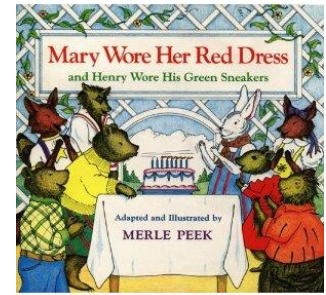


Classroom News

Mrs. Kempster's Kindergarten

Week of September 12th



News:

Monday: Today the children explored unifix cubes, which are cubes that snap together that we generally will use during math lessons. The children had time to play with the unifix cubes, and learned about sharing and team building. The children discovered that our kindergarten class is a team, and we talked about rules we should have for our team. The kindergarteners made a great list of things that they should (and should not) do in kindergarten. Today was the first music class of the year. The kindergarteners had fun singing, dancing, and marching with their music teacher, Mrs. Koch.

Tuesday: Today the children worked on a project involving the letters of their name. We reviewed the book Chicka Chicka Boom Boom! and made palm trees with the letters of our names in them. The kindergarteners did a great job of cutting, gluing, and following directions. The trees are on display in our classroom!

Wednesday: Today we went on a tour of the school today and saw many important parts of the building, including the main office, nurse's office, gym, library, auditorium, and the different hallways in the school. The children then drew their favorite part of the tour. We also talked about feelings while reading Dr. Seuss' My Many Colored Days. The students then chose a colored paper that matched their feeling that day, and then traced their hand and cut it out (this was a good lesson for me to determine cutting needs for the months ahead). The children were introduced to some fine motor bins that will be on their tables often for morning work. They require the children to string beads, sort buttons, and place pebbles on letters. All of the activities help the children strengthen their fine motor skills.

Thursday: Today we read the big book Mary Wore Her Red Dress. Each student spent time writing their own page for a class version of the book. They also created illustrations and had their picture taken so our class version can be shared (one at a time) with each of their families. Later, we read another version of Mary Wore Her Red Dress. The children listened for similarities and differences, and we talked about how both versions had elements that were the same and different. Today was the first day students came into the classroom from the bus all by themselves!

Friday: This morning, the children continued to work with the fine motor bins. We had our first day of centers! Centers are small, rotating groups. These centers run for approximately 15-20 minutes and the children spend time in approximately 3 centers per day. The children practiced

using pattern blocks to create pictures and spent more time developing their cutting skills in two centers. In the third center, the children practiced writing their names by creating “rainbow names”. They selected five different colors to write their name. The class is doing a wonderful job of following our routines.

Notes:

- It was exciting to see so many of you at the Park Road Picnic. I hope your family enjoyed the night as much as I did.
- Please remember we have only 10 minutes for snack. Many kindergarteners are bringing multiple snacks to eat, and are not able to finish everything. Please send only one snack to kindergarten.
- **Ideas for how to help at home:**
 - Encourage independence while your child packs his or her backpack. At school, we encourage students to pack their folder and any snack boxes independently, including fitting those things in the backpack, as well as zipping. Encourage independence at home with this as well.
 - Help your child practice writing his or her name. Your child will be writing his or her name several times per day at school. As the year goes on, we will be emphasizing writing names “the school way” (with one uppercase letter and the rest lower case) with correct letter formation. Help your child get a head start with this by practicing at home.
- Friday, October 7th - No School - Superintendent's Conference Day.
- Monday, October 10th - No School - Columbus Day
- Park Road School Picture Day is Friday, October 21st.

This newsletter will be posted on Mrs. Kempster's webpage. You can find it by going to the Park Road homepage, clicking “teacher web pages,” and searching “Kempster.” You may also find it at <http://www.pittsfordschools.org/webpages/skempster/>