



## KM News

### Week of Oct. 6-10

This week we finished our Lois Ehlert author study. We read two great L.E. books about fall leaves called Red Leaf Yellow Leaf and Leaf Man. Since we are working on counting and sorting, the kids collected 10 fall leaves outside on the playground. They sorted their leaves by color and then filled in a leaf graph. We also put beautiful leaves in the Science Center to look at under our large magnifying glass. We also read Top Cat by Lois Ehlert, and focused on the rhyming words in the story. We played a rhyming game with a ball during group time and then played rhyming bingo. Please have fun with rhyming at home, since it is an important pre-reading skill for the kids to develop.

This week our math unit focused on shapes and counting in the classroom. As you know, we count in many ways throughout our day during calendar, weather, # of days of school, counting out supplies needed, etc. We also have a classroom "counting jar" that will be filled with different items during the next few weeks. This week, we counted the items in the jar together during group time. We first talked about how many cotton balls we thought might be in the jar. We discussed what would be a reasonable guess: "Could it be 100?" Why not? How about 2?... After this discussion, we counted the cotton balls together and talked about the importance of organizing items and counting carefully. The kids then practiced counting a bag of items on their own. After counting their objects, they recorded the amount on paper with pictures and a number.

This week our Open Circle discussion was about using "silent signals" to communicate. We brainstormed familiar signals: finger to lips for quiet, raising your hand to talk in a group, lights out when we need to freeze and listen to directions, and many more. Ask your child the signal for "back to topic." You may want to use some of these at home! 😊

During Stay Days this week, the kids started working on letter formation in their own handwriting books. Every stay day the kids will practice writing a particular letter using the correct formation (start at the top, etc.). They will first practice the letter with "sky writing," sponge writing, chalk, and other fun ways, before they actually write with pencil in their handwriting books. This week the kids worked on the letter F. Have your child demonstrate it for you at home. (Thurs. kids haven't done this yet)

This week, we went on a shape hunt around the school and selected certain items to photograph for our "Schofield Shapes Book." The kids also created their pictures from paper shapes. They added text to their picture too: "a \_\_ (shape) \_\_ is just a \_\_ (shape) \_\_ until you add \_\_\_\_\_, then it is a \_\_\_\_\_" They came up with very clever ideas! (Ask your child about his/her picture)

Here are some conversation starters for you and your child:

- What was your favorite center this week?
- What was the hop to it activity?
- What was in the Mystery Box this week?
- Which students were star of the day this week?
- Did you send a postcard or receive a postcard this week?
- What shapes did you find during your shape walk around Schofield? (Thurs. group didn't do this)
- What was your favorite story this week? Why?
- What happened when you put a carrot in water? What else happened during this experiment? (check out the photo on the website)

Have a wonderful long weekend!

Julie