October 9, 2012

Dear Families,

I hope everyone enjoyed the weekend. There are a few things I want to update you about with our class, but first I will go over some reminders.

* Time for Kids and Agenda’s are $5.00 each and checks can be made to the ROOT PTA

During our literacy block, students have learned how to slow down and summarize a text by paying attention to punctuation and how important it is to pay attention to punctuation. They have learned how to summarize a book and how to listen carefully to details in a book. We have discussed why it is important to remember details and we have discussed our favorite parts of texts. We have not only talked about what part is our favorite but why it is our favorite. We have also discussed why it is important to talk about parts we are confused with in a text and we have practiced this as well. The final thing we have been working on in reading and comprehending texts is paying attention to character detail. All of these strategies are very important and can be used as practice at home with your child when reading every night.

During our Daily Five block, we have learned Read to Self, Work on Writing, and Read to Someone and Listen to Reading. For Listen to Reading, students will use a computer program called RAZ KIDS. You can access this at home through the ROOT website under second grade if students would like to listen to books online at home. This is a great tool to use to help students with fluency. During the Daily 5, we have been focuses on lots of strategies to help us comprehend texts, read accurately, read fluently, and expanded our vocabulary. Some of the strategies we have been focusing on under comprehension are: making a picture in your head when listening to a story, summarizing a text, and checking for understanding (stop after a few paragraphs or pages and discuss what was just read). We have talked about “Tuning into Interesting Words” while listening to books to expanded our vocabulary.

In Writing, we have discussed two ways to make a plan (sketching a picture and listing). We have talked about how to share our writing with a partner and how to tell a story across several pages. We have looked at books we have previously read to help get writing ideas and we have talked about adding detail to our writing.

During our math block, we have been concentrating on numbers 1-1000. We have continued to work on skip counting by 2’s, 5’s, and 10’s. We have continued to work on place value using quick hundreds, tens, and ones, expanded notation, and word form. We are also continuing to work on our math facts (addition and subtraction). We will do math facts weekly and Xtra Math is a good practice for math facts. We are using it in the classroom as morning work but it would also be beneficial to use at home for a couple of minutes. The goal is to complete each math facts quiz with 100% accuracy and under 3 minutes.

In Social Studies, we have finished up our unit on Citizenship. We learned what it means to be a good citizen and that all citizens have responsibilities. We discussed that there are consequences for what we do (good and bad) and we have talked about what good citizens would do in different situations (saw a lost dog, someone knocked over a garbage can, etc.)

At Open House I had a wishlist up. Again, it is just a wishlist and is not required but I figured I would pass it along in case you had any of these items that the class could use/would benefit from.

Books:

There’s a Nightmare in My Closet by Mercer Mayer

Sally Jean, the Bicycle Queen by Cari Best and Christine Davenier

Koala Lou by Mem Fox

Rain, Snow, and Hail by Rigby

The Big, Bad Rumor by Jonathan Meres

The Relatives Came by Cynthia Rylant

George and Martha by James Marshall

The Hole in the Dike by Norma Green

Miscellanious Items:

Card Stock (color)-used for games/flyers

Card Stock (white)-used for games/flyers

Puzzles-used for inside recess

Hula Hoops (5)-used for outside play and for time

Old Board Games-used for inside recess

Treasures for our treasure box

CDs (classical music or songsforteaching.com)-used during writing

Bean Bag Chair-used for Daily 5

12 black socks (6 pairs)-used as erasers for dry erase boards

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Large Pillows-used for Daily 5

Pencil Sharpener- Exacto Pro (office max)

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions! I can be reached at tpinero@wcpss.net or by the school phone 919-881-4940.

Sincerely,

 Miss Pinero

**UPCOMING DATES:**

**October 19- Early Release and Rootin Tootin**

**October 31- Workday**