



April 22, 2011

Dear Kindergarten Parents,

Navy or khaki uniform type (any brand) of shorts may be worn to school now, except when we attend the school Mass. Please watch for holes/frays in the knees of pants and frayed hems are not appropriate for our school dress code.

Please check the forecast for the temperature at 10 AM to see if it is warm enough for shorts and if a jacket is needed. If it is cool in the morning, please send a light jacket for our walk across the parking lot. Often the high temperature of the day doesn't happen until school is dismissed in the afternoon-but you never know with our Indiana weather this year!

Our Easter party will be on Monday, April 9. The children made "bunny bags" to collect their eggs and bunny ear hats. The children will follow a map to find their Easter Eggs with their own names on them. For our treat, we will have "bird's nests" cookies- similar to Rice Krispy treats, to celebrate the New Life God gives to us at Easter.

All next week, you may send in the Early Bird registration form for the "Walk with Haiti", which is held on Saturday, April 28 to raise funds for our sister parish in St. Marguerite. The class with the highest percentage of participants will have a pizza party! There is a collection next week at school for St. Vincent DePaul of trial or full sized toiletries-toothbrush/paste, shampoo, bar/liquid soap, underwear and socks.

On next Friday, April 13, we will be going on our field trip to Comfort Dental Office in the afternoon. The children will learn about the dental equipment, how to take care of their teeth, and how much sugar foods contain. **It is a casual reward day for the clothing drive in February!**

Our last field trip is to the Starkey farm on Thursday, April 19. We will be attending in the afternoon and will go even if it is raining. There will be a demonstration from Hendricks Soil Conservation with a model showing the children about soil and water conservation and the effects of pollution.

In Reading Readiness this week:

- Review the sounds for k and short u sound like up and umbrella –beginning, middle, and ending sounds in words
- Discussed using your senses in a garden.
- Wrote a class poem describing sunflowers after reading about them. Each child will receive a copy and illustrate it.

- phoneme deletion-say words then delete the beginning sound as in lit/it
- review the sight words “here, was, said, little, that, did”
- phoneme segmentation-sound boxes show how many sounds are in words
- blend -ot and -op word family words- the children write a list on the marker board by just changing the beginning letter.
- word sort-- circle the words in a different colored marker to show the same beginning, middle or ending sounds, or number of letters in the words
- listening comprehension-recognize text structure-beginning, middle and ending of stories, preview and predict, draw conclusions from things that are not stated.
- Read leveled readers in small groups to practice these skills
- We will be reading several Eve Bunting books- she is like Cynthia Rylant- they both write books for people of all ages. They both use lots of wonderful craft in their books. Eve Bunting’s writing evokes lots of emotion. We read Sunflower House and my favorite line is “It’s neat to think when something’s gone (the sunflower house) a part of it goes on and on (the seeds.) Such wonderful wisdom in a children’s book!

Our Math skills this week were:

- We are working on what makes a shape different from the other shapes- how many sides, the sides equal or not equal, how many vertices (corners), curved or not curved, open or closed.
- The children sorted and traced shapes and decided if they were hexagons or not. They made hexagons on a dot grid by counting the dots to make the sides equal and their hexagons could be any size. We compared hexagons with circles, squares, rectangles and triangles.
- The children made equivalent shapes-6 triangle pattern blocks fit in a hexagon, as do 2 trapezoids, and 3 blue rhombuses.
- We took the review sheets and will take the test on Monday. In the next chapter will be comparing three dimensional shapes with 2 dimensional shapes.

In Religion this week, we have been celebrating Holy Week. We read a booklet about Jesus’ Last Supper and baked a large, flat bread on Holy Thursday. We looked at and said prayers at the pictures for the Stations of the Cross. The children attended the school Rosary and Mary’s Way of the Cross.

- Our Religion lessons this week were about forgiveness.
- Moses forgave God’s followers for not following God’s rules.
- The children learned that we all make mistakes and bad choices at times. We need to try to fix them by saying that we are sorry and try not to do it again.

- We discussed that forgiving someone means being their friend, even after they hurt you or your feelings. Jesus said that we should forgive people many times.
- We showed signs of forgiveness, such as smiling, high fives, or giving hugs.
- The children learned that we give each other the Sign of Peace before we receive the Eucharist during Mass, to show that we forgive everyone around us.

In Writing Workshop this week, we read BigMama's, authored and illustrated by Donald Crews. This is a book about Donald Crew's memories of staying with his grandmother (BigMama) every summer in Florida, when he lived in New Jersey. His family would ride the train and the first thing they would do is check to see that everything was just the same at Bigmama's-inside and out of the house. Best of all are all of his family, cousins and friends that share a big meal together and have the whole summer ahead of them! The children will be drawing some of their favorite memories that they think would be good topics for books that they write.

Let Peace Live in our Hearts!

Mary Feeney

Please see information below from Mrs. Kennison.

Physical Education Happenings

Next week in physical education, I will begin fitness testing in order to establish a fitness baseline and goal setting. Below I have listed the testing areas and the standards which are an average of children in the United States. I have also included jump roping as it is one of the most difficult, coordinated movements for early elementary students.

Test	Standard
Sit-ups (1 minute)	28
Shuttle Run (agility)	12.6 sec
Sit and Reach (flexibility)	28 cm
Pull-ups	1
Flex-arm Hang (from the pull up bar)	6 sec
¼ mile run	2:15
Jump Rope (1 minute)	20

****After testing is completed, I will send home the results.**

**Through Christ,
Mrs. Kennison**

St. Malachy School
PE/Health Teacher