



Kindergarten News

Friday, September 18th, 2020

Parents,

It was another great week in Kindergarten! The students learned some new sight words (**me**, **up**, **an**) and letter sounds (**r**, **m**, **d**); we practiced using five frames and worked with our beans in Math to practice counting, adding, and patterning.

It was great seeing so many of you Monday for Curriculum Night. Remember that you can access the recording on Seesaw if you missed it!

Attendance week was a success in Kindergarten, with students enjoying the dress-up activity each day. Thank you for encouraging and helping your child prepare for each day's theme! We loved seeing all the pj's, hats, sports gear, baby pictures, and PCCS shirts!

In Social Studies, the students are learning about animal habitats. Last week we studied the prairie, and this week, the students learned about the pond. Everyone loved the pond sweep with Ms. Naomi!

Next week in Math we will begin our second unit, Numbers to Ten. Click [HERE](#) for an overview of what will be covered in Unit 2.

We also had our first Natural Leader Assembly of the school year. These monthly assemblies will be broadcast on the school's public Facebook page. Today, we tried

to stream the video through Zoom, but this was very glitchy. In the future, we will have you watch the assembly at home on your computer, and log into our Zoom meeting when it is over! You can access yesterday's broadcast on the school's Facebook page by clicking [HERE](#).

A Couple Things...

Getting a turn to talk on Zoom

We understand that it can be frustrating for students who want a turn to talk but are not called on. With a class of 24 in school, or at home on Zoom, waiting for a turn develops patience, empathy, and self control. Although it can be difficult to see your child become frustrated about not getting a turn, you can try to help them develop these important traits by explaining that they can use a strategy, such as self-talk: "It's okay, maybe next time I'll get a turn". Another strategy they can use is understanding: "The teacher can't call on everyone, it would take too long. I can be patient and let others talk." Conversely, some students are not comfortable participating on Zoom. Although we would like to hear from every student, we also don't want to put your child on the spot or scare them. Therefore, we typically don't call on a student who hasn't raised their hand. Our goal is that these students will eventually become more comfortable speaking on Zoom. You can encourage your child by pretending or practicing being on Zoom with family members and friends, or practice talking on the phone to family members and friends. We will continue to practice these Zoom skills in our classroom too.

Chat Feature

As I mentioned in an earlier email, it is very difficult for me to respond to chats during synchronous teaching times without having to stop the lesson. Please wait until asynchronous work time to chat me, or send your concerns to Mrs. Lisa in the chat feature instead. Writing me an email is even better! Thank you for your understanding.

Asynchronous Work Expectations

Please remember that your child is not expected or required to complete all of the asynchronous activities. Do what you can, and take breaks as needed. You can always have your child work on asynchronous assignments later in the day if a longer screentime break would be more helpful!

Also, there will always be an adult on the screen to help your child during asynchronous work time. That being said, **we would like the students to become as independent as possible** with some of these assignments. To help foster that

independence, it can help to have your child turn off their screen, mute themselves, and complete work away from the computer after all instructions have been given. If your child needs help or isn't sure what to do next, they can turn their video back on and come ask their question! Children can also leave the Zoom meeting entirely if that works best in your situation. We understand that each home learning environment is different and we want to be open and flexible with expectations during this time!

Tips for organizing materials

Some parents have shared helpful ideas for organizing the materials in the Materials Bag. Here are some tips!

- Have a different color folder for each subject. Put the ELA worksheets in one, and Math in another.
- Help your child to organize papers by keeping completed worksheets in one side of the folder, and incomplete ones on the other side.
- Each night, look through the asynchronous assignments for the following day and lay out any materials needed. Only keep out the materials needed for one day at a time, as this can make it less overwhelming for students.

Specials Update

Find the Specials page [here](#).

Music: We will continue to learn about steady beat. Please bring your interactive notebook, scissors and a glue stick for our next class.

Art: We will continue working on our birds. Please bring the following to our next class: your circle tracer (cup, mug, or circle stencil), a pencil, red yellow blue color pencils or crayons, a black colored pencil or crayon, and your artwork. Find the recording [here](#) for a refresher.

Materials to prepare for next week:

- Bug Patterns Game for Math: Please cut out the spiders and ladybugs ahead of time (or have your child do it for cutting practice!) You can keep them mixed up in a baggie (we will be sorting them during the activity).

Students will also need the following items close by during the week:

- Baggie of beans (from last week)

- **Beat you to Five** game board, **Which Numeral Will Win** game board, and a paperclip and pencil for a spinner (from last week)
- 5 double-sided objects and the **Spill 5 Beans** Gameboard (from last week)

Upcoming Events

- **Fridays** are PCCS Spirit days! Wear school colors (green, black, white) or spirit wear!
- There will be another Materials Pick-up next **Friday September 25th** from 1:00-2:00. Please remember that there will NOT be a closing circle that day. If you did not return your math manipulatives (cubes, shapes or bears) at the last exchange, please make sure to include them in the Materials bag on Friday.

Have a wonderful weekend!

~Mrs. Parker