

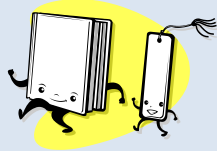
KINDERGARTEN NEWSLETTER

Spring 2010

CHARTER SCHOOL OF EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE



As we move into the last few months of the 2010 school year, we are sure that you are all wondering about what is happening in our Kindergarten program. So, we decided to give you a glimpse, subject by subject.



ELA/Guided Reading/Independent Reading/Partnership Reading and Phonics

We have enjoyed our recent study of *Every Day is Special*. During our read-alouds and shared reading, the children learned how to make predictions by using prior knowledge. We also created graphic organizers to chart the main idea of our stories. A clever song, to the tune of "The Farmer In The Dell" helped us learn how to identify setting and plot.

Guided Reading is also a major part of our balanced literacy program in our classroom. During guided reading, students read leveled texts as the teacher guides them through the story by facilitating tricky words and comprehension. She does this by pausing to ask questions and prompting readers to use multiple strategies to decode words while comprehending the text. Great discussions arise from our guided reading sessions. It is also a time for the teacher to observe whether or not students are using the reading strategies taught during shared reading and teacher read-alouds.

We want students to be reading D level books by the end of Kindergarten. Independent Reading of just-right books will help us reach our goals!

Reading Partnerships are happening! After reading their leveled readers by themselves, students turn their chairs towards their assigned partners and share their books. Will they read chorally? Will they take turns reading? Will they echo read? Or, will they act out parts of the story together? Only the children know the answers as they plan, read and discuss stories together!

This past month our **phonics lessons** focused on teaching students to segment and blend syllables and sort pictures according to their beginning sounds.



LIBRARY



Research shows that having a wide range of quality books in the classroom contributes to student's reading success. So we transformed our old libraries into inviting learning environments. Over 30 baskets are housed in our new libraries. Baskets are categorized and labeled by genre, topic or level to indicate the type of books a reader will find inside. Each week, our students "shop for library books". They browse, touch, examine, and choose the "just-right book". Throughout the remainder of the school year, students and teachers will work together to determine each student's "just-right" level. As students get to know themselves as readers, they will work their way through the levels.

PARENT HINT!



Read to your child each night and ask your child questions like:

- ❖ What was the problem in the story?
- ❖ If you were the main character, what would you do differently?
- ❖ If you could change the title of the story, what would it be?

WRITING



We have been practicing adding details to our work. We start with an idea. Then we create an illustration which portrays the idea so someone can recognize it at a glance. With labeling laced into all our illustrations, we then begin writing our idea into words, phrases and sentences. Writing is a process so it takes a number of entries for just one piece. This period of the day is most enjoyable as the students are encouraged to write and establish themselves as writers where they can think freely, with no limitations.



CORE KNOWLEDGE



We are exploring the world! We started this unit by introducing and exploring maps, globes and how they are used and read. Following that, we identified the 7 continents and 4 oceans by creating our very own globes (sorry about the mess!) Now our bags are packed and we are traveling the world with our very own passport as a journal of our travels. Within this unit, we are, and will be, doing a number of activities and projects that expose us to each region's climate, terrain, animals, and plant life. We will also explore through folklore, documentaries and issues that affect us presently.

The more exposure to the world, the wider we open a student's mind.

PARENT HINT!



There are a number of ways you can embrace this unit with your child!

1. Read stories based on different areas of the world
2. Visit museums, zoos or aquariums.
3. Identify where things are from
4. Try foods from different regions
5. Listen to music from around the world.
6. (Your library is your greatest asset for such things.)

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We could use parent volunteers as chaperones for our upcoming trips! Please ask your child's teacher for details.

HOLD THE DATE

- ❖ Kg. Stepping-Up Ceremony - June 23, 2010
10:00a.m. - 12:00 p.m. / Riverfront Library



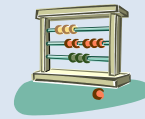
Meet the CSEE Kindergarten Team...

Mrs. Gloria Smith, Assistant Principal

Ms. Falco & Ms. Pisto

Ms. Hunt & Ms. Jackson

MATH



"Everyday Math" is an interactive learning experience that reaches all forms of intelligences. It is a "learn by doing" curriculum.

PARENT HINT!



Go through the Everyday Math books that were sent home at the beginning of the year! These books help to identify ways in which you and your child can explore math together using and improving their strategies.

Presently, we are focusing on the introduction of pennies, nickels, dimes and coin exchanges; 3 and 2 dimensional shapes and symmetry; skip counting by 2s, 5s, and 10s; half, measure and compare time.

A heart-felt thank you for those parents that were able to attend our first PARENT/TEACHER BREAKFAST. We enjoyed hearing Ms. Hunt read a book as she showed us how to read with enthusiasm and excitement. Ms. Falco played sight word games with the parents and provided resources for everyone to continue these games at home. Ms. Smith explained the importance of reading books on student's levels (just-right books) and the characteristics of A-D leveled texts. Ms. Jackson "unpacked" a useful guide of questions parents can use in their daily read-aloud with their children. And, last but not least, Ms. Pisto explained the Kindergarten writing pacing calendar and many different types of writing that the K students participate in.

The results of the *Parent Evaluation Survey*, given out at the end of the breakfast determined that parents are interested in Kindergarten workshops in the subject of MATHEMATICS.

No worries for those who could not make it as we are planning more for the coming year!

A message from the Administration

Thank you to our Kindergarten teachers and teacher assistants who work diligently with each and every child to develop everyone to their fullest potential and to create life-long learners.

Thank you to our Kindergarten Parents for working collaboratively with the school. With your help, great things are happening here at CSEE!