

April 2009

Dear Parents,

I want to begin by thanking all the volunteers who helped chaperone the trip to the hospital. The children had a wonderful time visiting the nursery, x-ray room, cast room, kitchen, pediatric emergency room and role-play room. Thank you also for supporting our math program by attending our March Math Morning. The children loved showing you the games we have been doing during the geometry unit.

In language arts this month, we will be studying the letters G, S, A and I. We will continue with our guided reading and spelling groups. One of the spelling groups is working on sorting pictures by beginning sounds while the other group is working on sorting pictures by the initial sound, blend or digraph. In Writer's Workshop, the children have begun publishing one of their books. We will continue publishing throughout this month. In June, parents will be invited into the classroom to hear these published stories. A big push this month will be moving from using all capital letters to using lower case letters. Last week, we completed the unit on Ezra Jack Keats. This week, we are starting an author study of Beatrix Potter. At the end of April, author and illustrator, Grace Lin, will be coming to Hunnewell to speak to the children and Mother Goose will visit our class on April 8.

In math, we are starting the unit, "How Many Do You Have?" This is the final number unit of the year. The focus of this unit is on counting groups of objects, decomposing numbers to 10 and finding and exploring combinations of a number. Addition and subtraction

notation will be introduced to the children. They will have the opportunity to act out, model and solve story problems. Games will also be introduced that involve combining and separating groups.

In social studies, we will continue with our study of Mexico. This month, the children will learn about food, arts and crafts, and holidays in Mexico. The unit will end with a fiesta early in May. You will be hearing much more about the fiesta from the room parents in the next few weeks.

Tidbits:

-Tuesday, April 7, is a half day of school for everyone due to parent/teacher conferences.

-Please remember to send a note if your child is going home a different way.

-Blankets will be sent home for washing over April vacation. Please return them after vacation in a plastic grocery bag labeled with your child's name.

-Unless we have more snow, your child no longer needs to bring boots or snowpants to school.

Sincerely,
Donna