

 September 30, 2019

Greetings Senior Kindergarten Parents and Friends,

I hope everyone had a great weekend.

**Highlights of our Week:**

**Reading:** This week we are working on the 3rd week of unit 1 in the Wonders reading program. Our letter of the week is /**s**/ and our high frequency word is /see/. We will also learn how vowels are important to forming words.

**Math:** This week we will begin Topic 3 (Numbers 6 to 10). This unit will focus on counting in groups of 6 through 10 and writing the numerals and number words. Although these initial concepts may be a bit repetitious and simple, they are designed to help children learn math fundamentals and essentials. Over the next few weeks I will be assessing math skills in the same way I assessed reading skills earlier this year. This will help me develop small group activities that we will begin in addition to our whole group activities.

**Social Studies:** This week, our lesson will be on how time passes. Each day during calendar time we go through days of the week, the month and the year, but these concepts are not easy for young learners. In our lesson this week we will look at things like sequencing daily events, how much time passes between birthdays and days in a year. This is an on-going lesson that we will come back to daily, through calendar activities and through other lessons, to reinforce understanding.

**Science:** In science this week we will explore the 5 senses. Our experiment will show how popcorn can help us use all the senses, and of course, we will eat the popcorn we use for the experiment when we are done (smile).

**Religion:** This week we will begin the story of Noah and how he always trusted God.

**Other Items:**

* Lexia is a wonderful supplement to the reading we do at school, but it can also be very frustrating to students. Lexia is designed to be student driven and work at a child’s individual pace, but some of the activities cover areas that are unfamiliar to some of the students. Because we utilize Lexia at school a few times a week, I am going to recommend that at this point, students only use it twice a week at home, for a maximum of 10 minutes for each session. We can increase these times as the year progresses, and students become more comfortable with reading activities. If your child comes to an area that is frustrating, try to guide them through the activity and then try another reading area. **Lexia at home is optional.**
* Over the last few weeks we’ve had several incidents of touching, pulling and not respecting each other’s personal space. We have had several conversations in class about kindness and respect. Please reiterate these discussions at home. I encourage communication in our classroom and discourage any forms of violence. Our class as well as the school has a 0% tolerance for bullying or any physical interactions. Any students who are consistently being intentionally physical with others will be sent up to talk to Mr. Koehne.
* Scholastic books has hundreds of books available for $1.00 this month. It is a great way to encourage the love of reading in your student and with every order from you our class gets new books for us to enjoy. If you can, please consider ordering. On-line ordering information can be found on the packets you received last week in Tuesday’s folders. All classroom orders are in the on-line format.
* If you know the days your child will be staying for extended care, please email that information to me.
* From Apples to Pumpkins. Every year the Senior Kindergarten paints pumpkins and makes a wonderful pumpkin patch outside of our classroom. Normally I go out and purchase the pumpkins for the class, but it is a big task to find so many pumpkins. I am asking that each child bring in a pie pumpkin on **Monday, October 21nd** (I am attaching a picture, so you can see the size, I will also have one in the classroom if you need to see it). We will paint them on Wednesday October 24th and have them on display until Halloween. Please don’t send in pumpkins before October 17th I don’t want them to rot before our project.
* We had a great time last week with apple tasting and making applesauce.
* Please remember that fruit snacks and gummies should only be sent in for snack on Fridays. Also, if you could place snacks in backpacks instead of lunch boxes it would be greatly appreciated. We are spending a lot of time during snack time trying to decide what should be eaten.
* Each month I will be sending home a reading log for students to track books that they are reading or are having read to them. At the end of each month the log can be returned to school and students will receive a certificate for a personal pizza from Pizza Hut.
* I take attendance every month at 8:30, if you arrive later please stop by Mrs. Maggio’s desk to ensure that your child is not marked absent for the day.
* Dismissal is a busy time and there are lots of students and adults inside and outside of the school. For safety reasons please make sure your child does not leave the group until Mrs. Brayton or I release them.
* The Grace Walk-A-Thon is Friday. If you are interested in creating a pledge page for family and friends, I am including the link to pledge-star. You can also find this information on the Grace Lutheran web page. <https://pledgestar.com/grace/>

In Him Who Loves Us All

Jackie Johnson-Lindmark

**Important Dates:**

10/4- Walk-a-thon (11:30 Dismissal)

10/4- Scholastic Book Order Due

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