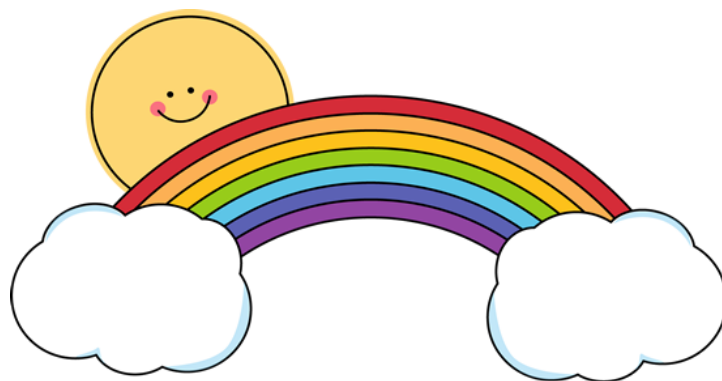


Dear Families,

Thank you to everyone who has signed up for a parent-teacher conference! Everybody is now signed up! Remember, you are free to request a phone conference if that is more convenient for you!



Literacy Tip: Vocabulary Development

Knowing many words and understanding them are important in developing thinking skills and in getting ready to read. Here are some ways to add to your child's school readiness with the gift of new words:

Highlights from this Week

This week we have a couple fun activities happening! On Monday, we will collaborate with the middle school French class to create beautiful masks for Mardi Gras. This activity is one that we've done for a few years now, and usually the kids really enjoy themselves. The French teacher, Mademoiselle Mishinger, teaches the kids what each of the colors (purple, gold, green) represents and they will even receive Mardi Gras beads after they complete their masks!

I (Miss Barello) will be out of the classroom Wednesday through Friday to attend a family wedding. In my place, Mrs. Buttermore (Mrs. B) will be here. The kids have met her and they love her! Mrs. Hale and Miss Harris will also be here so I'm sure I won't even be missed!



Read often to your child, both old favorites and new books from the library.

Comment on new words you find in books.

Use positional words: up, down, under, over.

Talk about opposites: in/out, up/down, on/off, hot/cold.

Use synonyms- words that mean the same thing.

Carry a small book or two in your car or purse for waiting times.

Try a yes/no game to teach about questions. For example: "Are you purple?", "Are you a girl?" "Can a tree talk?"

Play a mystery game. By giving clues and letting your child guess. Ex/ "It's yellow. We buy it at the grocery store. It's a fruit. We peel it and eat it". Add more clues until your child guesses "banana."

Play with categories, differences, and similarities. How is an apple different than a banana?

What are some of your favorite foods?

Enter into your child's games. Have fun playing house, with your child playing the mommy or daddy. Talk about what different members of the family do.

CENTERS AND ACTIVITIES

Center	Activities	Why are these activities so important?
Blocks	Doll houses Wooden people Pets	Creative play; turn taking; strengthening fine and gross motor skills; task persistence and problem solving
Table Toys and Games	Roll, Count and build math game File folder math and literacy games Journals	Visual discrimination; measurement and size; turn taking with a peer; hand-eye coordination
Dramatic Play	Pet Store	Developing language and social skills; socialization and building friendships; imaginative and pretend play; sharing materials and turn taking
Writing	Crayons, markers, paper	Fine motor skills; early literacy; language development
Library	Class books and pet-themed books	Book-handling skills; social interactions; imaginative and pretend play; early literacy
Sensory	Water Table with fish and fish nets Play dough, rollers, cookie cutters	Sensory; fine motor development; volume and measurement; science concepts- sink/float, solid/liquid, hard/soft; sharing materials with peers
Snack	Self-serve during center time	Self-help; language development and social skills
Art	Doggy hats	Expressing creativity; developing fine motor skills; Applying new knowledge
Tech	Ipads on Friday	Turn taking; developing hand-eye coordination and fine motor skills; practicing various cognitive skills (literacy, math, science concepts)
Science	Balance scales, doggy bones Pet erasers and pattern trays	Exploring cause and effect; making observations; turn taking with peers
Listening	Ipads on Friday	Language development; book-handling skills; practicing literacy concepts

March Birthdays:

8th- Boya (PM)
13th- Madison (PM)
19th- Jax (AM)
25th- Anna & Shawn (AM)



March Important Dates:

14th: 100th Day of Preschool
20th-21st: No School- Parent Teacher Conferences
22nd: No School- Institute Day
25th- 29th: No School- Spring Break