

March 2009

Dear Parents,

In literacy this month, we will be focusing on the letters C, O and Q. We will also spend a week reviewing the last several letters. We will be continuing the unit on Ezra Jack Keats as we continue to read books that feature the character of Peter as well as a few of his other books. The children have been watching Peter grow up from a preschooler in The Snowy Day to a preteen in Goggles. Last week, the children broke up into 3 groups and learned a little about the life of Ezra Jack Keats. They shared this information with their stay day groups. The children learned quite a bit including such facts as he grew up in New York City and had a pet cat, Samantha. In the next several weeks, we will start to make connections between Ezra Jack Keats' personal experiences and his books. In Writer's Workshop, we will begin the process of publishing books. I hope most of you were able to see your child's writing folder at Open School Night. They have been working very hard on their stories.

In math, we will continue with the geometry unit on shapes that was started last week. This unit, "Make a Shape, Build a Block," looks at 2-D and 3-D shapes. The children will be looking at the characteristics of various shapes and the relationships between them. The children will be asked to describe, name, compose and decompose shapes. In addition, the children will be looking for different shapes in the environment. Please save Monday, March 30, from 8:45-9:15 for KM's March Math Morning. You are invited to spend time in our classroom and to play

some of the shape games the children will be learning this month. I hope you are all able to attend.

Well, it's off to Mexico! We started the unit this past week with everyone receiving a Spanish name, brainstorming what we already know about Mexico and by reading a book about Mexico. In the next few weeks, the children will be learning a little about maps as we locate Mexico on various maps and globes. They will also learn about the topography of Mexico and create a topographical map as a group. The children will use visualization as they visit a Mexican Mercado (marketplace) and then draw what they experienced. We will take a close look at the flag and talk about the meaning behind it. We will look at both traditional as well as modern clothing and how the climate has an effect on what people wear. Throughout the unit, I will attempt to teach the children a little Spanish. We will learn the days of the week, the numbers on the calendar and some colors.

We have 2 special events occurring in March. On Wednesday, March 18, the Discovery Museum is coming to Hunnewell to bring a program on bubbles. This program supports the water unit in kindergarten. On Thursday, March 26, we will be going on a field trip to the Newton-Wellesley Hospital. I will be sending home a permission slip soon via backpacks. This is a wonderful opportunity for the children to visit the hospital when there isn't a problem.

Parent/Teacher conferences begin later this month. As I did in the fall, I will be hanging a schedule outside the classroom door. Please come and sign up at your

convenience. The four conference days are March 25, April 1, April 7 and April 8. I will typically begin conferences at 12:30 and end at 3:00. I do have slots available at 8:00 on a few Thursdays as well. If you are unable to come to school to sign up, send me a couple of possible times you are available, and I will sign you up. If anyone is interested in helping out with activity time, there are still opportunities in March. Please stop by and check the clipboard, or send me a note with some possible days you are available.

I want to thank everyone for all the Kleenex and liquid hand soap. I think we have enough to last us through June and then some. I appreciate your generosity.

Sincerely,
Donna