

GRANT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL MRS. ABBOTT'S KINDERGARTEN

October 28, 2010

Dear Parents,

We have now been in school 43 days and in this time the children have adjusted to our routines and I am beginning to see real progress. This month has been very busy in kindergarten as usual.

The letters N, A, D, and S and their corresponding sound have been introduced. The children practice these letters and sounds using all of their senses aimed at different learning styles. I also feel it is important to include a lot of non-fiction materials as well as the wonderful fictional literature related to each letter.



During N week we learned about different types of nest and our big book focus was "The Napping House."

As part of the A week activities we learned all about apples and Johnny Appleseed. This tied in with our Apple and Fall unit. We cooked

and ate applesauce, graphed apple colors, four season apple trees and discovered the star inside.

I love Kindergarten!



D week was a lot of fun for the children. Our book focus was on Clifford and dog related literature. We made dotted D and wrote in dog journals.

This week we learned the letter S. Spiders were the focus and the children seem fascinated. We made glitter spider webs and will cook spaghetti.

Our next letter and sound is M. Our big book focus in shared reading will be "If You Give a Mouse a Cookie" with mouse related activities.

In addition to the letter covered six basic sight words have been introduced. The

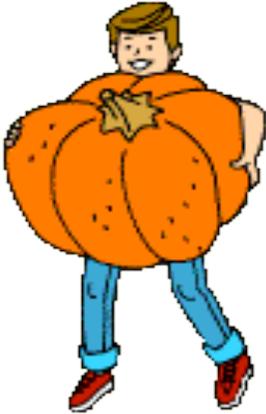
words introduced thus far include "the, a, my, that, and, and I". These are basic sight words or "popcorn words" because they pop up all the time in their reading. These are added to our classroom word wall. They are practiced in our shared writing or predictable charts and in classroom games and songs. We will also learn the color words through songs.



Big books are an important part of our reading curriculum in kindergarten. We read big books during shared reading and focus on one or two books per week. During this time we predict what the story will be about. We discuss characters, the setting of the story and the beginning, middle and end of the story. We echo read, choral read and supply missing words to complete text. They learn to match the words they are reading to the words on the page, and they learn to use picture and context clues. These are some

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of the important skills covered in shared reading.



In scaffold writing the children have used their ear spelling to write in their journals. Ear spelling is putting down all the sounds your ear can hear. We also call this turtle talk as we stretch the word, say it slowly and spell words. This is very guided at this point and will become more independent as the year progresses.

In math we are continuing to graph each week, write numerals to 10 correctly, clap and count to 50 and work on patterns. The children are doing a great job in pattern work. We have moved from simple AB pattern to ABC patterns.

Our Fall Harvest unit has been fun and informative for the children. We learned why leaves change colors, learned about people and animal activities in the fall

and noticed much in our fall walk. We learned about apples and are now learning about pumpkins. We will begin our Thanksgiving unit after Halloween and continue with fall.



Our fall party will be on October 29th at 2:15 pm. The parade will begin at 2:30 pm. The children may bring their costumes in their backpacks to wear during the parade. All parents are welcome to join us at this classroom party. Don't forget to bring your cameras!



Our Accelerated Reading Program is going well thanks to your participation in this program and to our reading buddies on Thursday. The students take an AR test on the computer to check for comprehension. Overall the children have had excellent scores. We did not have parent volunteers on Thursday or Friday of this week so the children did not bring books home. We hope to have volunteers every day next week.

Studies have shown that reading to children increases their success as readers when they begin to read themselves. Reading develops your child's interest in books, improves your child's listening skills, builds vocabulary, helps your child to understand book language, stimulates your child's imagination, develops and interest in words and characters and most of all is fun and creates a bond between you and your child. It is something you are doing anyway and your child develops comprehension in AR. Your support of this program is making a difference!

Book Orders due November 5th.

I ♥ Teaching
Rita Abbott

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