

March Parent Newsletter

Dear Families,

We hope you enjoyed February break with your family! **Spring arrives on Tuesday, March 20th**! We are really looking forward to more sunshine and warmer days! *In the meantime, keep sending boots, snow pants, hats and mittens every day...or at least until the chance of snow is completely gone!* We go out for recess every day. If there is snow, students without snow pants and boots must stay on the paved area of the playground.

Spring parent conferences are scheduled for after school on Tuesday, April 10, Wednesday, April 11, Thursday, April 12, and the morning of Friday, April 13. There will be no school for students on Friday, April 14.) A sign-up genius link will soon be sent in an email. Please look for the email. Please be sure to sign up soon, as there are limited slots available!

It was a “heart”-warming sight to see kindergartners open and read their valentines. Inevitably, the process included lots of hugs, “thank you’s,” and laughs, too! The children thoroughly enjoyed the festivities! Thank you to those parents and community volunteers who were able to assist us with Valentine’s Day activities. Craft activities included creating a mosaic heart, making a “Valentine” puppy, and fingerprinting “leaves” on a heart tree. Literacy activities included a Valentine letter sort, Valentine Bingo, writing Valentine messages and “mailing” them, and reading a Valentine book. Math activities included engineering hearts with legos, creating hearts with geometric pattern blocks, representing “Valenteens” on double ten frames, playing a “love bug” dice game, and sweetheart addition problems! It was a day filled with learning and love!

Day 100 was a truly memorable day. Thanks for your contributions to our spices collection. *We collected 107 spices.* Each class made a display of the items they collected for our whole school assembly. Our class display featured a “spicy snake!” This event not only provided the York Food Pantry with needed donations, it also gave our class lots of practice to count to 100 and to add to our total each day. The children felt proud to assist people in need. The children listened to 100th day stories, strung necklaces made of 100 beads using a different color bead to represent each group of 10, designed “counting by 5’s and 10’s” 100 day crowns, made “counting by 5’s to 100 cupcakes” and they wrote the numerals 1-100! We continue to be fascinated by every individual’s representation of 100 in their February share! The time you spent with your child assisting them is greatly appreciated! Thank you!!

We have begun enjoying the rhymes and rhythm of **Dr. Seuss** as we celebrate **Read Across America**. We hope the The Cat in the Hat will inspire lots of “at” family words. We’ll write silly sentences using “at” words. We’ll be learning a variety of other word families during the month of March! We will also enjoy, The Lorax. This cautionary tale warns that we need to take care of our world. Dr Seuss authored many, many beloved books that help move young children along the path to becoming readers. If you haven’t yet, please check out Hop on Pop,

One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish, The Foot Book and, of course, The Cat in The Hat. **Please be sure to check the MARCH SHARE calendar. Your child will participate in sharing a Dr. Seuss item. The share item might be a favorite Dr. Seuss book, a clothing item, a game or a decoration. Also, please send in any labeled Dr. Seuss books you would be willing to lend to our young readers! We will return them at the end of the author study!**

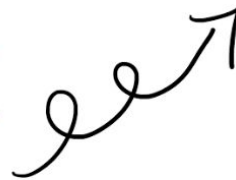
Thursday, March 1: READ WHAT YOU WEAR DAY

Please wear shirts or other items of clothing with words that students will enjoy reading to school.

Friday, March 2: Head to Toe Day

Wrap up the week in your silliest hat and socks!

In reading we completed “String 3” of workshop. We wrote down each important “great readers” do on a class “anchor” chart. home a copy in your child’s home/school Knowing the language we use in the on the chart might assist you in supporting your child’s reading at home. It will also help your child remember what to do when faced with a “tricky” part in their reading at home! Ask your child to tell you about the chart! (They will not be able to read the whole thing, but we hope they’ll be able to explain the “gist” of each item to you!)



our reading thing that We will send folder soon. classroom and

Our latest **writing** has been the continuation of “How To” books and the introduction of “All About” books! We have been careful writers writing about informational topics and supplying facts about a particular topic. We are working on expanding our writing which means being able to write a complex sentence. We have begun the process of editing our writing by thinking about our writer’s checklist.

We are beginning our study of **pushes and pulls** in science! The children will explore motion. “Pushes and Pulls” offers an introduction to physics. Students will participate in activities such as classifying “pushing and pulling” pictures, exploring pushing and pulling using a variety of techniques, determining which object requires more force to be pushed and moved across a finish line, and designing a playground where there are at least three pushes and three pulls. Students will also learn about **speed and direction**. They will explore speed and force by kicking a ball toward a target, discovering what happens when a moving ball collides with balls that are stationary, and problem-solving to determine how to move a toy car to the garage without pushing it. There will be a whole lot of moving going on!

In **math** we will continue to learn to make combinations that add up to ten, to measure, to weigh, and to compare lengths. We will also work more with attributes and with 2-dimensional and 3-dimensional shapes. Students will continue to practice addition and subtraction not only with manipulatives, but they will practice writing number stories accompanied by number models. Students will learn to use the calculator to practice skip counting. This is always a popular activity! **Many children are now able to count independently to 100 or more. Please practice counting with your child if they are not yet meeting this milestone.** In addition, many students are able to **identify the numerals 0-20** by this time in kindergarten. Please assist your child in identifying these numerals if they are not yet meeting this important benchmark.

***If you are able to contribute Ziploc gallon-size bags or 2.5 gallon jumbo Ziploc bags, they would be greatly appreciated!**

***If you are able to contribute gold seals that will be used for writing awards, they would be greatly appreciated, also!**



We look forward to sharing your child's progress at our spring parent conference!!

Warmly,

Jen and Melinda

Feb 27-Mar 2 Read Across America

March 11 (Sunday) Spring ahead to Daylight Savings Time

March 20 First Day of Spring!

March 26-30 VES Bookfair

April 12 Professional Development-No Students

April 11,12 Spring Parent Teacher Conferences- After School

April 13 Spring Parent Teacher Conferences – No school for students

April 14-22 Spring Vacation

