

October 27, 2011

Dear Parents and/or Guardians,

We are at the end of the month of October. The weather is changing. Please help your child dress appropriately for the weather. The children do stand outside in the morning and it can get pretty cold.

The Halloween Parade and party are this Monday starting at 8:30. If you would like to come and watch the parade, you can line up outside of the building around 8:30. It gets pretty crowded and the kids love being seen in their costumes. After the party, we will continue on with a normal day so please make sure your child has regular school clothes to wear for the rest of the day.

We have finished two chapters in math thus far. The children are doing a good job of reading time to the hour. We continue to practice counting nickels and pennies. If you have an opportunity, give your child a few coins to count. The children can also benefit from practicing make exchanges of five pennies for a nickel. There is a good game from Every Day Math that practices this skill. The game is called *Penny-Nickel Exchange*. Make a bank of 20 pennies and 10 nickels. Players take turns rolling a die and collecting the number of pennies shown on the die from the bank. Whenever players have at least 5 pennies, they say, "Exchange!" and trade 5 pennies for a nickel from the bank. The game ends when there are no more nickels in the bank. The player who has the most nickels wins. If the players have the same number of nickels, the one with the most pennies wins. We are also learning about odd and even numbers and how to use a number line to help solve math problems.

We have started weekly spelling tests. Please practice with your child at home. The words go home on Friday and the test is given on Thursday. We have been working on words that have the short vowel a and i sounds in them. The one ending that seems to confuse some of

the class is "ck". Some children want to only use c and others only want to use k.

We had a wonderful time on our zoo field trip. Even though it was overcast and rained a little, we were able to see some really cool things. Many of the children were able to see the bats crawling, moving, and cleaning themselves. In one house with the children in my group we saw an Okapi and an alligator that had its mouth open. The docent told us that he was cooling himself off as he was lying under a heat lamp. We also heard very loud bird calls. Thank you to Mr. Gruberman, Mrs. Moss, Mrs. Cox, Mrs. Williams, and Ms. Edwards who went with us as chaperones.

We have been learning about animal habitats or the animals address. Next week we will be reading a story about our habitat. Please help your child practice their address as I will be asking them where he/she lives next week.

The Smartboard is up and running. The children can now come in every morning and move their name to one side of the board to tell me if they are bringing or buying. We have used it find pictures of animal habitats, make graphs, use a 100 chart to count by 2's, and to work as a group on pages in the math book.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me by email or call the school.

Mrs. Sandala