



MISS O'ROURKE'S KINDERGARTEN NEWS!
SEPTEMBER 25, 2009

THIS WAS ANOTHER BUSY WEEK IN KINDERGARTEN! HERE ARE SOME OF THE FANTASTIC THINGS WE HAVE BEEN LEARNING...

RELIGION: We...

- Discovered and described God's gifts of day and night
 - Learned that water and land are gifts to us from God
 - Discussed ways we care for water and land
 - Thanked God for creating the earth as we closed Chapter 3, "God Gives Us the Earth"
- **We had our Gospel lesson for this Sunday's Mass and heard that like He tells his disciples we can do good things in Jesus' name.

MATH: We...

- Made and counted sets of 4 and 5 in various ways, and began reading and writing 4 and 5
- Learned the vocabulary words *four, five, part* and *whole*

LANGUAGE ARTS: We...

- Heard Plaidypus Lost, Miss Bindergarten Takes a Field Trip with Kindergarten, recited the poem "Purple Platypus," sang the song "On a Field Trip We Go" and learned the vocabulary words *bakery, chaperone, fire station, park, and post office*
- Discussed what it means to *classify* and *categorize* and how that is just like sorting
- Choral read the stories *At the Zoo, Cat and Dog Ride to Town*, and *Pat with Miss O'Rourke* to practice the high frequency words *I, am, the, and little*
- Reviewed the letters Aa - Rr, learned the letters Ss, Tt, Uu, Vv, Ww, Xx, Yy, and Zz, and practiced the proper formation of the letters on the Smart Board
- Continued to talk about the concept of *cooperation*, discussed what it means in our *communities*, and watched a video clip about this concept on the Smart Board
- Continued to practice identifying the beginning sounds of words and clapped the syllables that make up words

SCIENCE: We...

- Categorized objects seen in a big science picture and the various items that Miss O'Rourke had in her red bucket, such as, coins, crayons, cubes, ribbons, and her monster pointer, and sorted them into groups based on color, shape, size, and whether they can or cannot bend

SOCIAL STUDIES: We began our third lesson about how stories can teach us lessons and....

- Watched two video clips on the Smart Board about some things we can learn from stories
- Heard about "Johnny Appleseed," whose real name is John Chapman, and that his birthday is tomorrow

Notes from Miss O'Rourke:

- This week we started a new behavior chart system. Each child has a green and red card with his/her name on it. Green means your child is displaying appropriate classroom learning behavior i.e., is listening, sitting properly on the rug or at his/her table, following directions and classroom/school rules, etc. Each new day the children start at the same place, green. Since we have been talking about this new behavior chart system in-depth all week, the children should be very aware of the kinds of things they need to do in order to keep their green card and earn it back if it has been changed to red. Red means that a child is not displaying the appropriate behavior i.e., is not listening, following directions or the classroom/school rules and might be doing things like wrestling, hitting, or constantly interrupting lessons by shouting out or goofing off with friends sitting nearby, even when he/she has already been asked to stop and change his/her behavior.
- On Wednesday I sent home the Kindergarten Parent Volunteer Schedule. Please let me know if any days do not work for you. In your child's envelope I've also included a sheet that looks similar to the volunteer form that was distributed on Kindergarten Parent Orientation Night. This is to help you make sense of the times I've scheduled you for in a more detailed manner. Listed are the days, the times, and the teacher or place you will be spending your volunteer time. I will notify parents separately for any at-home tasks I might need completed. Just as a reminder, probably unnecessary, anything you see in the classroom while you are volunteering should not be discussed outside of the classroom. Any questions concerning a child's behavior should be directed to the teacher. Thank you!
- In your child's envelope you will find a letter with your child's username and password to access online material for our Math, Reading, and Science series on pearsonsuccess.net. This will help enrich what your child is learning in the classroom.

Have a very nice weekend!

Sincerely,
~Miss O'Rourke