

Kindergarten News

December 2009



News and Notes

It was a pleasure to meet with so many of you during our recent conference days. Conference days are also scheduled for Nov. 30 and Dec. 1st. Contact the office to set up a conference time. Thank you for taking time to meet with us to discuss your child's progress in kindergarten.

Please make sure your child has appropriate clothing for outdoor recess. Make sure to label your child's items with his/her name or initials. Items that look similar tend to get mixed up very easily and it is difficult to determine the rightful owner.

Please continue to check and empty your child's folder each night. This is our way of communicating with you and we would hate for anyone to miss any important notes or information.

We will have a winter celebration on December 21, 2009.

We would like to wish you a very happy and safe holiday season and look forward to seeing you all in the New Year!

ILA Benchmarks

The following is a list of some of the benchmarks that will be covered this month.

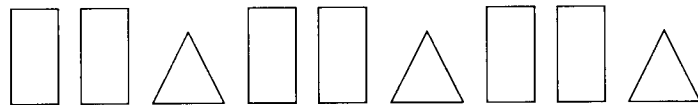
Students will:

1. Begin to name final sounds in words.
2. Begin to segment a single syllable word into beginning sounds and the rest of the word. (Ex: "c...at" for cat)
3. Identify all upper and lowercase letter by name.
4. Begin to identify characters in a story as well as their actions and feelings.
5. Begin to sequence events in a story.
6. Begin to use correct spelling for sight words learned so far.
7. Begin to put spaces between words as well as use correct capitalization and ending punctuation.



Math Benchmarks

This month we will work on shapes and patterns. Please see the attached paper for specific skills and benchmarks that will be covered in this unit.



Social Studies Benchmarks

The students will ...
Discuss and explore different holiday and family traditions.



Science Benchmarks

We will be focusing on Social Studies benchmarks this month.



Home Activities

Each month we will list several activities, which you can be practicing at home with your child. These activities may be: curriculum related, involve self- help skills, or will work on improving motor skills. Remember to make learning FUN!

1. In math we are working on shapes and patterns. Encourage your child to find patterns around your house. You can also have your child name the shapes of everyday objects like cookies, windows, doors, etc.
2. In social studies we will be discussing different wintertime traditions that are celebrated around the world. Talk with your child about some of your family's traditions.
3. Let your child practice cutting by giving him/her some catalogues so they can cut out pictures for a holiday wish list. Your child can label the items by stretching out the words and writing the sounds they hear.



Websites for Parents and Children

To find out more information about our curriculum please visit the Carroll County Public Schools Webpage at <http://www.carrollk12.org/instruction/instruction/elementary/levels/default.asp> Scroll down the page and click on the word **kindergarten**. Then click on ILA, math, social studies, or science to learn more about that subject.

Remember if you do not have a computer at home, the local library has computers with internet access available to everyone. Check the information desk to learn how to sign up to use one of their computers.

You **MUST** check out the Jan Brett site before the holidays!

This month's featured site is...

<http://www.janbrett.com> This website has plenty of games and activities that feature characters from Jan Brett's wonderful books. There is also information about Jan Brett and her books.



December Dates to Remember

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	1	2	3 2 hr. 45 minute early dismissal	4
7	8	9	10	11 Visiting Author
14	15 Chorus Concert	16	17	18
21 Winter Celebration	22	23 2 hr. 45 minute early dismissal	24 No School!	25 No School!



KINDERGARTEN MATHEMATICS – Cluster 3

Dear Parents,

Here is what your child is learning in Kindergarten, Cluster 3 along with some specific ways you can help. Look for additional newsletters for upcoming units.

SHAPES, PATTERNS AND POSITIONAL LANGUAGE

Students need to:

- Represent patterns through movement
- Represent and analyze repeating patterns using no more than 3 objects in the core of the pattern
- Identify patterns in real life situations (music, clothing...)
- Recognize the difference between patterns and non-patterns
- Given a pattern, continue it
- Identify and label a pattern using a letter representation (i.e. ABAB, ABC...)
- Sort and regroup everyday objects and geometric figures according to attributes
- Describe plane figures and their attributes
- Identify triangles, circles, squares, and rectangles
- Compare, trace and draw triangles, circles, squares, and rectangles
- Match, sort and regroup geometric objects according to attributes (i.e. roll, stack...)
- Identify and describe solid figures - cone, pyramid, rectangular prism, cube, sphere and cylinder
- Identify solid geometric figures in their environment
- Identify everyday objects which have the same size and shape
- Use the positional words over, under, above, on, next to, below, beside, behind
- Use spatial reasoning to solve simple puzzles (i.e. look at the shape of the puzzle piece as a clue to where it will fit)
- Demonstrate slides using simple objects

WAYS PARENTS CAN HELP

- Look for patterns and shapes in the world around you with your child.
- Your child can practice sorting objects according to a sorting rule. (i.e. Please sort your toys by color. (or) Can you find all the square blocks?)
- Use positional words with your child and ask your child to use them too. (i.e. Put the fork beside the spoon. Put the napkin under the fork.
- Do puzzles together to help develop their spatial reasoning.

DEFINITIONS FOR PARENTS

attributes: size, shape, weight, length, and color

core: the portion of a pattern that repeats

slide: movement of a figure along a line

KEY WORDS AND PHRASES

Above	Core	Next to	Repeat	Sphere
Behind	Corners	Non-pattern	Rolls	Square
Below	Cube	On	Rule	Stacks
Beside	Cylinder	Over	Shape	Triangle
Circle	Faces	Pyramid	Sides	Under
Color	Label	Rectangle	Size	Weight
Cone	Length	Rectangular prism	Slide	