure to include one for all 13 classmates (not including your son/daughter). Valentines do not need to be individually addressed, however, the Valentines DO need to be signed by the student. Our Valentine's Day will focus on friendship and fun. **Please do not send food of any kind for Valentine's Day or With Valentine cards** as we need to follow our allergy policy.

Our study of small moments in **writing** continued last month with some important additions.

Now that children are more comfortable with the process of writing we have worked on adding important details that make our writing easier for others to read. Skills we have focused on are writing left to right, consistently using spaces between words, making the picture and the words go together and spelling priority words and other small words we know correctly. Finally we practiced writing quickly using all the above! We will continue to learn how to write informational stories this month with a special focus on "How To" books. The students are enjoying the opportunity to write as a whole class in an interactive writing setting learning the steps of informational books. One student is chosen as the writer at the chart stand while all other students are writing on their whiteboards. Some of our favorite topics have been "How To Brush Your Teeth", "How to Make An Ice Cream Cone", "How To Build A Snowman", "How To Make Chocolate Milk" and "How To Make A Peanut Butter Sandwich".

During our **Reader's Workshop** mini lessons we have been learning to make **predictions** about books that we read by thinking about the title of a book and observing the illustrations on the cover of a book. You might want to try this at home during story time with your child. It is great to have conversations about books and ask questions. Good readers think about books and ask questions as they read. Thanks for encouraging your child to do this at home!

We have also learned about **quotation marks** which we call "talking marks". Many of our readers (leveled reading books) have conversation and use this punctuation to show that the character is talking! Your child is now able to tell you about the period, exclamation point, question mark, and quotation marks. See if your child can locate these and tell you their purpose. It is not necessary for them to remember the names of all of the punctuation, even though they may surprise you! They should know why writers and readers need to know about them.

In **math**, children have been learning and will continue to learn about attributes by playing the "Attribute Spinner Game". We have begun practicing counting by 10's, beginning with our own hands. Students have also measured themselves and compared their height to the height of classroom items. We made a "types of pets graph", and we played "Teens on a Double Ten-Frame." Children compared and ordered objects by length. We will begin exploring 2-D and 3-D shapes, and continue learning about the +, =, and - signs and how to use them. We will play "Growing and Disappearing" Train games to practice addition and subtraction!

February is also **Friendship Month** in our class. We will be reviewing and practicing how to be

a good friend and classmate. Using kind words, taking turns, and being a good sport will be areas of focus.

We have been writing “kind messages” to put in our classroom message box.

This has been helping with writing skills and friendship skills. When we have these class discussions we like to ask the class, “ What would a kind classmate do?” or “ What would a good sport do?” After children know what they are supposed to do comes the true test. Can they put it into action? Working through this social curriculum helps our class to be a **peaceful and happy place to work and learn!**

As always, thank you for your support!

Jen Ellis and Melinda Gallagher

**Important Dates:**

February:	On your child’s share day, send in “100 day” project (or before)
Friday, Feb. 2	\$0.50 “stamp money” due
Monday, Feb. 12	Valentine Cards due
Wednesday, Feb. 14	Valentine’s Day party
Friday, Feb. 16	100th Day of School assembly
Sat. Feb. 17- Sun. Feb 25	Winter Break---no school

(Scroll down to next page for Valentine List.)

**Valentine List: \*Due Monday, February 12**

1. Quinten
2. Aiden
3. Abrie
4. Ellie
5. Noah
6. Ashton
7. Jayden
8. Patrick
9. David
10. Makayla
11. Liv
12. Penelope
13. Andrew
14. Cooper

Optional: •Mrs. Lombardi •Mrs. Gallagher •Ms. Ellis

