

# K-K News

January 30, 2009

Dear Families:

Next Friday, your child's first progress report will come home. I wanted to take some time in this week's newsletter to explain my thinking about certain aspects of the reports, before they come home next week. The first page of the report covers your child's personal and social growth, including work habits. Each attribute on that page is rated by frequency. For example, "[your child] listens and follows directions" is rated as consistently, usually, sometimes, or rarely. It is my effort to paint a picture of your child's behaviors in school through these marks, and through the comments on this page. Comments about goals on this page are very appropriate to share with your child.

The second page of the progress report focuses on academic areas. The ratings are numerical (1,2,3, and 4) and represent your child's understanding and performance in each curriculum area. It is important for you to read the trifold that comes with the report, to help you interpret the marks on this page. It is also important to note that a "3" is the desired outcome in any curriculum area. This is the designation for a child meeting the learning goals in a given area. The 4 is available to designate advanced understanding in a curriculum area or subset, but it is not an expectation that children will get many - if any - 4s in their reports in the course of a year.

There is also a mark for effort in each academic area, as it is important for you and your child to know if he/she is demonstrating appropriate effort. Children have control over

their effort, regardless of their level of understanding in a content area.

I want to emphasize that I feel very strongly that students in kindergarten should not be reading the reports or hearing the numbers on their reports. This document is written and intended for parents. Julie and I share small goals with your children each day as they work in the classroom. They know what they are working on. I would be very pleased if parents would share summary observations with their children about the reports. In other words, tell your child that I said he/she needs to work on accurate counting or using letters to help with their spelling in writing workshop; tell him/her that I have noticed how many letters or numbers he/she now recognizes; don't tell him/her that he/she received a two in mathematics or literacy. Finally, if an area is marked inconsistent in effort, that is an opportunity to talk to your child about what he/she can do to improve that mark this spring.

I hope that the reports are helpful, and look forward to sharing them with you next week. Please note that there will be a form enclosed for comments or questions, which you can send back to school the week of February 9.

**In other news...**

- We marked the halfway point in the school year yesterday, as we reached our ninetieth day together. In honor of this milestone, there are new home folders coming home today. In them you will find book order forms (due Friday, February 6), February lunch menus, and a copy of the permission slip for next week's field trip, which many people did not return this week. Please return permission slips on Monday. Thank you.

- Thank you to the many parents who volunteered to help with construction or production for our play Hill of Fire. The children had a wonderful time yesterday, and appreciated the large audience! If you made a video that we could share with parents that were unable to attend, please let me know. If you are hoping to see a video of the production, please let me know that, as well.
- In addition to the play, the next two weeks feature several other special events. On **Thursday, February 5**, we will be visiting Newton Wellesley Hospital on a field trip. Again, please return permission slips on Monday. On **Wednesday, February 11**, we welcome families for Hunnewell's annual **Open School Night**. On **Thursday, February 12** (barring more snow days), we will celebrate our 100<sup>th</sup> day of kindergarten. Volunteers will be needed that day from 10:30-11:30 for a centers time similar to the one we had on Halloween. If you available that morning, please let me know. Also, we will be collecting nonperishable food donations with a goal of 100 items to count and donate to the Wellesley Food Pantry that day. And on **Friday, February 13**, we will do a modest celebration of Valentine's Day. There will not be food or a party, but children may bring in Valentines to distribute to friends during choice time. A list of names is in the home folder and attached to this newsletter...please have your child be thoughtful and make a valentine for everyone if he/she is making them at all. Thank you!
- In mathematics, we continue our work with number. The children have been playing a variety of games that allow them to demonstrate and build their strategies for early addition. To see what your child is doing independently, play a game with two dice or two playing cards. See how she/he

combines quantities. Does s/he count every dot or symbol? Recognize the quantity on one die or card and then count on? Add mentally? This will give you a very good window into how your child is thinking about early addition at this point in the year. As always, we prompt the children to extend their thinking with questions as they work in the classroom. However, the strategies they select *independently* tell us - and you - a great deal about their mathematical skills.

- Water unit volunteers, I look forward to seeing you on Monday afternoon at 3:15.

I think that is all for now. Enjoy the weekend with your children!

Sincerely,

*Lynn*

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My child, \_\_\_\_\_, has permission to visit Newton Wellesley Hospital on February 5, 2009. I understand that the children will be traveling by bus that morning.

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*signature and date*

**Valentines list:**

Alex K

Alex L

Anton

Ben

Christopher

Claire

Darin

Elise

Elizabeth

Elliot

Ford

Go-go

Grace

Isabella

Katie

Michael

Nicholas

Patricia

Potter

Ryan

Sydney

Tyler

Wilder

Mrs. Felo

Mrs. Kaminski