



## KM News

### Week of Nov. 3-7

At the beginning of the week, we talked about voting and the election. To understand the concept of voting, the kids voted for their favorite picture for our November Calendar numbers. They used unifix cubes to cast their vote, and then we counted the votes and compared the numbers. I asked many mathematical questions about the stacks of cubes, including: how do we know if everyone voted? We put all of the cube stacks together and determined that everyone indeed had voted because there were 20 cubes. We also talked a little about the presidential election and read Duck For President. After the kids practiced voting, I told them that we would be electing a pretend assistant for KM, who could help us with our work and to solve problems. I presented the candidates: Cookie Monster and The Count, and then we talked a little about each candidate's philosophy. I didn't want to influence the kids by sharing my opinion, so I told them they should think about the two while they worked and played throughout the day. Thank you for discussing our candidates at home too. The KM Polling booth opened on Tuesday morning. Each child waited in line for the "Name checker" to cross their name off the list, and then went behind the screen to fill in their ballot and put it in the ballot box. (Even Mr. Wilkins voted!) After all the ballots were collected, we carefully tallied the votes and compared numbers (this was a great math discussion). The Count won the election!

For the remainder of the week, we focused on Thanksgiving and Family, which we will continue through November. We read stories about families, including Something For Nothing, and Sylvester and The Magic Pebble. The kids began making a book about their family, which will be an ongoing project. We also read a book about the first Thanksgiving this week. The kids were amazed to learn that they didn't have any electricity- no t.v.! The kids learned 2 new Thanksgiving songs and 1 new poem this week. They will sing these songs during our Thanksgiving Celebration!

During Open Circle, the kids learned about interviewing skills. They practiced asking another person the *W questions*: who, what, why, when, where. During our circle time, the kids paired up and took turns asking their partner 3 questions. After their interview was over, each child shared one thing about their partner that they learned. During our 4F buddy time, the KM kids asked their buddies questions about their family, siblings, pets, and more. This was a great opportunity to practice those conversation skills!

During Stay Days this week, the kids worked on the letters N and M in their handwriting books. These are two letters that would be great to practice at home because they are tricky. Our silly animal sentence this week was about Penelope Pig. Ask your child what P words he/she can think of (or if your child is ready, spell words that rhyme with Pig...).

The kids also worked at Literacy Stations and Math Stations this week. We began a patterning unit that will continue for the next couple of weeks. The kids created a variety of trains using unifix cubes, and then we sorted them into groups of trains that did and did not have a pattern. We read a story about a Pilgrim girl, called Sarah Morton's Day and talked about how she worked hard to help her family. Everyone also learned a Native American math game called *Snake Sticks*. This game incorporates counting and adding skills. I will try to send home a copy so that you can play it at home.

#### **Some questions to ask your child this week:**

What is the Writing Center Hop To It Activity?

What do you think is in the Mystery Box?

Did you have a special assembly this week?

What Game is in the ABC Center?

Did you try the Overhead Projector Center?

What great stories did you read?

What did you write/draw about in your journal this week?

Have a great weekend!

Julie