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November Skipper 2021

PRE-K 3

We had the tooth fairy come visit our classes on Thursday, October 28. We are also very excited about our upcoming visit to the pumpkin patch. We are wrapping up our theme on family and friends and will be moving into Theme 3-Color, Shape, and Size.

PRE-K 4

Our PreK 4 Friends just finished their first unit in our C4L curriculum. This unit starts close to home with investigations of the outdoors and other familiar environments. Then, our focus will shift to the more exotic environment of a coral reef.

The term environment is used to describe the area in which people or animals live. The children will explore the components within an environment; resources that come from an environment; and how animals, plants, and earth features are connected. Comparing and contrasting is a key thinking skill that is presented throughout the unit but begins with children comparing and contrasting their own environment to that of a coral reef.

In this unit, children will engage in the process of predicting, observing, and recording through drawing and emergent writing. They will use predicting skills based on prior knowledge when engaging in read-alouds and other lessons. They will continue working on verbal counting and counting objects and will also begin to compare and contrast 2-D and 3-D shapes.

PRE-K 4

In literacy, they will work with rhyming words and the beginning sounds of words.

As the classroom environment continues to develop, the children will build on their knowledge of rules and expectations as they interact with classmates. Social-emotional lessons and books will focus on identifying problems, choosing solutions, and coming up with their own novel solutions. By the end of Unit 2, the class will have worked cooperatively to create a class display of a coral reef. As a focused literacy lesson, they will write invitations to a scavenger hunt of the coral reef for their family, friends, and children in other classes.

Below are some suggestions on ways you can support all of this learning at home:

- When asking your child about his or her learning, focus on environments, including what we are learning about animals, plants, habitats, recycling, and the coral reef.
- Play fun rhyming games, and read books with rhymes. Rhyming is an important phonemic-awareness skill.
- Begin to point out various 2-D and 3-D shapes to your child in your home or community. Ask your child to observe and discuss the features of the shapes. For example: Rectangles have four sides, four angles, and four vertices (the points where the sides meet), and the opposite sides are the same lengths.
- When interacting with family members or friends, encourage your child to address problems with solutions he or she has learned in class, or encourage your child to think of new ways to solve problems.

KINDERGARTEN

Dear Kindergarten Families,

- Monday, November 8th will be a virtual instruction day. Students are expected to log into Google Classroom and join Zoom at 8:15 am that day. The zoom link will be posted on the classroom page in your teacher's Google Classroom.
- This month in ELA we will begin reading seasonal favorites. As readers we will discuss the characters in a story. We will also continue our work as authors by writing narrative stories.
- As mathematicians we will continue to explore shapes, number stories, and continue to practice writing our numbers 1-20.

Reminders

-Please check your child's take home folder nightly & review work with your child.

-Practice counting to 100 with your child by 1's and 10's everyday.

-The Kindergarten Team

FIRST GRADE

Reading: We are so proud of the growth our students are making in reading! In our 95% phonics curriculum we will be focusing on short vowel sounds. We will continue to work on our comprehension skills through our Interactive Read Alouds, Shared Readings, and small group work. We will finish up our narrative writing unit this month and begin looking at writing how-to pieces. Please continue to review our weekly sight words and read a total of 80 minutes throughout the week to help support your child's reading development at home.

Math: Students will continue working to represent and solve addition and subtraction problems within 20. Students will learn to extend the counting sequence by understanding and applying properties of operations and the relationship between addition and subtraction.

Social Studies: Students will understand the historical development and current status of the fundamental concepts and processes of authority, power, and influence, with particular emphasis on the democratic skills and attitudes necessary to become responsible citizens.

SECOND GRADE

ELA: During the past month, the boys and girls have worked on narrative writing and revising and editing. They have enjoyed stories about family, happy memories, living and working together and other fiction and nonfiction texts. They have learned about story characters, story structure and story setting. The students have worked with initial and final blends, digraphs, silent e, the floss rule and syllables. The students have learned how to share their reading in their readers' notebooks.

Math: We have been very busy in math this past month. Our focus has been on different math strategies, such as making combinations of 10, skip counting, exploring base ten blocks, making doubles and near doubles. Students also practiced making number stories (word problems), counting money and comparing numbers using the greater than, less than, and equal to symbols. Please continue to practice math facts at home with your child.

Science: In science students have investigated matter (solid and liquid) and have identified the different properties of matter. Students completed experiments on reversible and irreversible change with melting crayons and cooking pasta. Students have also learned about the causes of erosion and how to prevent it.

Second graders have enjoyed character day and a field trip to The Children's Concert. They are looking forward to the first PBIS incentive.

COUNSELING CONNECTION

In honor of World Kindness Day on 11/13, our school is doing a virtual Think Kind Assembly on November 10th that will be interactive and consist of a week full of activities. All students will receive a Kindness bracelet and a pencil as well.

Please check out the FPS counseling website -

<https://sites.google.com/wcboe.org/fps-school-counseling-site/kindness> for the November Calendar on Random acts of kindness that you all can do together.



SPECIAL AREAS

Media We will be learning about different genres. Pre-K through first grade will be reading fairy tales and fables, and second grade will be learning about and reading biographies.

Music PreK3 and PreK4 have begun learning about the basics of music including tempo, the speed of music, and dynamics, the volume of music. Students have been experiencing making music with these concepts by singing, moving, and playing instruments. I am so proud of the improvements I have seen in their ability to remember their assigned seat, follow directions, and sing with me!

Kindergarten is almost finished building their music farm by adding 5 animals (duck, hen, lamb, cow, pig, and horse) and playing 5 instruments (rhythm sticks, hand drum, triangle, cowbell, woodblock, and tambourine). They are also experiencing different activities such as dances, fingerplays, and moving activities with each animal. I am excited to hear their singing voices starting to open up and grow!

First Grade Musicians have begun using their instruments playing skills to begin playing rhythms! The first step in playing instruments is feeling and playing the rhythm using a song or poem. After they are more familiar with the feeling of rhythms, we will identify, speak, and play rhythms with quarter notes, eighth notes, and quarter rests. I am continually impressed with their ability to focus and try their best during class!

Second Grade Musicians have just begun identifying, speaking, playing, and composing 4-beat rhythms with quarter notes, eighth notes, and quarter rests. The most challenging aspect of 4-beat rhythms is making sure the quarter rest gets a full beat of silence. With more practice in the music room, I know students will master performing 4-beat rhythm patterns!

November Calendar

November 2021 Skipper

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1 C Day	2 D Day	3 E Day PreK Music Therapy (Bisler, Harding, Anderton)	4 F Day	5 A Day End of Marking Term1
8 B Day Virtual Instruction w/ early dismissal	9 C Day	10 D Day PreK Music Therapy (Bisler, Harding, Anderton)	11 E Day	12 F Day Report Card Distribution
15 A Day	16 B Day Bookmobile day at FPS	17 C Day PreK Music Therapy (Bisler, Harding, Anderton) Make-up picture day	18 D Day	19 E Day
22 F Day	23 A Day	24 No School	25 No School Thanksgiving 🍂	26 No School
29 B Day	30 C Day			

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.