

K-K News

September 26, 2008

Dear K-K families:

We have had a fabulous first week of stay days! We really enjoyed the extra time with your children, and they clearly loved the time, space, and attention that the smaller groups afford everyone.

As with the opening week of school, a lot of our time this week was spent teaching routines and rituals that will be part of our afternoons for the rest of the year. The children learned where to gather at the end of lunch recess with the "big kids" (first and second graders); how to buy or get their lunches and where to sit; how to re-enter the classroom for the afternoon, and so on. We also began our afternoon routines of read aloud and quiet reading; writing; stations; chapter book; sharing and packing up the room at the end of the day. The routines of the afternoon allow us to work on reading skills in a large group, as well as allowing for small group and individual instruction while the rest of the class is enjoying independent reading. At this point in the year, our writing time is focused on handwriting. This week, we worked on introducing appropriate pencil grips and practicing using those grips on some worksheets designed by our school's occupational therapist, Sydney Moody. Over the next several weeks, we will be working on the key handwriting strokes with which most letters are formed. (Please see the handout from back to school night regarding letter formation for more information about that.) Later in the afternoon, the children participated in stations. This is a time when they work at a

variety of different activities, including literacy, math, and games that reinforce other skills in the classroom.

In other news...

- We noticed that many of the children did not bring sharing (show and tell) this week. While sharing news is welcome and encouraged, we want to remind you that your child's stay day will be his/her sharing day all year. Please discuss with your child possible items for sharing next week.

- Looking ahead, we will be working on a unit on families in late October and early November. We would like to have a picture of each child with his/her family for a class book (pictures will be returned at the end of the year). Please send in a photo (with your child's name on the back) in the next few weeks. Thank you!

- On Monday mornings, the children write in journals about something they did over the weekend. This does not need to be something momentous...it can simply be playing with legos at home. Nonetheless, many of our young writers are struggling with figuring out what to write. Thus, we would appreciate your help in reminding children of what they did over the weekend as you come to school on Monday, so they enter the room with ideas to support their writing. Thank you for your help with this!

Please remember that there is no school - and thus no stay day - next Tuesday, September 30, due to Rosh Hashanah. We wish those families that are celebrating the holiday a sweet and healthy new year!

Sincerely,

Lynn and Julie