

 September 16, 2019

Greetings Senior Kindergarten Parents and Friends,

I hope everyone had a great weekend.

**Highlights of our Week:**

**Reading:** This week begins our small reading groups. Each of our three groups will have 6 to 7 students and will rotate through 3 stations. Each station will be 20 to 25 minutes long, for a total reading time of about an hour and 15 minutes. I have grouped students who are at similar skills levels, together. Each week we will have a new high frequency (gotta know) word, and we will focus on 1 or 2 letters weekly. We have already learned the word “**I**” and the word “**can**” this week our word is “**the”.** Our letter of the week is the letter /m/. Most of our writing this year will focus on lower case letters that we will use in sentences and “writing activities” later in the year. I know this transition is bumpy for many students and can cause frustration with both students and parents. I ask that you be patient because it is a process and it will take us some time. Practicing letter sounds, writing letters in lower case, name writing, spelling, and writing our high frequency words at home will help your student become more comfortable with these new practices.

**Math:**  This week in math we begin working in topic (unit) 2 in math “Comparing numbers 0 to 5”. The focus of this topic will help students understands concepts like greater than, less than and equal to using the numbers 0-5. We will also continue to work on the concept of whole and parts. We will begin the topic with a math story activity and a review. Last week we completed our 1st math assessment. These assessments are at the end of each topic and will be in this week’s Tuesday folder.

**Social Studies:** During the first week of school we talked about classroom rules. This week we will learn about rules at home, in our communities and throughout the school. We will also talk about acceptance and learning how to play together. In this week’s Tuesday folder, you will find a character development letter on acceptance. These letters are just meant to reinforce the lessons we are learning in kindergarten and provide ways to talk to children about social things.

**Science:** This week we will learning about clouds and we will have our 1st science experiment of the year. Clouds in a cup.

**Religion:** This week we will are finishing up the creation story.

**Other Items:**

* Just another reminder to please check the labels of food that are coming to school. Mrs. Brayton and I are still seeing food with nut products coming in for snacks and lunches. Our class is completely nut free, that includes peanuts and tree nuts.
* Last Friday we had our 1st hot lunch and you may have seen cookies come home in baggies. This is because the cookies were peanut butter. Because I am not sure of how things are packaged and made during hot lunch, cookies will probably be sent home on hot lunch days. If you could send in a cookie or dessert of your child’s choice (nut-free) it would be greatly appreciated. I am just trying to ensure all our children are safe.
* If you have not done so yet, please send a complete change of clothing (including socks and underwear) for your student to keep in his or her locker.
* For safety reasons students not wearing socks and sneakers cannot play on the playground equipment. If possible please just send your child to school in socks and sneakers during the warm weather.
* If you know the days your child will be staying for extended care, please email that information to me.
* Hearing tests are mandated in Illinois. At some point this month (I will let you know when I have the exact date), our school nurse will be testing every child’s hearing. If you have any questions and/or concerns, please let me know.
* Friday puppet shows are a long-standing tradition in early childhood. Mrs. Brooks the previous JK teacher was a master puppeteer with years of experience and I was her sidekick. For the past 2 years Mrs. Hoffman and I have had the honor of continuing this great experience, but we are in the process of replenishing our puppets. If you or anyone you know have puppets not being used and would like to donate them, we would be delighted.
* Next Wednesday (09/25) we will be making our own applesauce in Senior Kindergarten. We are also going to explore the taste of different apples and the parts. Please send in an apple of your child’s choice for applesauce making on Tuesday 09/24. We will have the applesauce on Thursday (September 26th) for snack. Historically about half of the students will not want applesauce for snack, so please still send in a regular snack (smile).
* ***Walk with Grace,*** Grace Lutheran School’s annual walk-a-thon fundraiser is **Friday, October 4th**. The event is just **FOUR WEEKS AWAY** making it the perfect time to sign up for Pledgestar and start raising money for our school! This is a very fun day for the students and teachers, but as with any event – we need help! Please click on the link below to see the many ways you can support the event and our school.

 Pledgestar: [http://pledgestar.com/grace](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001cnplwJfOvjmRcQWEKqBTykQiZs5n67gsrt3ZRiWnBH1y21kTpl__WNH_pfvBnOap1dDDDZZQXUdTHOhIxQI2vdgAm0jxkMbZ0dyLN-qvbrIQXH_bNJMxdPmmq-2bAWFqGSpN4A-XxeZLxZG1glk-Og==&c=Tatb2_BEyFWyaCyM2P8025dmuJukdufDP-BK4cQ1uaKaYwU7_SK_kw==&ch=KB-Oi2wufpRTk3VvkO0MjR9GMt1dlPLZ4BsfBFfXywk4U1SbxOI9zw==)

 Volunteer: [https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080B4CA8AC22A5FC1-walk](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001cnplwJfOvjmRcQWEKqBTykQiZs5n67gsrt3ZRiWnBH1y21kTpl__WNH_pfvBnOaps8Xuj_Ek-Tp9HIlLYTiMOIs6sWSRGlk3CNWOsAY9uxZ5KFnsedRp3VFP4aq59O-U4JjtLy6r0JWRR6PIjX7SH7ojnqpG7weOTSRLpHQtYBH74THY-nlTj9YgIyCJ2JEh&c=Tatb2_BEyFWyaCyM2P8025dmuJukdufDP-BK4cQ1uaKaYwU7_SK_kw==&ch=KB-Oi2wufpRTk3VvkO0MjR9GMt1dlPLZ4BsfBFfXywk4U1SbxOI9zw==)

 In conjunction with the walkathon, our students will be doing a service project for Ronald McDonald House Charities. 10% of donations given to the walkathon will be earmarked for this organization.

 If you have any questions, please contact Brian Schultz at bschultz@graceriverforest.org

In Him Who Loves Us All

Jackie Johnson-Lindmark

**Important Dates:**

09/10-Picture Day

09/13-Hot Lunch

09/27-Hot Lunch

10/4- Walk-a-thon

10/9- Pancake Day (More information to come)

10/10- Parent Teacher Conference (11:30 Dismissal)

10/11- No School Teacher Development Day

10/14- No School Fall Break