

The Kindergarten Family Mailer

March 8-March 12: Set Those Clocks!

By Mrs. Chien and Mrs. Wells

The time is changing this Sunday as we "Spring Forward" and lose an hour of sleep. **Next week, the Design For Excellence team comes for our official visit which grants our school certification. Please make sure your student gets plenty of sleep, a good breakfast, and comes dressed in their best uniforms.** We have told the children we have "company" coming, so they are practicing for our special guests.

This week, Lexy Altieri, one of our kindergarten friends, brought in an ENTIRE tub of pennies for Pennies for Peru. We are so overwhelmed by her generosity and compassion. Thank you, Lexy, and her family!

Each day, we say our morning prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. We encourage the children to stand straight and tall, to be proud that they are allowed to pray in school, and to be proud of their country when saying the Pledge. Please help us reinforce these concepts at home with a discussion with your child. This will help the children to stand tall, rather than lean on the tables during our morning prayers and pledge.

One of our centers from the last two weeks had the children counting to 50 or 100, identifying a number, building a string of unifix cubes to match the number, breaking that number into tens, and writing numbers to 31 or beyond. **Please continue to work with your student on identifying numbers out of sequence to 50, counting, writing numbers to 50 or beyond, and grouping objects in 10's.** These are important numerical concepts which set the foundation for success.

As your child brings home the word pages from our phonics series, please make sure that your student can easily read the words before returning the sheet to school. This means that your student should be able to read the word with ease without having to sound out each individual letter first. These words may need to be repeated daily for several weeks before your child masters reading the words with ease. **Within 1-2 seconds demonstrates that the word has been memorized and is expected.** Each student progresses at his/her own pace, and we are proud of the steps they are taking to become excellent readers.

We are still looking for our next Diversity presenter. Please consider coming in to present information on your heritage. The children really love it, and it is so important for the children to know and appreciate all that is special and unique in others.

More Lenten Leaves were sent home this week for you to fill out for your children. Our Lenten tree on the bulletin board is filling out nicely. Almost every limb has a leaf. If you need more, please let us know. The children practiced their cutting skills by grass for our board. If you are in the building, please stop by to take a look at all of the amazing things your children have done.

Please take a few minutes to read with your children daily. Reading to your children helps improve their reading skills almost as much as having them read to you. Encourage your child to read to you, whether it's an entire book, or parts/words in a favorite book. Any and all practice is fabulous!



Funny of the Week

- When discussing frownie faces and trying to get the attention of the children in a fun manner, a student said, "Mrs. Chien, you have wrinkles."
- To Mrs. Krauss, our music teacher, "Mrs. Krauss, how did you become a Krauss?"

Special Notes from Mrs. Chien

NEW INFORMATION: We are now more than half way through the year. While we tested the students on this information, not everyone was able to perform all of the skills. Please work with your student to make sure they are able to master these skills before the beginning of the fourth quarter, April 12, when we will again assess the children on these skills.

- to repeat their **phone number and addresses**. This is important safety information for every child to know.
- to **make sure they can tie their shoes and zip their coats**. Please help them practice these skills at home.
- to **identify numbers 1-50 out of sequence**. This helps us understand their skill in number recognition.
- to **count to 50** or beyond. By the end of the year, we are looking for the children to **count to 100**.
- to **identify letters of the alphabet out of sequence**. This helps with their phonics, reading, and writing.
- to **quickly identify sight words**. This helps strengthen reading skills.

Please continue to work on identifying numbers, especially the teens twenties.

Please continue to work on and return the sight word lists that come home with your children, both on the back of their daily work and the separate sheets which you return. It is important as we continue with our reading groups that the children work on these skills.

Please continue to have your student practice writing sentences on their own using phonetic spelling. You may want to give them a beginning (e.g. the best part of Christmas...). Please feel free to share the sentences with us. We love to see their successes.

We are continuing coin identification. Here's a little poem for you to use with your children to help them learn. Please continue working with them on identifying basic coins of penny, nickel, dime, quarter, and the dollar.

Penny, penny,
easily spent
Copper brown
and worth one cent.

Nickel, nickel,
Thick and fat,
you're worth five cents.
I know that.



Dime, dime,
little and thin,
I remember,
you're worth ten.

Quarter, quarter
Big and bold,
you're worth twenty-five
I am told!

This Week, Kindergarten...

- We continued on our morning routine, which includes prayers; this week's prayer has been the **Apostle's Creed**, calendar, weather, counting to 100 forward and backward from 50, reviewing the alphabet using the letter, word example and sound. We continue to identify the months of the year and days of the week. We continue watching, singing, and moving to music videos for counting. We are using tally marks to tally up the number of days we have been in school.

- Reviewed all of the letters we've learned so far (Mm, Ll, Ff, Nn, Oo, Aa, Gg, Hh, Tt, Pp, Ii, Ss, Rr, Ff, Kk, Bb, Uu, Zz, Cc, Ee, Yy, Dd), working on the letter Vv, blending and unblending words, identifying the number of syllables in words, identifying consonants, vowels, compound words, blending consonants, learning root words (say hammer without the 'er'), identifying the number of words in a sentence and the number of sounds in a word, identifying short vowels and our rule, "If a vowel is followed by a consonant, it is short. Mark it with a breve." We reviewed our twin consonant rule, "When there is a twin consonant, cross out the second one." We reviewed our Kk/Cc rule, "If the /k/ sound is followed by an e, i, or y, use a Kk. If the /k/ sound is followed by an a, o, u, or another consonant, use a Cc." We have been reviewing sight words your children have been reading at home to you one-on-one.
- In Math, we completed lessons 11-12 (chance, spinners, coloring cubes), checked our progress on Lessons 7-12, had our Chapter 6 Test (covers tally marks, graphs, equal parts, $\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{1}{4}$, symmetry, chance, coloring cubes) and began work on Chapter 7 (Addition), completing Lessons 1-5 and completing our check your progress on those lessons. **Please have your child add objects together as much as possible. They can make number sentences for you (e.g. $3+2=5$) as well, as this reinforces what they have been learning.**
- Reviewed coin identification of the penny, nickel, dime, and quarter. We reviewed what was on each coin, identifying the presidents by name and number, and the value of each coin. We are now working on how many pennies we need to equal a nickel, dime, or quarter. We sing songs by Mr. Al to help us identify coins.
- In Religion, we continued our discussion on Lent. We completed discussing and coloring Stations 3 and 4 of the Stations of the Cross in our Stations of the Cross booklet.
- **The children would benefit from more reinforcement in identifying numbers, writing numbers, counting objects to 31, and making groups of 10 from numbers they count. Please practice these skills with your child.**
- Mrs. Joy is back for PE, and the children were happy to see her. Mrs. Joy went on a cruise!
- In Spanish, we are learning about names of family members.

Special Projects



Lenten Leaves

Lent is a season not only for giving up something but for doing something more in service of our Lord. In that light, our new bulletin board will feature all of the wonderful deeds and choices your children make. Each child has received a blank sheet of leaves. When your child does something good, helpful, or otherwise outstanding, write the deed and your child's name on the leaf, date it, and send it back. We read these leaves out in class and then put them on our tree. By the end of Lent, we should have a beautiful tree full of the wonderful choices and actions of all of the children.

"They are like trees growing beside a stream, trees with roots that reach down to the water and have leaves that are always green."

~Jeremiah 17:7

Celebrating Our Diversity

We wish to celebrate our diversity by having family and friends come to present information about their culture and heritage. We would like to have one to two speakers a month who come in to share information about where they are from (if you are from outside the United States) or their heritage (e.g. Polish), as well as their culture (e.g. dress, food, activities, music, housing). The presentation, including snack, should be no more than 45 minutes. By celebrating what is special about all of the people in the world, we can learn to better appreciate one another. If you or another family member is available to

come in to present to Kindergarten, please let us know so we can start scheduling these wonderful opportunities for learning.

Upcoming Events

- March 16-19 Design for Excellence Week
 - March 17 St. Patrick's Day Party
 - March 19 11:30 Dismissal
 - April 2 – 11 Easter Vacation
- May 1 PTO Goods and Services Auction
 - May 27 Memorial Day – Snow make up day, school in session

Wish List

Below is a wish list of items needed for the classroom. If you are interested or able to donate items, it would be most appreciated. Anything on this list can be ordered in smaller parts. For example, if you are able to purchase a chalk board or two, that would be great! Here are some items we are looking for:

- Shark VX3 Sweeper
- CD/Cassette Listening Center with six headphones (headphones are like the old ones that cover the whole ear)
- 30 Mats for Wood Pieces for Handwriting Without Tears
- A new or gently used TV with a remote to replace the one in our classroom. Our TV is over 12 years old and the speakers are very tired. 😊

Items for the Handwriting Without Tears can be found at www.HWTears.com



General Information

Pennies for Peru

We have begun the next collection cycle for the spring, so please continue to send in those pennies, nickels, dimes, quarters, and yes, we've even had dollars. Let's make sure Kindergarten has a jar full of pennies to share with our sister parish in Peru.

Box Tops and Campbell's Soup Labels

The box tops have been collected for this round, but no winner has been announced. While the race for a party is over, the need for box tops and soup labels is still there. Each box top and each label represents money for our school. Please continue to show your support and THANK YOU for all you have done so far.

