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December Skipper 2021

PRE-K 3

Color, Shape, and Size!
Dear Families,

The World is filled with amazing colors and shapes of all sizes. Over the next several weeks, children will be noticing and labeling the colors, shapes, and sizes of things around them. They will learn to sort and categorize objects by these attributes. We need your help to keep this learning going at home because parents are teachers too (PATT).

PATT at Home!
Literacy

Point out words to your child that mean large (big, huge, gigantic, massive, enormous, colossal). Use these big words with your child and encourage your child to use the words too. Also try this with the word small (little, mini, tiny, wee, petite).

Math

Place several stuffed animals on the floor. Invite your child to sort the animals by size. Then encourage your child to find a set of toys for you to sort. A tub of building blocks is great for sorting shapes. The vocabulary words you use as you sort are important for language development too!

PRE-K 4

During the month of December, PreK 4 will be finishing Unit 2 on the Environment. We will conclude the unit with a focus on the coral reef and will be creating a Coral Reef Environment in our classrooms. We are continuing to work on identifying letters, letter sounds, identifying numbers, shapes, and learning about syllables & rhyming words.

Reminders & Upcoming Events:

- Return Raising a Reader Books/Bags every Thursday to get new books for the following week.
- Check and empty yellow take home folders nightly.
- Recycling/Reusing Projects are due December 2nd.
- Field trip to Delmarva Discovery Museum on December 10th.

KINDERGARTEN

Dear Kindergarten Families,

- This month in ELA we will be exploring word parts such as syllables and onset and rime. We will read books that center around the theme of family as well as alphabet books. Students will also continue to label their pattern writing books.
- As mathematicians we will continue to explore teen numbers, counting up, and counting to 100.
- For Social Studies this month we will be exploring various cultures and holidays celebrated around the world. We will continue with our civics unit.

-The Kindergarten Team

Reminders:

Please continue to review sight words nightly with your child.

Please continue to send water bottles to school with your child daily.

FIRST GRADE

Math: Students will continue to use addition and subtraction to model and solve number stories. Students will also connect counting to addition and subtraction. Boys and girls will practice with part-and-total number stories, counting on a number line, skip counting and using a frames and arrows representation model. Please continue to practice addition and subtraction within 20. Students should be working to complete five DreamBox lessons weekly.

Social Studies: Students will continue to learn necessary skills and actions to become responsible citizens. Students will analyze examples of how cooperation helps accomplish tasks at home and school. We will identify common goals of the school community by explaining why school goals cannot be reached by individuals alone.

SECOND GRADE

ELA: Second graders have responded to books about finding beauty in the world. The students have learned about non-fiction texts and text features. They have studied phonograms, affixes, silent e and inflected endings. The boys and girls have begun to write informational, non-fiction texts. They have worked with I Ready and their readers' notebooks.

Math: We completed unit 2 and have started unit 3. In Unit 3 we will use mental math strategies to solve addition and subtraction problems. We will use the turn-around rule to write two related addition facts. Use the think-addition strategy or the counting-up strategy. Then we will use the counting- and the counting-back strategies for subtraction. Please continue to work on fact fluency at home with numbers up to 20.

Social Studies: Second grade has started our social studies unit. This unit is all about how we connect to our community. This would be a wonderful time to take a ride around Fruitland or Salisbury and show your child all the wonderful places that are in our community. For example: the fire department, police department, city hall, courthouse, hospital, park, zoo, and much more.

SPECIAL AREAS

Media Second grade will be learning about Caldecott award winners. First grade will continue to read examples of fables, and Pre-K will be reading books that review shapes, colors, and sizes.

SPECIAL AREAS

Music: PreK3 and PreK4 Musicians have been learning about high and low music and identifying same and different music. They are focusing on the music and trying their best to identify if it is high, low, same, or different. In addition to their ears, they have been using triangles and drums to identify the high and low music in *Chinese Dance* from *The Nutcracker*!

Kindergarten Musicians have made a lot of growth in the past few weeks, as they have finished playing each new instrument with the music farm. This past week, students demonstrated their ability to perform in small groups independently. I was extremely impressed with their focus and performance! This week we will be learning Israeli dances to kick-off the holiday season. I am so proud of the improvements I have observed and heard in their classrooms!

First Grade Musicians practiced their steady beat performance skills and rhythm reading skills using a train poem and visual. Students performed the rhythms by speaking and playing "train" and "choo-choo." I was proud of their focus on looking at and reading these rhythms on the board. It is challenging to keep a steady beat, especially with varying tempos or speeds. I am proud of the continued improvements I observed in their steady beat performance!

Second Grade Musicians reviewed and learned all of the solfege hand signs this week for do, re, mi, sol, and la. They also learned about staff notation for the first time using sol, la, and mi. Students demonstrated an understanding of this material quicker than I expected. It was also great fun to watch them try their best to keep a steady beat while bouncing a playground ball and singing the song we learned with solfege! I am looking forward to hearing them continue singing with solfege and learning how to compose their own melodies!

December Calendar

December 2021 Skipper

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
		1 D-Day PreK Music Therapy (Bisler, Harding, Anderton)	2 E-Day	3 F-Day
6 A-Day	7 B-Day Bookmobile day at FPS	8 C-Day PreK Music Therapy (Bisler, Harding, Anderton) Early Dismissal-12:45	9 D -Day	10 E-Day
13 F-Day Parent Conference Night	14 A-Day	15 B-Day Term 2 Progress Report Grades Posted	16 C-Day	17 D-Day
20 No School	21 No School	22 No School	23 No School	24 No School
27 No School	28 No School	29 No School	30 No School	31 No School

General Reminders:

- **Daily COVID Screening Procedures- please be sure to screen your child for COVID symptoms prior to attending each in-person school day. The screening procedure can be found [here](#).
- **PARENTS!! You may want to consider Voluntary Student Accident Insurance (SAI) coverage for your child. There are many options available including 24-hour insurance coverage, school-time coverage, summer coverage and more. To learn about the coverages available and to enroll online, go to this Wicomico County Public Schools approved insurance agency: [Flyer](#)
- **We are inviting parents to be involved in our PBIS (Positive Behavior Program). As a parent member you will only be asked to attend 1 meeting. Please let your child's teacher know if you are interested. We are excited to create a sense of community, not only among our staff and students, but our families as well.